

Education, and Physical Education in
Modern Europe
Industrial Revolution and Nationalism

**KIN 375 – Historical Analysis of
Physical Activity
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Physical Education in Educational
Nationalism

- Loyalties based on national ideals date back to ancient Greece. Common racial origin, land, language, religion and culture are elements of a Nation.
- Nationalism in Europe became a distinctive force around the 1750s
- Being a man without a nationality in the 21st Century is a very stressful idea.



The Forces Behind Nationalism

- **Crusades fostered a sense of national solidarity in France**
- **Christian-Moslem wars developed nationalistic sentiments in Spain**
- **The invention of printing facilitated the dissemination of national literature**
- **The American and French revolutions stimulated nationalistic and liberal movements world wide.**
- **The industrial revolution also promoted nationalism**

Van Dalen and Bennett (1971, pp. 199-200)

Education and Nationalism

- **Education perceived as most effective means of national progress and wealth**
- **Nationalistic education implies indoctrination in the particular political ideology of the state (become able and willing to fight for one's nation)**
- **Stresses the cultivation of civic virtues as contrasted with earlier religious and humanistic goals**

Van Dalen and Bennett (1971, pp. 200-201)

Education, PE and Nationalism

- **The general purpose of a national education is to promote social and political homogeneity (common language, history, geography, literature, and folklore).**
- **Physical education is an important part of the curriculum since it enhances fitness and skills necessary for national safety. Also, it contributes to patriotism and builds community spirit.**

Education and Nationalism

- **Nationalistic educational systems are state supported and state controlled. Such is the case in most European countries.**
 - **In the US the individual states have exclusive prerogative of educational control**
- What are some of the problems that our educational system is faced with? How do these issues affect physical education?**

German Educational Nationalism

- 19th century Germany – made up of ~ 300 states and city states
- 1806--Prussia defeated by Napoleon's citizen's army (Treaty of Tilsit)



Napoleon Bonaparte

<http://www.lucidcafe.com/lucidcafe/library/95aug/napoleon.html>

German Educational Nationalism (b)

- 1813—Napoleon's army defeated at the Battle of the nations at Leipzig
- Metternich silenced the liberal voices
- 1871 Otto von Bismarck – Prussian "Iron Chancellor" creates the German Empire



Otto von Bismarck

<http://www.ssa.gov/history/ottob.html>

German Educational Nationalism (C)

- 1914-1918 – WWI
- 1919-1933 – The Weimar Republic was a short democratic era between the Empire (1871-1918) and the National Socialist Party – "Nazi" (1933-1945)



German Educational Nationalism (d)

- Physical education in Germany paralleled national politics
- PE most pronounced during liberal movements and suppressed during reactionary periods



Olympia 1925 -- Frankfurt

Guts Muths (1759-1839) (Grandfather of German Gymnastics)

- Among other publications his *Gymnastics for Youth and Games* is one of the very first volumes written by a physical educator
- A follower of Rousseau, he added games and swimming to the program
- One of the earliest attempts to develop gymnastics using the scientific method

19th Century German Education



Classroom 1850



Gymnastics period, 1880

Images: <http://www.schulmuseum.handshake.de/guide2.htm>

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827)

(A Swiss educator)

- ***“His commitment to social justice, interest in everyday forms and the innovations he made in schooling practice make Pestalozzi a fascinating focus for study.”***



Pestalozzi with a group of children circa 1805

<http://www.infed.org/thinkers/et-pest.htm>

Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi

- “Gymnastics promote a spirit of union and brotherly association as well as habits of industry, openness and frankness of character, personal courage, and manly conduct when one suffers from pain.”
- Strongly promoted and supported gymnastics for women and mothers



Friedrich Fröbel (1782-1852)

“Come, let us live for our children!”



- Fröbel founded the kindergarten.
- Children new love and can flourish in a small world where they can play with their peers and enjoy the taste of first independence.

kindergarten Curriculum included:

- games and songs
- construction
- Arts and crafts and occupations

Words of Friedrich Fröbel

- “Children are like tiny flowers; they are varied and need care, but each is beautiful alone and glorious when seen in the community of peers.”
- “A child who plays and works thoroughly, with perseverance, until physical fatigue forbids will surely be a thorough, determined person, capable of self-sacrifice.”

<http://www.geocities.com/froebelweb/froebel.html>

The “Blacks” (Liberal Gymnasts)

- **Charles Follen** (1795-1840)
- **Charles Beck** (1798-1866)
- **Francis Lieber** (1800-1872)

Members of a group of German emigrants who laid the foundation for Physical Education in America.

Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778-1852)

(Father of German Gymnastics and Turner Societies)

- Preached for strong national unity
- Felt intense hatred for anything foreign
- Published *“Die Deutsche Turnkunst”* (1816)

“...physical education was not the goal; it was a means to a national end”

“Frish, frei, frohlich, fromm”
(bold, free, joyous, & pious)



Image source: <http://cbc4kids.ca>

Carl Diem (1882-1962)

(Father of German Physical Education)

- 1906 -- membership on the German Olympic Committee
- 1913 -- German Sport Badge (based on a Swedish Test)
- Berlin Teacher Education Institute
- Organizer of the 1936 Nazi Olympics
- 1936 first torch relay by 3000 runners held from Greece to Germany
- Forced to resign from faculty position because his wife had Jewish ancestry
- Excavated Olympia in Greece after the Nazis took power in 1936

Adolf Spiess (1810-1858)

(founder of school gymnastics in Germany)

Published *Systems of Gymnastics* and *Manual of Gymnastics for Schools*

Spiess formalized Jahn's system for use in the schools

Developed special programs for girls and the very young. Emphasized the body, discipline, and moral and social values

Unlike Jahn's political emphasis, Spiess was focused on education

Nazi Educational Nationalism

- National Socialists swayed the pendulum from a "child-centered" to a "nation-centered" education.
- The products of the disciplinary and physically demanding Spartan education were fanatically loyal, fearless, and combative Nazi youth.



"Auch Du"

Educational Nationalism in Denmark

- Franz Nachteggall played a large part in introducing physical education into public schools of Denmark and into teacher preparation. He eventually became the Director of Gymnasts for all of Denmark. In 1799, he established the first outdoor gymnasium devoted completely to physical training.