

Politics 1815-1848 and 19th Century Society

What causes revolution?

- failure of the government to provide economic stability
- an inefficient mediation between the government and the people
- lack of toleration

Does institutional suppression of societal groups lead to political, economic, and/or social radicalization?

- political: fascism, nationalist revolutions
- social: French and Russian Revs.' bread riots, Marxism
- economic: Marxism, socialism

What common objectives motivated the revolutions of 1848 & to what extent were these goals achieved by 1848?

- liberal and representative governments
- natural rights and freedoms
- the right to form labor unions and strike
- conservatives mainly triumphed in 1848; very few reforms carried out

What are the roots of Marxism?

- Perceived misery of the working class
- Desire for economic reform
- Disgust with capitalism, liberalism, and conservatism

How was each of the “-isms” a reaction to the first Industrial Revolution?

- liberalism—the proletariat demanded rights to safer conditions and the right to unionize
- Marxism—the bourgeoisie exploited the proletariat during the Industrial Revolution; the proletariat was unfairly used to secure enormous profit for the capitalists; Marxism aimed to distribute the wealth
- realism—artists portrayed hardships of proletariat: class of people created in the Industrial Rev.

- impressionism—technology developed during the Industrial Revolution led to the invention of the camera; realistic painting was not as effective, so artists sought to portray things differently
- socialism—oppression of the workers economically

What solutions did liberalism, Marxism, and socialism each have to offer to meet the challenges of the early 19th century?

- Liberals proposed to meet workers' problems by giving them a voice in govt. and better conditions.
- Marx aimed to aid the proletariat by destroying the two-class society with violent revolution.
- Socialism entailed achieving economic equilibrium through government planning and welfare.

What effects did the rise of nationalism have on 19th century Europe?

Concert of Europe – reassertion of conservatist power over subject peoples
 unification – national pride and desire for self rule

To what extent was real politik employed in the unification of Germany & Italy?

- Bismarck united Germany through a combination of diplomacy and warfare; he temporarily allied with nations to achieve immediate goals, then turned on them when necessary to achieve others.
- Cavour succeeded in uniting Italy by using his political power to ally with France, whose aid was necessary to defeat Austria; previous nationalists were unsuccessful because they didn't use diplomacy.

How did the unification of Italy & Germany affect the balance of power in Europe?

- Germany's unification significantly altered the balance of power; the Prussian militarist state was backed by a developing economy that would come to rival Great Britain's.
- Italy's unification didn't immediately affect the balance of power because it was relatively weak (as demonstrated by the failure to take Ethiopia), but nevertheless it facilitated the rise of Mussolini and fascism and led to World War II.

How do 19th century nationalism & 20th century ethnic nationalism differ?

19th century nationalism mainly entailed political unification (Germany & Italy) while 20th century ethnic nationalism pertained more to demographic unification (Yugoslavia) or supposed racial superiority (Nazis & Hitler).

To what extent does nationalism affect contemporary foreign policy?

- causes racial and national superiority (ex: genocides in Africa)
- outsiders' views of one's country (ex: Middle East radical groups' perspective of U.S.)
- foments revolutions for self-rule (ex: current events in Africa and Middle East)