

Restoration, Romanticism, and Revolution, 1815-1848

VI. The Revolutions of 1830

A. The French Revolution of 1830

1. In 1824, Charles X (reigned 1824-1830) succeeded his brother, Louis XVIII. A dedicated reactionary, Charles X vigorously opposed republicanism, liberalism, and constitutionalism.
2. Charles X's reactionary policies infuriated both his liberal and working-class opponents.
3. Discontent with Charles X's arbitrary policies ignited three days of rioting in July 1830. Eugene Delacroix captured the spirit of the uprising in his famous painting, *Liberty Leading the People*.
4. Delacroix's tribute to liberty portrayed a unified people dedicated to overthrowing tyranny. The unity proved to be brief. While the workers wanted a republic, the bourgeoisie wanted a constitutional monarchy.
5. The bourgeoisie prevailed. With their support, Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans, became "king of the French." Louis Philippe prided himself on being a "citizen king" who supported France's business interests.

B. Revolution in Belgium

1. The July Revolution in France helped spark discontent in Belgium.
2. The Congress of Vienna united the Austrian Netherlands (Belgium) with Holland to form a single kingdom of the Netherlands.
3. Catholic Belgium and Protestant Holland had very little in common. In 1830, riots in Belgium quickly turned into a widespread demand for independence.
4. Both Great Britain and France opposed intervention. In 1830, the great powers recognized Belgium as a neutral state.

C. Italian Nationalism

1. Austria dominated northern Italy.
2. Italian nationalists formed a secret society called the *Carbonari* ("charcoal burners"). The *Carbonari* hoped to drive out the

Crash Course

- Austrians and unify Italy.
- Inspired by the events in France and Belgium, the *Carbonari* rebelled. However, Metternich promptly sent in Austrian troops to restore order.
 - The *Carbonari*'s failure left Giuseppe Mazzini as Italy's foremost nationalist leader.

VII. The Revolutions of 1848

A. Causes

- Conservative leaders steadfastly refused to respond to the problems and social tensions created by industrialization and urbanization.
- Working-class radicals and middle-class liberals were convinced that the repressive Metternich system had outlived its usefulness.
- Nationalists in Italy and Germany yearned for unification. At the same time, national minorities in the Austrian Empire demanded independence.
- Widespread crop failures, rising prices of food, and growing unemployment helped fuel demands for change.

B. Revolution in France

- Affluent bourgeoisie dominated France during the reign of Louis Philippe (reigned 1830-1848). A leading minister rejected demands for extending the franchise to the working class by proclaiming, "Enrich yourself and you will have the vote."
- Unable to withstand public pressure, Louis Philippe's government collapsed in February 1848.
- As tension and unrest gripped Paris, liberals, socialists, and Bonapartists all vied for power.
- Following a bloody confrontation between workers and the capitalist-backed government, French voters overwhelmingly elected Louis Napoleon as president of the Second French Republic. The nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte, Louis promised to restore order at home and glory abroad.

C. Defeat in Italy

- Led by Giuseppe Mazzini, the "Young Italy" movement sought to establish a liberal republic embracing all Italy.
- The Austrians once again proved to be too strong while the Italians once again proved to be too divided.

D. Hope and Failure in Italy

1. A growing number of German nationalists hoped for a more liberal German state.
2. In 1834, all the major German states except Austria formed the Zollverein, a free-trading union, to facilitate commerce.
3. Riots broke out in Berlin in 1848. Frederick William IV (reigned 1840-1861) responded by issuing a series of reforms, including calling a Prussian assembly to draft a new constitution.
4. Meanwhile, another assembly met in Frankfurt to draft a constitution for all Germany.
5. The hopes of German reformers were soon crushed. Supported by the army, Frederick William dissolved the Prussian assembly. He then rejected the Frankfurt assembly's plan for a constitutional monarchy declaring that he would refuse to "pick up a crown from the gutter."
6. The failure of the German reform movement had fateful consequences for Germany and the future of Europe.

E. Revolutions in the Austrian Empire

1. Austria was a huge dynastic state in which a dominant German-speaking nation ruled a large number of subject nationalities and ethnic groups.
2. Revolutionary fervor quickly spread from Paris to Vienna. As tensions mounted, Metternich resigned and fled to England.
3. An Austrian constituent assembly abolished the robot, or forced labor, thus removing a major source of peasant discontent.
4. Revolution quickly spread from Vienna to Hungary where Louis Kossuth demanded self-government.
5. Despite initial setbacks, the Austrian government regained control. Only Hungary remained defiant. The new Austrian emperor Francis Joseph (reigned 1848-1916) accepted the offer of Tsar Nicholas I to help defeat the Hungarians. A joint invasion of Russian and Austrian forces crushed Hungarian resistance.

F. Key Points

1. The revolutions of 1848 failed because of internal divisions, a lack of popular support outside the cities, and the continued strength of conservative forces.
2. Peaceful reforms enabled England to avoid violent revolts.

Crash Course

3. Repressive policies stifled reform in Russia.
4. The idealistic romantic spirit now yielded to a new age of political realism.
5. The revolutions of 1848 form a particularly complex sequence of events. Do not spend time memorizing the chronology of what happened. Instead, focus on the causes and consequences of the various revolutions.