

## The Age of Nationalism, 1850–1914



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### I. Napoleon III in France

#### A. The Second Republic and Louis Napoleon

1. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte easily won the presidential election of December 1848.
2. Louis Napoleon believed that government should give particular focus to helping the people economically.
3. When the National Assembly failed to change the constitution so Louis Napoleon could run for a second term, he dismissed the Assembly and seized power in 1851.
4. He called on the French people to legitimize this action and received the overwhelming majority of the vote.

#### B. Napoleon III's Second Empire

1. Louis Napoleon, proclaimed Napoleon III, experienced both success and failure between 1852 and 1870.
2. Napoleon III granted workers the right to form unions and embraced other pro-labor measures.
3. In the 1860s, he liberalized his empire.
4. In 1870 he granted France a new constitution, moving France further in the direction of democracy.

### II. Nation Building in Italy and Germany

#### A. Italy to 1850

1. Three approaches to unifying Italy:
  - a. Mazzini's centralized democratic republic.
  - b. Vincenzo Gioberti's federation of existing states headed by the Pope.
  - c. Italian nation built around aristocratic kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont.

- B. Cavour and Garibaldi in Italy
  - 1. Cavour (head of Sardinian government, 1850-1861) sought to unify northern and central Italy under Sardinian rule.
  - 2. With French aid, he defeated Austria in 1859 and gained Lombardy.
  - 3. Central Italy voted to join Sardinia.
  - 4. Giuseppe Garibaldi led a patriotic expedition to the kingdom of Two Sicilies, overthrew the government, and presented southern Italy and Sicily to Sardinia (1860).
- C. Germany Before Bismarck
  - 1. German customs union (Zollverein) unified the northern German states, but excluded Austria.
  - 2. The national uprising in Italy made a profound impression in the German states.
  - 3. William I of Prussia sought to reform the army and strengthen the state.
  - 4. The parliament rejected the new military budget in 1862 and the liberals triumphed in new elections.
  - 5. William called on Otto von Bismarck to head a new ministry and defy the parliament.
- D. Bismarck and the Austro-Prussian War, 1866
  - 1. Bismarck collected taxes without permission of the Prussian parliament.
  - 2. Prussia and Austria defeated Denmark in 1864 war over Schleswig-Holstein.
  - 3. The Austro-Prussian War of 1866 resulted in a Prussian victory and the establishment of the North German Confederation under Prussian leadership.
- E. The Taming of the Parliament
  - 1. Bismarck conciliated parliamentary opposition and established universal manhood suffrage.
- F. The Franco-Prussian War, 1870–1871
  - 1. Bismarck used a diplomatic pretext to spark a war with France.
  - 2. The war gained Bismarck the support of the southern German states.
  - 3. Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871 ended in Prussian victory and the absorption of southern Germany into the new German Empire.
- III. Nation Building in the United States
  - A. Growth and Division
    - 1. Split between slave-holding South based on big plantation agriculture and North built on smaller family farms.
    - 2. Industrialization in North linked to development of large-scale cotton cultivation in South.
    - 3. Conflict over whether lands seized from Mexico in Mexican-American War of 1848 should be slave or free.
    - 4. Secession of eleven southern states from Union following Abraham Lincoln's election as president led to civil war (1860-61).
    - 5. Northern victory strengthened U.S. industrialization, nationalism; freed black slaves in South but ultimately confirmed their second-class status.

#### IV. The Modernization of Russia

##### A. The “Great Reforms”

1. Crimean War of 1853-1856 versus Britain, France, Sardinia, Ottoman Empire showed backwardness of Russian transport system, military.
2. Serfs freed as part of modernization program (1861).
3. Other reforms followed: strengthening of local self-government, modernization of legal system, relaxation of censorship.

##### B. The Industrialization of Russia

1. Two waves of industrialization:
  - a. Construction of privately owned railroads (1860-1880).
  - b. Construction of state-owned railroads, coal and steel industry financed by foreign investment under Minister of Finance Sergei Witte (1892-1903).

##### C. The Revolution of 1905

1. Lost war with Japan (1904-1905) plus demands of business and professional people, workers, and peasants for political power led to Revolution of 1905.
2. In response Tsar granted new constitution, with elective assembly, the Duma.

#### V. The Responsive National State, 1871-1914

##### A. The German Empire

1. Bismarck conciliated liberals, waged Kulturkampf against Catholics, 1870-1878.
2. A drop in world agricultural prices led Germany to high tariffs to protect German farmers.
3. In 1883-1884 Bismarck passed social security laws to prevent the spread of socialism. These included old-age pensions and national health and accident insurance.
4. In 1890 the new German Emperor, William II, fired Bismarck.

##### B. Republican France

1. Rebellion in Paris against conservative cession of Alsace-Lorraine to Germans, March 1871 (Paris Commune). Defeated in bloody fighting.
2. Moderate republicans Leon Gambetta, Jules Ferry established free compulsory education for girls and boys (1886), legalized unions.
3. Teachers in new public school system spread republican ideas, undermined grip of Catholic Church schools on rural thinking.
4. In 1898-99 Dreyfus affair increased tension between republicans and Catholics (Alfred Dreyfus was a Jewish army captain falsely accused of treason).

##### C. Great Britain and Ireland

1. Extension of franchise in 1832, 1867, 1884 (universal manhood suffrage).
2. Between 1906-1914 Liberal party defeated aristocratic conservatives in House of Lords, raised taxes on rich to fund national health insurance, unemployment benefits, pensions, and so on.

3. Irish nationalists demanded political autonomy and Irish Protestants in north resisted.
- D. The Austro-Hungarian Empire
  1. Due to ethnic divisions the Austro-Hungarian Empire was unable to harness nationalism as other major European states did after 1870.
- E. Jewish Emancipation and Modern Anti-Semitism
  1. Removal of most of Jews' legal disabilities between 1791 (France) and 1871 (Germany).
  2. Jews became prominent in journalism, medicine, law, finance, railroad building.
  3. Stock market crash of 1873 catalyzed vicious anti-Semitism. Conservative and extremist nationalist politicians used anti-Semitism to mobilize support; for example, in Vienna.
  4. In Russia from 1881 government officials used anti-Semitism to channel popular resentment. They encouraged pogroms.
- VI. Marxism and the Socialist Movement
  - A. The Socialist International
    1. The Socialist International nominally integrated socialist parties throughout Europe.
  - B. Unions and Revisionism
    1. Several factors combined to blunt the radical thrust of socialism.
    2. Nationalist and patriotic appeals were at least as attractive to workers as socialism.
    3. Workers' standard of living rose substantially in the second half of the 1800s.
    4. The growth of labor unions and their legalization reflected increased focus of worker and socialist activists on "bread-and-butter" wage issues rather than the violent seizure of political power.
    5. "Revisionist" Marxists such as German Edward Bernstein argued for "evolutionary socialism" that will not involve violent seizure of political power.
    6. Socialism varied from country to country.