**NATIONALISM**

EARLY EUROPEAN NATIONALISM

**Nationalism** is a deep devotion to one's country. An early stage of nationalism is the desire to form a country free from foreign control. The first modern nations of England and France were formed during the Hundred Years' War in the late Middle Ages when people developed loyalties to their countries, rather than to local feudal lords. Nationalism came to the Americas in the late 1700s and early 1800s when European colonies threw off foreign control. In 1830, Greece gained its independence from the Ottoman Empire of Turkey. But, in the early 1800s, much of Europe was still divided into an assortment of small kingdoms, baronies, and dukedoms. Italy and Germany, for example, did not yet exist as nations.

Due to marriages between the royal families of Europe, people often found themselves ruled by foreigners who didn't even speak the same language as the people they governed. Inspired by Enlightenment ideas and hopes for democracy, people hungered for change. People wanted to belong to nations that reflected their own culture, history, language, religion, and traditions. Nationalism became the strongest political force of the 1800s. Much of the century's history is a story of people struggling to be free of foreign control.

**Questions:**

1. What is nationalism?
2. Under nationalism, what was person’s loyalty to? How was that different from centuries before?
3. What writers inspired the rise of nationalism?

1. How did nationalism affect Germany differently than Austria Hungary? Why do you suppose it had different effects on different areas?