



AP[®] European History (Operational) 2004 Sample Student Responses

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Nationalism, since its rise to prominence in the ~~the~~ early nineteenth century, has been the single most powerful force in European, and indeed world history. Depending on the circumstances, the development of national consciousness in a country can either be constructive to that country's purpose and existence or destructive. In the German Empire it was the former, ^{at first, but eventually the latter} in the Austro-Hungarian, the latter.

German nationalism progressed from liberal to conservative as the years wore on. From the failed ashes of the Frankfurt Parliament's dreams of a liberal German union under Prussia, Bismarck used nationalism to forge a united, conservative Germany out of 'blood and iron'. Seeing the success of Prussian militarism in unifying Germany, German nationalism became almost synonymous with ~~such~~, combined with an annoying superiority complex. Germans in all fields, science, industry, art, music, saw themselves as ~~naturally~~ the best and set out to prove it. Wagner's *Als o Sprach Zarathustra* was the musical embodiment of ^{now} German nationalism, ^{sum} as Barbara Tuchman ^{wrote} a strong, growing thing that overpowered all at the end. "Deutschland über Alles" rang the cry in every German's heart.

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While in Germany nationalism acted as a unifying force, in Austria-Hungary it was the opposite. Rather than one dominant national group, the Austrians had several to deal with whose developing national sense of self left no room for loyalty to the empire and whose interests were largely inimical to each other. Czechs were at Germans were at Hungarians were at Romanians were at Slavs' throats. All attempts by Emperor Franz Josef to effect reconciliation (including the February Patent) failed until the introduction of the Dual Monarchy, which only solved the problems between the Austrians and Hungarians. Except for the Croats, the Hungarians allowed no autonomy to other minorities, keeping the problem fresh. Attempts at trialism ^{by the Austrians} to accommodate the Czechs failed, and parliamentary obstructionism by both when equality of language was declared forced the Emperor to rule by decree, lessening any chance of a workable ^{political solution} solution to the problem.

Nationalism in its dichotomous ways led ~~to~~ the German and Austrian Empires to their respective fates. When the Balkan 'powder keg of Europe' finally blew in Sarajevo on 28th June 1914, millions of people, Germans and Austrians included, would die over land Bismarck dismissed as 'not worth the bones of a single Pomeranian musketeer'. The minorities problem, the Eastern Question, the damned

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Foolish thing in the Balkans' were history's device
 for leading Germany, Austria and all of Europe
 down the fateful path war. All hope of reconciliation
 in Austria died with Franz Ferdinand that day.
 It remains to be seen whether that is true for
 Europe and the rest of the world.

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Nationalism was a political ideology that emerged in Europe and had a huge impact on its countries. Proponents of nationalism believed that ~~each~~ all those shared ^{one} language, descent, and culture should have their own nation. This idea forced to be an immense force, overpowering even liberalism and enlightenment ideals at times. In Germany, nationalism served to unify and solidify the nation between 1848 and 1914, while in ~~the~~ Austria it served only to tear an existing nation apart.

Germany was once a conglomeration of small nation-states, the biggest being Prussia. Otto von Bismarck, the true leader of Prussia (though it had a king - the Kaiser), wanted to expand Prussia's power and bring all of these smaller states under Prussian rule. Recognizing the force of nationalism, he used its ideology to achieve the unification of Germany. Germany's unification was achieved mainly through three wars - one with Denmark, one with Austria, one with France - in ^{all of} which Bismarck played on nationalist sentiment to gain the people's support. A perfect example is the war with France; the French had ordered Kaiser William to make his nephew give up the throne of Spain, afraid that it would hurt their interests. The leader of France, Napoleon III, then sent a telegram to the

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Kaiser requesting an apology for allowing his nephew to even consider the throne. Bismarck edited the telegram so as to make it appear even more insulting to the Kaiser. When it was published, Prussians were outraged as Bismarck expected, and demanded war with France. Nationalist sentiment ~~had~~ triumphed when, at the end of this war, the new nation of Germany was proclaimed. Liberalists had overlooked some of Bismarck's policies that ignored Congress because their nationalist ideas seemed more important. This nationalist feeling continued to solidify the new empire, until in 1914 Germans supported their beloved Kaiser completely even on the eve of World War I.

Austria's experience with nationalism proved quite different. Nationalist feelings in this nation were just as strong, but they did not unify the country at all. Austria was a nation made up of many different nationalities, ^{and} different languages. Accordingly with nationalism, each wanted to have its own nation and rejected being subject to the Austrian crown. One nationality did receive a bit of sovereignty; Austria was split into Austria-Hungary, a form of dual monarchy. Though Austria still had most power over Hungary, it was

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able to ~~set up and run a good deal of~~ govern itself in many areas. As 1914 approached, tensions increased as nationalities ~~and~~ demanded their sovereignty. In 1914, a Serbian nationalist assassinated the Archduke of Austria when he was on a visit ~~to~~ to review the troops. This set ~~off~~ the dominos falling, resulting in World War I, at the end of which Austria was divided into many smaller states according to nationality.

Nationalism proved to be a force to be reckoned with. In Prussia, Bismarck used it to unify Germany, where it continued to solidify the nation. In Austria, nationalism served to tear the nation apart, dividing it into a dual monarchy and leading to the assassination of its leader. ~~It~~ is though the impact was quite different on these two nations, the impact of nationalism on both is undeniable.