

Unit 4

Revolutions and Reaction 1815 –
1848

Old and New Forces

- **Liberalism**
 - Supported guarantees for individual freedom, political changes and social reform (written in constitutions)
 - Accepted ideas of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution (stressed reason, progress and education)

Old and New Forces

- Conservatism
 - Supported the traditional political and social order and resisted changes that threatened that way of life.
 - Accepted only gradual change

Influential Philosophies

- **Socialism**
 - A political philosophy which argues that the general interests of the public would be best served in a society based upon voluntary cooperation or on ownership of the means of production and distribution by a government responsible to the people.

Old and New Forces

- Nationalism:
 - Not only love of one's country but also pride in a common cultural heritage regardless of political boundary
 - Supported by liberals
 - Opposed by conservatives

The Congress of Vienna

- International peace conference after Napoleonic Wars
- Dominated by:
 - Russia: Czar Alexander I
 - Prussia: King Frederick William III
 - Great Britain: Lord Castlereagh
 - Austria: Prince Klemens von Metternich
 - French: Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

Old and New Forces

- Metternich:
 - Presided over assembly
 - Stressed:
 - Legitimacy:
 - Restoration of monarchs to thrones across Europe
 - Balance of Power:
 - Reduced France's borders to 1790 level
 - Strengthened countries surrounding France
(Unification of Netherlands, 39 German states joined into German Confederation, independent Switzerland)

Evaluation of Congress

- Weaknesses:
 - Dominated by conservatives, rejected liberalism.
 - Ignored nationalism
- Strength:
 - Boundaries established lasted four decades (no major European wars for a century)

Concert of Europe

- Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, France (later)
- Holy Alliance (Christian)
- Dominated European affairs from 1815-1830
- Suppressed liberal movements
- Also led to Monroe Doctrine in 1823
 - Any attempt by Europeans to interfere with governments in the Americas or further establishment of colonies would be deemed an “unfriendly act”

Metternich System

- Dominated European politics 1815 - 1848
- Worked hard at maintaining the status quo
- Opposed liberalism and nationalism



Metternich System

- Challenges to status quo:
 - German student revolts (Carlsbad Decrees)
 - Rise of liberalism in Spain and Italy (suppressed by France and Austria)
 - Latin American Revolt
 - Britain withdrew from Concert of Europe (opposed intervention)

Breakdown of System

- Greek independence in 1830
- Recognition of autonomy of principalities of Serbia and Romania
- Growth of British Liberalism
- July Revolution in France 1830
 - Charles X replaced by the Duke of Orleans
- Belgian independence from the Netherlands 1839

July Revolution

- Charles X: tactless and stubborn, insisted on more royal power
- Elections of 1830 brought many liberals to the legislature who opposed Charles X's policies
- Riots broke out, barricades built, soldiers would not fight
- Charles X abdicates, revolution ends quickly, no republic, constitutional monarchy under Louis Phillipe

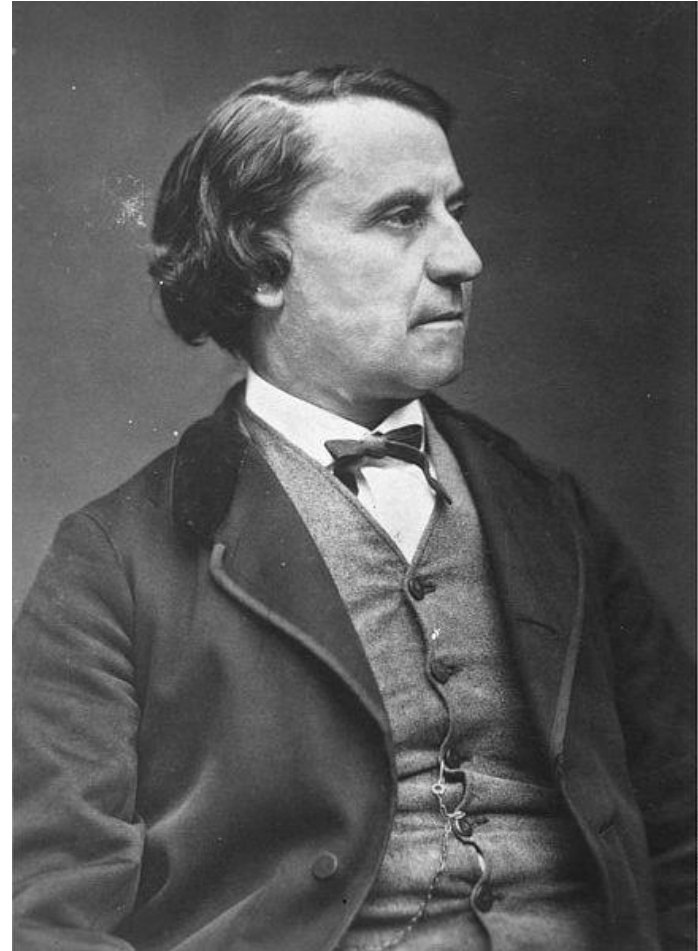
The Bourgeois Monarchy

- Louis Philippe:
 - 1814 Constitution amended to allow for more middle class voters
 - First European monarch to adopt middle class dress



France

- Liberal middle class
 - Desired a republic with wider franchise
- Socialist movement:
 - Louis Blanc
 - Public ownership of property and industry

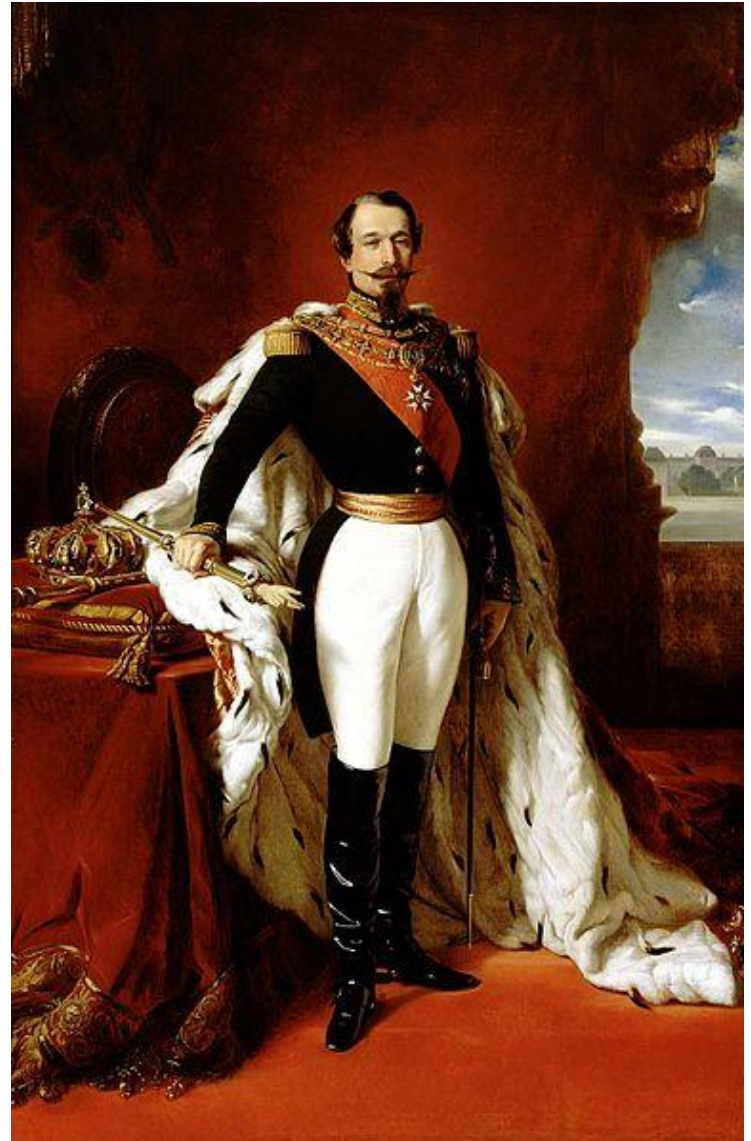


Revolution of 1848

- Barricades erected
- Demonstrations led to Louis Philippe fleeing country
- Leaders of the revolution proclaimed the Second Republic
- National workshops paid for by property taxes to help unemployed
- New constitution (Liberal/Moderate):
 - Unicameral legislature and president
 - Both elected by universal manhood suffrage
 - Got rid of workshops (more revolts)

Revolution of 1848

- Winner of new elections was Louis Napoleon
 - Tried to please everyone, little resistance to virtual dictatorship
 - Declares second French Empire (won popular approval)



“When France sneezes, Europe catches a cold”

- Prince Klemens von Metternich

Belgium

- Southern part of the Netherlands
- Different language, religion, culture
- August 1830:
 - Riots break out in Brussels
 - Belgians defeat Dutch army
 - Gain support of British and French
 - Treaty signed recognizing Belgian independence

Poland

- Tried to win independence from Russia
- Crushed ruthlessly by Russian army
- No help from other countries

Austrian Empire

- Inspired by success of French Rev. (1848)
- Demonstrations in Vienna
 - Demanded constitution, end to feudalism, and removal of Metternich
- Czech liberals in Bohemia
- Magyar liberals in Hungary (Louis Kossuth)
- Italian nationalists in Lombardy and Venetia
- Success at first, however, Austria suppresses

German States

- Liberal and nationalist movements
- Prussia:
 - March 1848:
 - Demonstrations by workers and middle-class liberals
 - National Assembly elected with new constitution
 - Eventually suppressed by King Frederick William IV

German States

- May 1848:
 - Delegates from all states met in Frankfurt to work towards German unification
 - People would give up power to central government
 - Offer crown Frederick William IV
 - Rejected because it came “from the gutter” aka: the people
 - Sends army to disband Frankfurt Parliament

Italian States

- Revolutionaries in Sicily overthrow their king
- Rebels in Rome attempted to establish Roman Republic
 - French and Austrians send troops to crush rebellion
- Sardinia only kingdom to preserve a liberal constitution
 - Other states would look to Sardinia to lead their nationalist dreams

Evaluation of 1830 and 1848 Revolutions

- **Successes:**
 - **Belgian independence**
 - **Universal male suffrage in France and Prussia**
- **Failures:**
 - **Lack of unity and clear goals**
 - **Deep divide between middle-class liberals and workers**
 - **Conservatives were strong enough to defeat them**
 - **Many liberals would flee to the USA**

Why they Failed

- Liberals vs. Conservatives
- Liberals too radical
- Conservatives success encouraged resistance elsewhere

Consequences

- Little achieved on the surface
- Below the surface discontent existed
- Liberal popularity shocked conservatives
- Growth of socialism among working class
- Separation of liberalism and nationalism

Napoleon III

- Elected 1848
- Very popular; 1851 proclaimed himself president for life
- Re-organized government
- 1852 established empire
- Popularity would fade due to disastrous foreign policy
- 1870 'Liberal Empire'

Franco-Prussian War

- Napoleon III: needed a foreign policy trophy
- French alarmed by Prussian presence on border
- Prussians wanted war to unify German states
- July, 1870

Franco-Prussian War

- Disaster for France
- Napoleon III captured
- Revolutionaries in Paris announce end of empire and birth of Third Republic
- New National Assembly
- France loses Alsace and Lorraine
- Germans occupied France until indemnity paid