

19th century liberals believed that individual freedom was best safe-guarded by reducing government powers to a minimum. They BERALISM wanted:

- To impose constitutional limits on government
- To establish the rule of law
- To sweep away all restrictions on individual enterprise, especially state regulation of the economy
- To ensure a voice in government for men of property and education
- Liberalism was influenced by romanticism, with its emphasis on individual freedom and development of one's full potential.

- Romanticism emerged in the 19th century as a rebellion against rationalism. Writers, painters, composers, and others consciously rebelled against the Enlightenment and its rationalist values.
  - In contrast to the philosophes and their emphasis on reason, romantics praised emotion and feeling.

ROMANTIC

ISM

- Whereas the Enlightenment had studied nature to discover its principles, romantics worshiped nature for its inherent beauty.
- Many romantics rediscovered religion. For example, German *pietism* stressed the personal relationship between the individual and God, unimpeded by theological formalities

## **NATIONALISM**

- The ideology of nationalism emerged in the 19th century and partly shaped the era. Nationalism is the belief that people derive their identity from their nation and owe it their primary loyalty. A list of criteria for nationhood might include:
  - Common language
  - Common religion
  - Common political authority
  - Common traditions
  - Shared historical experiences
- As traditional religious values were being undermined by materialism, nationalism offered a new faith to many and fueled the engines for Italian and German unification.

- In the late 19th century, European states launched a new era of expansionism. In only 25 years, they subjugated 500 million people - one half of the world's non-European population.
- 19th century imperialism centered on Africa and Asia and was motivated by:
  - Economic Considerations: The search for new markets for European goods and huge profits.
  - Social Concerns: The belief that expansion would solve social problems (e.g., overcrowding).
  - Nationalistic Pride: The desire to assert national power and to compete effectively on the world stage
  - <u>Ideological Principles</u>: The belief that Europeans were naturally superior to Africans and Asians had a duty to develop those areas of the world.

## **IMPERIALISM**

