Patterns of Change: Nationalism

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about revolutions and reform in western Europe.

In this section, you will learn about nationalism.

AS YOU READ

Use a chart like the one below to take notes on the effects of nationalism.

The Ideal of Nationalism (page 233)

What is nationalism?

Nationalists thought that many factors linked people to one another. First was nationality, or a common ethnic ancestry. Shared language, culture, history, and religion were also seen as ties that connected people. People sharing these traits were thought to have the right to a land they could call their own. Groups with their own government were called nation-states.

Leaders began to see that this feeling could be a powerful force for uniting a people. The French Revolution was a prime example of this.

1. What shared characteristics can unite people and create a strong national feeling?

Nationalism Shakes Aging Empires (page 234)

Why did nationalism divide empires?

Feelings of nationalism threatened to break apart three aging empires. The Austrian Empire was forced to split in two parts—Austria and Hungary.
However, nationalist feeling continued to plague Austria and Hungary for 40 years. Later these kingdoms broke up into several smaller states. In Russia, harsh rule and a policy of forcing other peoples to adopt Russian ways helped produce a revolution in 1917. This revolution overthrew the czar. Like the other two, the Ottoman Empire broke apart around the time of World War I.

2. What three empires were torn apart by nationalism?

Cavour Unites Italy [pages 235–236]

How did nationalism unite Italy?

Italians used national feeling to build a nation, not destroy an empire. Large parts of Italy were ruled by the kings of Austria and Spain. Nationalists tried to unite the nation in 1848. But the revolt was beaten down. Hopes rested with the Italian king of the state of Piedmont-Sardinia. His chief minister was Count Camillo di Cavour. Cavour worked to expand the king's control over other areas of the north.

Meanwhile, Giuseppe Garibaldi led an army of patriots that won control of southern areas. He and his army became known as the Red Shirts because they wore red shirts in battle. Garibaldi put the areas he conquered under control of the king. In 1866, the area around Venice was added to the king's control. Four years later, the king completed the uniting of Italy.

However, Italy faced an uncertain future. Political parties were in conflict. The government was disorganized. And the country had severe economic problems.

3. Who helped unify Italy?
| Section 3: Patterns of Change: Nationalism  
| (pages 231-236)  
| 1. Possible response: common nationality or ethnic ancestry and shared language, culture, history, and religion.  
| 2. The Austrian Empire, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire were torn apart by nationalism.  
| 3. Camillo di Cavour unified northern Italy; Giuseppe Garibaldi and the Red Shirts unified southern Italy.  
| 4. These events changed the balance of power in Europe. |