communications revolution and radicalism often grew out of liberalism but it was so diverse that it was difficult to pin down.

The period up to German unification was a time where relatively little happened despite a slow, gradual incline in a variety of similar factors which contributed towards nationalism becoming much more popular, with further increases in communication and the telegram to interact with other states, greater printing of a wider variety of newspapers and books, greater participation in a wider variety of societies which focussed around politics including nationalistic ideals. It was only in the real military phases however where nationalism seemed to have the largest appeal, periods which although including the Rhineland scare of 1840, mainly focus around the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 and the Franco-Prussian War of 1871. These wars allowed the nationalists to focus their opinions around supporting Prussia and against the perceived enemies of Austria and in particular France.

1871 was really the period where nationalism kicked off as a result of German unification and it can be said that although there were some doubters amongst the now German population, nationalism definitely was at the forefront of politics and under Bismarck was driven in two manners: imperialist and German foreign policy; and chauvinist ideas by obtaining a German identity. German unification meant that finally the German states had come together and now shared the same ideals and goals, exemplified through writers and poets with the spreading of the song ‘Deutschland Uber Alles’, born out of anti-French sentiment and the adoption of the tricolour flag. The importance of the tricolour flag cannot be understated as this had originally been the symbol of early nationalism in the early 19th century and was now being used as a national icon, fundamentally securing the popular appeal which so many nationalists had craved for so long. As well as this in the coming years a common currency was formed so that trade was easier and simpler and helped identify Germany as a united nation.

In light of their recent unification German citizens searched in order to find their own German identity, what it was and meant to be German. This nationalistic search resulted in a highly chauvinist society with Germans identifying first what it was not to be German. The minorities within Germany were identified and through a chauvinist attitude, despite alienating and discriminating a large number of the population, formed the majority and prove a certain backing of nationalism. Through excluding Austria from unification in creating a Kleindeutsch Germany the population was roughly 2/3 protestant and 1/3 Catholic. The Kulterkamph passed by Bismarck in the 1870s highlights the discriminations of groups which aren’t considered to be entirely Germany. It represented a struggle of civilisations and led to the imprisonment of clergy and the seizing of Catholic money. As well as Catholics being persecuted, one of the largest groups were the Jews, largely based in Eastern Germany and led to the coining of the phrase anti-semitism by Willhelm Marr in 1879. Despite a feeling of German identity and the consideration of Catholics and Jews themselves as German, official nationalism post 1871 was of harsh policies towards these minorities, even spanning to the inhabitants of Alsace-Lorraine. Chauvinism was an unstable compound of aggression, self-pitch and anxiety and held a majority in terms of popular appeal, with the most notorious nationalist, chauvinist organisation being the Pan-German League, founded in 1891.

There are a number of groups which across this period believed and actively supported in German nationalism, with their key aims being expansionist and imperialist. Such groups include the Pan-German League which was an ultra-nationalist political interest organisation which promoted imperialism, supported German ethnic minorities in other countries but believed in anti-Semitism. It was extremely popular amongst the middle and upper classes and had 40,000 paying members, being linked strongly to the similar aims of the Agrarian League which had 300,000 members. In addition to this perhaps the largest of such groups was the Navy League with 330,000 fee paying