

Nationalism: Key Vocabulary

Nationalism: The 19th-century belief that people who share a language and cultural traditions should have their own independent state with borders matching their ethnic group.

Congress of Vienna: The conservative diplomatic settlement (1814–1815) after the Napoleonic Wars. It aimed to restore the old order but failed to solve the nationality question, particularly in the multi-ethnic Habsburg Empire.

Ausgleich (Compromise) of 1867: The agreement that created the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary. It gave the Magyars (Hungarians) their own constitution, parliament, and control over their domestic affairs to prevent them from allying with German liberals.

Magyarization: The Hungarian government's policy of forcing Hungarian language and culture onto other ethnic groups (like Slovaks and Romanians) living within their domain.

Zollverein (German Customs Union): Created in 1834, this economic union removed tariffs between German states. It laid the groundwork for economic unity and was a crucial step toward political unification.

Realpolitik: A system of politics based on practical and material factors rather than moral or ideological ones. Used by leaders like Cavour and Bismarck to build strong states using nationalism.

Anti-Semitism: Hostility to, prejudice against, or discrimination against Jewish people. It became a unifying, right-wing political force for many nationalists in the late 19th century.

Dreyfus Affair: A major political scandal in France (1894) where a Jewish military officer, Alfred Dreyfus, was falsely convicted of treason. It exposed deep anti-Semitism and split French society into the right (army and Church) vs. the left (republicans and socialists).

Syllabus of Errors: An 1864 document by Pope Pius IX condemning liberalism, secularization, and the idea that the Church should reconcile with modern civilization.

Rerum Novarum: An 1891 encyclical by Pope Leo XIII that addressed social injustice and the condition of the working class. It led to the creation of Christian Socialist movements across Catholic Europe.

Zionism: A form of Jewish nationalism that developed in the late 19th century as a response to European anti-Semitism. It advocated for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

New Imperialism: The aggressive expansion of European empires in the 1880s and 1890s, driven by industrial needs and justified by nationalist beliefs that they were "superior" and entitled to dominate "inferior" peoples.