

CHAPTER -1
HISTORY
PART – 6
CLASS - X

# 1848: The Revolution of the Liberals

- The poor, unemployment and starving peasants and workers in many European countries in the years 1848, a revolution led by the educated middle classes was under way.
- Men and women of the liberal middle classes combined their demands for constitutionalism with national unification.
- They drafted a constitution for a German nation to be headed by a monarchy subject to a parliament.
- Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, rejected it and joined other monarchs to oppose the elected assembly.
- While the opposition of the aristocracy and military became stronger, the social basis of parliament eroded.

### 1848: The Revolution of the Liberals

- The issue of extending political rights to women was a controversial one within the liberal movement.
- Women had formed their own political associations, founded newspaper and taken part in political meeting and demonstrations.
- Women were admitted only as observers to stand in the visitors' gallery.
- Monarchs were beginning to realize that the cycles if revolution and repression could be ended by granting concessions to the liberal-nationalist revolutionaries.

#### VISUALIZING THE NATION

- While it was easy enough to represent a ruler through a portrait or a statue.
- In other words they represented a country as if it were a person.
- Nations were then portrayed as a female figure.
- The female figures became an **allegory** of the nation.
- Christened Marianne, a popular Christian name, which underlined the idea of people's nation.

## Nationalism and Imperialism

- By the quarter of the nineteenth century nationalism no longer retained its idealistic
- liberal-democratic sentiment of the first half of the century, but became a narrow creed with limited ends.
- The most serious source of nationalists tension in Europe after 1871 was the area called the Balkans.
- The Balkans was a region of geographical and ethnic variation.

## Nationalism and Imperialism

- One by one its European subjects nationalities broke away from its control and declared independence.
- The Balkan area became an era of intense conflict.
- The Balkan states were jealous of each other and each hoped to gain more territory at the expense of each other.
- But the idea that societies should be organized into 'nation-states' came to be accepted as natural and universal.