

## **Who, Why and What kept Liberalism and Nationalism suppressed in German States?**

### **Introduction**

Liberalism and nationalism were two important ideologies that emerged in Europe during the 19th century. However, these ideologies were suppressed in the German states during the same period. This suppression was due to a combination of factors, including the actions of the ruling powers, the resistance of conservative elements within society, and the unique political and social conditions of the German states at the time.

### **Reasons for Suppression**

#### 1. The Actions of Ruling Powers

One of the main reasons for the suppression of liberalism and nationalism in the German states was the actions of the ruling powers. The German Confederation, which was a loose alliance of 39 independent states, was dominated by conservative and absolutist rulers who were opposed to liberal and nationalist ideas. They saw these ideologies as a threat to their own power and used their control over the government and the media to repress liberal and nationalist movements.

#### 2. Resistance of Conservative Elements

Another reason for the suppression of liberalism and nationalism in the German states was the resistance of conservative elements within society. Many traditionalist groups, such as the landed aristocracy and the Catholic Church, opposed the liberal and nationalist ideologies because they saw them as a threat to their own power and privileges. They used their influence to mobilize public opinion against liberal and nationalist movements.

#### 3. Unique Political and Social Conditions

The unique political and social conditions of the German states also contributed to the suppression of liberalism and nationalism. The German states were not united under a single government and had different systems of government, laws, and customs. This made it difficult for liberal and nationalist movements to gain a foothold and to coordinate their efforts. Additionally, the German states had a large peasant population who were not interested in liberal and nationalist ideologies.

### **Examples of Suppression**

#### 1. The March Revolution of 1848

One of the most significant examples of the suppression of liberalism and nationalism in the German states was the March Revolution of 1848. This was a series of liberal and nationalist uprisings that swept across Europe but were quickly put down in the German states. The ruling powers used their control over the military and the police to crush the rebellions, and many liberal and nationalist leaders were arrested or exiled.

#### 2. The Kulturkampf

Another example of the suppression of liberalism and nationalism in the German states was the Kulturkampf, which was a series of laws and policies implemented by the Prussian government in the 1870s to repress the Catholic Church. The government saw the Catholic Church as a major obstacle to the spread of liberal and nationalist ideas and used its power to suppress the Church's influence in society.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the suppression of liberalism and nationalism in the German states during the 19th century was due to a combination of factors, including the actions of the ruling powers, the resistance of conservative elements within society, and the unique political and social conditions of the German states at the time. Despite these efforts, the ideas of liberalism and nationalism would eventually play a key role in the unification of Germany and the formation of the German Empire in 1871.

### **Who kept Liberalism and Nationalism suppressed in German States?**

- The ruling powers of the German Confederation, which was a loose alliance of 39 independent states, kept liberalism and nationalism suppressed. Conservative and absolutist rulers who saw these ideologies as a threat to their own power and used their control over the government and the media to repress liberal and nationalist movements.
- Conservative elements within society, such as the landed aristocracy and the Catholic Church, also played a role in keeping liberalism and nationalism suppressed. They opposed these ideologies because they saw them as a threat to their own power and privileges. They used their influence to mobilize public opinion against liberal and nationalist movements.
- The unique political and social conditions of the German states also contributed to the suppression of liberalism and nationalism. The German states were not united under a single government and had different systems of government, laws, and customs. This made it difficult for liberal and nationalist movements to gain a foothold and to coordinate their efforts. Additionally, the German states had a large peasant population who were not interested in liberal and nationalist ideologies.

### **Examples of suppression:**

- The March Revolution of 1848: A series of liberal and nationalist uprisings that swept across Europe, but were quickly put down in the German states by the ruling powers who used their control over the military and the police to crush the rebellions. Many liberal and nationalist leaders were arrested or exiled.
- The Kulturkampf: A series of laws and policies implemented by the Prussian government in the 1870s to repress the Catholic Church. The government saw the Catholic Church as a major obstacle to the spread of liberal and nationalist ideas and used its power to suppress the Church's influence in society.

### **Why Liberalism and Nationalism kept suppressed in German States?**

- Conservative and absolutist rulers in the German Confederation saw liberalism and nationalism as a threat to their own power and used their control over the government and the media to repress liberal and nationalist movements.
- Conservative elements within society, such as the landed aristocracy and the Catholic Church, opposed liberalism and nationalism because they saw them as a threat to their own power and privileges. They used their influence to mobilize public opinion against liberal and nationalist movements.
- The unique political and social conditions of the German states made it difficult for liberal and nationalist movements to gain a foothold and to coordinate their efforts. The German states were not united under a single government and had different systems of government, laws, and customs. Additionally, the German states had a large peasant population who were not interested in liberal and nationalist ideologies.
- Fear of losing control of the society, economy and politics by the ruling powers and conservative elements.
- The belief that the liberal and nationalist ideologies would disrupt the social order, and lead to social and economic instability.

### **Examples of suppression:**

- The March Revolution of 1848: Ruling powers used military and police force to suppress the liberal and nationalist uprisings.
- The Kulturkampf: Prussian government implemented laws and policies to repress the Catholic Church, which was seen as an obstacle to the spread of liberal and nationalist ideas.

***“It is stated by the historians that France’s hunt for security and England’s desire for peace were responsible for the rise of Hitler.” Do you agree or not? Come up with watertight arguments to prove your point. write a detailed answer with outline.***

Introduction:

It is a widely held belief that the foreign policies of France and England in the years leading up to World War II played a significant role in the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany. This statement suggests that France's search for security and England's desire for peace contributed to the rise of Hitler by allowing him to gain power and territorial expansion in Europe. However, this view is not universally accepted and there are several arguments that can be made to challenge it.

Argument 1: Hitler's rise to power was primarily due to domestic factors

One of the main arguments against the idea that France's hunt for security and England's desire for peace were responsible for the rise of Hitler is that Hitler's rise to power was primarily due to domestic factors. The economic and political instability in Germany after World War I created a favorable environment for extremist movements to gain support. Hitler and the Nazi party were able to tap into widespread disillusionment and resentment among the German people and exploit their fears and anxieties to gain power.

Argument 2: The Treaty of Versailles played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power

Another argument that can be made against the statement is that the Treaty of Versailles, which imposed harsh penalties on Germany after World War I, played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power. The treaty's provisions, such as the war guilt clause and the reparations payments, were deeply unpopular in Germany and created a sense of resentment and humiliation among the German people. Hitler and the Nazi party were able to exploit this sentiment to gain support and come to power.

Argument 3: France and England's appeasement policies were a reaction to Hitler's aggressive expansion

A further argument that can be made is that France and England's appeasement policies were not the cause of Hitler's rise to power but rather a reaction to it. By the time Hitler came to power in 1933, he had already begun to aggressively expand Germany's territory through the annexation of Austria and the Sudetenland. France and England's appeasement policies were an attempt to avoid war and maintain peace by accommodating Hitler's territorial demands.

Argument 4: The role of other actors

It is also important to note that there were other actors and factors that played a role in Hitler's rise to power. For example, the role of the Soviet Union and the failure of the western powers to form a united front against Hitler.

Argument 5: The role of internal conflicts within the German states

Another argument that can be made is that the internal conflicts within the German states played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power. The German states were not united under a single government and had different systems of government, laws, and customs. This made it difficult for liberal and nationalist movements to gain a foothold and to coordinate their efforts. This internal conflict allowed Hitler to exploit the divisions in society and gain support.

Argument 6: Hitler's personal charisma and leadership

Additionally, it is also important to consider the role of Hitler's personal charisma and leadership in his rise to power. Hitler was an extremely effective speaker and was able to rally support for the Nazi party through his speeches and propaganda. He was also a skilled politician who was able to outmaneuver his rivals and consolidate power within the party and government.

Argument 7: The role of media and propaganda

Another argument that can be made is that the role of media and propaganda played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power. The Nazi party used media and propaganda to control the narrative and manipulate public opinion in their favor. They also used censorship and repression to silence opposing voices and build a cult of personality around Hitler.

Argument 8: The role of economy and unemployment

It is also important to consider the role of economy and unemployment in Hitler's rise to power. The German economy was in a dire state after World War I, and the Great depression made it even worse. The high rate of unemployment and the economic insecurity helped Hitler and the Nazi party to gain support among the population by promising them jobs and stability.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, while it is true that France's hunt for security and England's desire for peace may have played a role in Hitler's rise to power, it is important to recognize that there were many other factors that contributed to the

rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany. Hitler's rise to power was primarily due to domestic factors, the Treaty of Versailles, and the aggressive expansion of Germany's territory. Additionally, the role of other actors and factors such as the Soviet Union and the failure of the western powers to form a united front against Hitler should be taken into account.

***“It is stated by the historians that France’s hunt for security and England’s desire for peace were responsible for the rise of Hitler.” Do you agree or not? Come up with watertight arguments to prove your point.***

### **Introduction:**

It is a widely held belief that the foreign policies of France and England in the years leading up to World War II played a significant role in the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany. This statement suggests that France's search for security and England's desire for peace contributed to the rise of Hitler by allowing him to gain power and territorial expansion in Europe. However, this view is not universally accepted and there are several arguments that can be made for and against it.

### **Arguments for the statement:**

1. **Appeasement policies of France and England:** The appeasement policies of France and England, in which they attempted to pacify Hitler by allowing him to expand German territory, are often cited as a major factor in Hitler's rise to power. Historians argue that by allowing Hitler to annex Austria and the Sudetenland without any significant resistance, France and England effectively legitimized his aggressive expansionist aims and emboldened him to pursue further territorial gains.
2. **Lack of united front:** Another argument that can be made is that the lack of a united front among the Western powers against Hitler allowed him to gain power and expand his territory. Historians argue that if France and England had taken a firmer stance against Hitler's aggressive expansion, it could have prevented his rise to power and the outbreak of World War II.
3. **Failure to respond to Hitler's aggressive actions**

Another argument that can be made for the statement is that the failure of France and England to respond to Hitler's aggressive actions, such as the reoccupation of the Rhineland and the annexation of Austria, helped to pave the way for his rise to power. The lack of a strong response from the Western powers to these actions may have been interpreted by Hitler as a sign of weakness and encouraged him to pursue further territorial gains.

4. **The role of disarmament**

Another argument that can be made is that the role of disarmament played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power. The Treaty of Versailles and other disarmament agreements had significantly reduced the military capabilities of France and England, making them less able to respond to Hitler's aggressive expansion. This may have emboldened Hitler to pursue his territorial ambitions, knowing that the Western powers were less capable of stopping him.

5. **The role of economic incentives**

An additional argument that can be made is that the economic incentives offered by France and England to Hitler may have played a role in his rise to power. France and England may have hoped that by offering economic incentives to Hitler, they could persuade him to abandon his aggressive expansionist aims. However, these incentives may have only served to strengthen Hitler's resolve and allowed him to pursue his territorial ambitions with even greater determination.

### **Counter Arguments:**

1. **Domestic factors:** One of the main counterarguments against the statement is that Hitler's rise to power was primarily due to domestic factors. The economic and political instability in Germany after World War I created a favorable environment for extremist movements to gain support. Hitler and the Nazi party were able to tap into widespread disillusionment and resentment among the German people and exploit their fears and anxieties to gain power.

2. Treaty of Versailles: Another counterargument that can be made is that the Treaty of Versailles, which imposed harsh penalties on Germany after World War I, played a significant role in Hitler's rise to power. The treaty's provisions, such as the war guilt clause and the reparations payments, were deeply unpopular in Germany and created a sense of resentment and humiliation among the German people. Hitler and the Nazi party were able to exploit this sentiment to gain support and come to power.
3. Other actors and factors: It is also important to note that there were other actors and factors that played a role in Hitler's rise to power such as the role of the Soviet Union and the failure of the western powers to form a united front against Hitler, internal conflicts within the German states, Hitler's personal charisma and leadership, the role of media and propaganda and the role of economy and unemployment.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, while it is true that France's hunt for security and England's desire for peace may have played a role in Hitler's rise to power, it is important to recognize that there were many other factors that contributed to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi party in Germany. Domestic factors, the Treaty of Versailles, the aggressive expansion of Germany's territory, the role of other actors, internal conflicts within the German states, Hitler's personal charisma and leadership, the role of media and propaganda and the role of economy and unemployment should also be taken into account. Additionally, it is important to remember that the appeasement policies of France and England were not the cause of Hitler's rise to power but rather a reaction to it.