**Nationalism in the 1800’s**

Modern nationalism began with the French Revolution. When kings of European countries sent armies to end the revolution and return a monarch to the French throne, citizens of France united in a spirit of nationalism to defend their homeland. Years later, after Napoleon had risen to power and threatened the security of Europe, feelings of nationalism aroused Great Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Spain to defeat Napoleon and protect their territory and the rest of Europe.

Nationalism remained a strong force through the rest of the nineteenth century and into the 20th century. Nationalism showed itself in different ways. In some countries, citizens united in an effort to gain a voice in their government, human rights, and even independence. On other occasions, nationalism led countries to compete for colonies and control of world trade routes. At its best, nationalism was a healthy form of patriotism but at its worst, it led to warfare and to the persecution of certain national groups by foreign countries that governed them.

**Nationalism in the 1800’s Activity**

Pretend that you are living in the mid to late 1800’s/early 1900’s and that you have just become the leader of a country in Europe. Your nation has suffered through years of poor government, hard economic times, and disastrous wars. You have decided to use nationalism to rally your discouraged people and raise the country to a level of respect, power, and leadership in world affairs.

This goal can only be reached by getting people to be proud of their country,

and by convincing them that they should put their country ahead of their own self interests.

You have a number of ideas in mind to achieve your objective. There are also many important decisions that you must make regarding your nations’ government, armed forces, foreign trade, system of taxation, etc.

**Directions: On a separate piece of paper answer the questions below. Make sure you answer all parts of a question.**

1. To create the impression of a “new beginning” for your country, you have decided to change the country’s name. What will the new name be?

2. Design a flag for your new nation.

3. What would be a good national slogan that people could identify with and rally behind? (example: “My country right or wrong”!)

4. Do you believe warfare should be used to gain more territory and achieve your national interests? (explain your answer)

5. How will you raise money to equip an army and build a navy? (mention specific ideas)

6. Will there be freedom of the press, or will newspapers be controlled by the government? (Give a reason for your decision,)

7. Will military service be required, or will there be a volunteer army? (Explain your decision.) Will both men and women serve? What ages are eligible for military service?

8. Your country’s people are of different races and religions. Some even speak different languages. How are you going to overcome these differences and create a strong, unified nation?