

Ideologies and Upheavals, 1815–1850



I. The Peace Settlement

A. The European Balance of Power

1. At the Congress of Vienna (1815) Britain, Prussia, Russia, and Austria attempted to establish a balance of power in Europe.
2. They dealt with France moderately.
3. Members of the Quadruple Alliance settled their own differences.

B. Intervention and Repression

1. Austria, Russia, and Prussia formed the Holy Alliance in 1815.
2. Klemens von Metternich, the Austrian foreign minister, organized the intervention of Austrian and French troops to destroy revolutionary governments in Spain and Sicily.

C. Metternich and Conservatism

1. Metternich was born into the landed nobility of the Rhineland.
2. He believed liberalism had led to a generation of war and bloodshed.
3. Metternich came to symbolize the conservative reaction to the French Revolution.
4. As a leader of the Austrian Empire, which included many different nationalities, Metternich could only fear the rise of nationalism in Europe.

II. Radical Ideas and Early Socialism

A. Liberalism

1. Liberalism was not defeated by the settlement of 1815.
2. Liberalism faced more radical ideological competitors in the early nineteenth century.
3. After 1815 liberalism came to be identified with the class interests of the capitalists.

B. Nationalism

1. Nationalists argued that each people had its own mission and cultural unity.

2. Nationalists sought to turn cultural unity into political unity and national independence.
 3. The rise of industrial and urban society required common culture and common language, leading to standardization in these areas.
 4. Much of “traditional” national culture was actually invented by nationalists.
 5. In the early 1800s nationalism was generally linked to liberal republican ideology.
 6. The very act of defining “the nation” excluded or even demonized others, setting up a potentially dangerous “we-they” dichotomy.
- C. French Utopian Socialism
1. Socialism generally included the ideas of government planning of the economy (the Jacobin example), greater economic equality, and state regulation of property.
 2. St. Simon
 3. Fourier
 4. Blanc
 5. Proudhon
- D. The Birth of Marxian Socialism
1. Karl Marx predicted the proletariat (workers) would overthrow capitalists in a violent revolution.
 2. Marx was “the last of the classical economists,” influenced strongly by David Ricardo and his “iron law of wages.”
 3. Marx’s thinking built on the philosophy of Hegel.
- III. The Romantic Movement
- A. Romanticism’s Tenets
1. “Storm and Stress”
 2. Rejection of materialism
 3. Break with classicism’s rationality and order in favor of emotion
 4. Views of nature and the Industrial Revolution
- B. Literature
1. Britain was the first country where romanticism emerged fully in literature.
 2. William Wordsworth was a leading figure of English romanticism.
 3. Walter Scott personified the romantic fascination with history.
 4. French romantics encouraged the repudiation of classical models.
 5. In central and eastern Europe, romanticism and nationalism reinforced each other.
- C. Art and Music
1. Eugène Delacroix was the greatest French romantic painter.
 2. Joseph Turner and John Constable painted scenes of nature that embodied romanticism.
 3. Liszt and Beethoven created emotional, romantic, music.
- IV. Reforms and Revolutions
- A. National Liberation in Greece
1. National, liberal revolution succeeded first in Greece.

2. The Greeks revolted against the Islamic Turks in 1821.
 3. In 1827, the Great Powers tried to force Turkey to accept an armistice with the Greeks.
 4. Turkish refusal led to armed conflict and the declaration of Greece's independence by the Great Powers in 1830.
- B. Liberal Reform in Great Britain
1. In 1815 Tories passed Corn Laws to protect big landholding aristocracy from imports of foreign grain.
 2. In the face of resulting protests Tories suspended habeas corpus and right of assembly.
 3. The Reform Bill of 1832 enfranchised many more voters.
 4. Tories competed for working-class support with Whigs by passing factory reform bills.
- C. Ireland and the Great Famine
1. In Ireland dependence on the potato for food, a potato blight, and gross exploitation of the peasants by absentee Protestant landlords led to famine between 1845 and 1851.
 2. The government took little action to save the starving.
- D. The Revolution of 1830 in France
1. Louis XVIII's Constitutional Charter of 1814 was basically a liberal constitution, but it was not democratic.
 2. Charles X wanted to repudiate the Charter and, in 1830, used a military adventure in Algeria to rally support for his position.
 3. Following victories in Algeria, he took steps to reestablish the old order.
 4. Popular reaction forced the collapse of the government and Charles fled.
 5. Louis Philippe claimed the throne, accepted the Charter, and ruled much as his cousin had.
- V. The Revolutions of 1848
- A. A Democratic Republic in France
1. The 1840s were hard economically and tense politically.
 2. The government's unwillingness to consider reform led to Louis Philippe's abdication on February 22, 1848.
 3. The revolutionaries quickly established universal male suffrage and other push forward a variety of reforms.
 4. Voting in April produced a new Constituent Assembly.
 5. Socialist revolution in Paris frightened much of the population.
 6. Conflict between moderate republicans and radicals came to a head in 1848.
 7. Three days of fighting in June left thousands dead and injured and the moderates in control.
- B. The Austrian Empire in 1848
1. Revolution in France sparked revolutions throughout Europe.
 2. The revolution in the Austrian Empire began in Hungary.
 3. An unstable coalition of revolutionaries forced Ferdinand I to capitulate and promise reforms and a liberal constitution.

4. National aspirations and the rapid pace of radical reform undermined the revolution.
5. Conservative forces regrouped and the army crushed the revolution.
6. Francis Joseph was crowned emperor of Austria in December 1848.

C. Prussia and the Frankfurt Assembly

1. After the fall of Louis Philippe, Prussian liberals pressed for the creation of liberal constitutional monarchy.
2. Urban workers wanted a more radical revolution and the Prussian aristocracy wanted no revolution at all.
3. A self-appointed group of liberals met in May in Frankfurt to write a federal constitution for a unified German state.
4. The Assembly was absorbed with the issue of Schleswig and Holstein.
5. In March 1849 the Assembly completed its draft constitution and elected Frederick William of Prussia the new emperor of the German national state.
6. Frederick William rejected the Assembly and retook control of the state.