

LESSON 2

Nationalism and Political Revolutions

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can innovation affect ways of life?
- How does revolution bring about political and economic change?

READING HELPDESK

Academic Vocabulary

- radical
- temporary

Content Vocabulary

- universal male suffrage
- multinational empire

TAKING NOTES

Key Ideas and Details

Comparing and Contrasting Use your graphic organizer to compare and contrast the revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

	1830	1848
Governments/ countries in power		
Groups revolting		
Outcomes		

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

After the Napoleonic wars, European rulers sought to restore stability by reestablishing much of the old order. They also wanted to keep a balance of power among nations. New forces for change, however, especially liberalism and nationalism, had become too powerful to be contained. Revolts and revolutions soon shook Europe.

The Revolutions of the 1830s

GUIDING QUESTION *How did liberalism and nationalism present a challenge to conservatism in Europe during the 1830s and 1840s?*

Governments in Europe attempted to maintain the old order during the nineteenth century. Beginning in 1830, however, the forces of change—liberalism and nationalism—began to break through the conservative domination of Europe.

In France the Bourbon monarch Charles X, a reactionary, attempted to censor the press and take away voting rights from much of the middle class. In response, liberals overthrew Charles X in 1830 and established a constitutional monarchy. Louis-Philippe, a cousin of Charles X, took the throne. Political support for the new monarch came from the upper-middle class.

In the same year, three more revolutions occurred in Europe. Nationalism was the chief force in all three of them. Belgium, which had been annexed to the former Dutch Republic in 1815, rebelled and created an independent state. Both Poland and Italy, which were ruled by foreign powers, made efforts to break free. These efforts, however, were less successful. Russian troops crushed the Polish attempt to establish an independent Polish nation. Meanwhile, Austrian troops marched south and put down revolts in a number of Italian states.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Evaluating In what ways were liberalism and nationalism causes for the revolutions of the 1830s in Europe?

The Revolutions of 1848

GUIDING QUESTIONS How did liberalism and nationalism present a challenge to conservatism in Europe during the 1830s and 1840s? What were the results of the revolutionary uprisings that occurred throughout Europe in 1848?

Despite liberal and nationalist successes in France and Belgium, the conservative order still dominated much of Europe as the midpoint of the nineteenth century approached. However, the forces of liberalism and nationalism continued to grow. These forces of change erupted once more in the revolutions of 1848.

Another French Revolution

Revolution in France was again the spark for revolution in other countries. Severe economic problems beginning in 1846 brought untold hardship in France to the lower middle class, workers, and peasants. At the same time, members of the middle class clamored for the right to vote. The government of Louis-Philippe refused to make changes, and opposition grew.

The monarchy was finally overthrown in 1848. A group of moderate and **radical** republicans set up a provisional, or **temporary**, government. The republicans were people who wanted France to be a republic—a government in which leaders are elected.

The provisional government called for the election of representatives to a Constituent Assembly that would draw up a new constitution. Election would be determined by

universal male suffrage,

meaning all adult men could vote. The provisional government also set up national workshops to provide work for the unemployed. From March to June, the number of unemployed enrolled in the national workshops rose from about 66,000 to almost 120,000. This emptied the treasury and frightened the moderates, who reacted by closing the workshops on June 21, 1848.

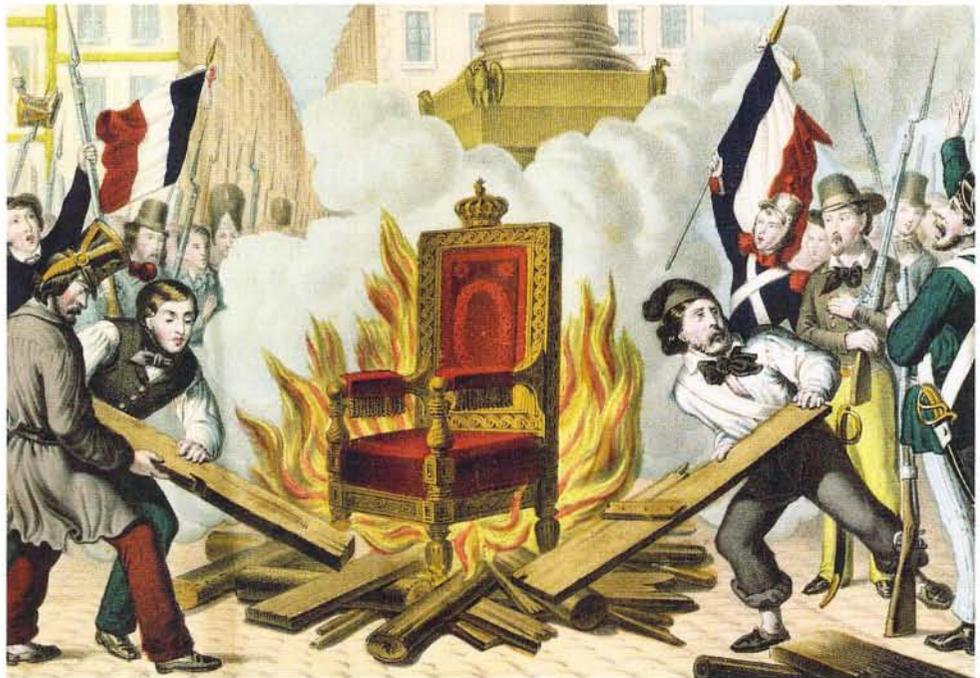
The workers refused to accept this decision to close down the workshops. They poured into the streets in protest. In four days of bitter and bloody fighting, government forces crushed the working-class revolt. Thousands were killed and thousands more were sent to the French prison colony of Algeria in northern Africa.

The new French constitution, ratified on November 4, 1848, set up a republic called the Second Republic. The Second Republic had a single legislature elected by universal male suffrage. A president, also chosen by universal male suffrage, served for four years. In the elections for the presidency held in December 1848, Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (called Louis-Napoleon), the nephew of the famous French ruler, won a resounding victory.

radical relating to a political group associated with views, practices, and policies of extreme change

temporary lasting for a limited time; not permanent

universal male suffrage
the right of all males to vote in elections



▲ Burning the French throne at the Place de la Bastille, 1848

► CRITICAL THINKING

Drawing Inferences Describe the symbolic meaning of this painting.



▲ The National Guard breaks up a labor uprising in Vienna, 1848.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Drawing Conclusions How does this image illustrate the chaos and level of participation in the 1848 revolts?

Revolt in the German States

News of the 1848 revolution in France led to upheaval in other parts of Europe. The Congress of Vienna, which lasted from 1814 to 1815, had recognized the existence of 38 independent German states (called the German Confederation). Of these, Austria and Prussia were the two great powers. The other states varied in size.

In 1848 cries for change led many German rulers to promise constitutions, a free press, jury trials, and other liberal reforms. In May 1848, an all-German parliament, called the Frankfurt Assembly, was held to fulfill a liberal and nationalist dream—the preparation of a constitution for a new united Germany. The Frankfurt Assembly’s proposed constitution provided for a German state with a parliamentary government and a hereditary emperor ruling under a limited monarchy. The constitution also allowed for direct election of deputies to the parliament by universal male suffrage.

Ultimately, however, the Frankfurt Assembly failed to gain the support needed to achieve its goal. Frederick William IV of Prussia, to whom the throne was offered, refused to accept the crown from a popularly elected assembly. Thus, the assembly members had no real means of forcing the German rulers to accept their drafted constitution. German unification was not achieved.

Revolutions in Central Europe

The Austrian Empire also had its problems. It was a **multinational empire**—a collection of different peoples including Germans, Czechs, Magyars (Hungarians), Slovaks, Romanians, Slovenes, Poles, Croats, Serbs, Ruthenians (Ukrainians), and Italians. Only the German-speaking Hapsburg dynasty held the empire together. The Germans, though only a quarter of the population, played a leading role in governing the Austrian Empire.

In March 1848, demonstrations erupted in the major cities. To calm the demonstrators, the Hapsburg court dismissed Metternich, the Austrian foreign minister, who fled to England. In Vienna, revolutionary forces took control of the capital and demanded a liberal constitution. To appease the revolutionaries, the government gave Hungary its own legislature. In Bohemia, the Czechs clamored for their own government.

multinational empire an empire in which people of many nationalities live

Austrian officials had made concessions to appease the revolutionaries but were determined to reestablish their control over the empire. In June 1848, Austrian military forces crushed the Czech rebels in Prague. By the end of October, the rebels in Vienna had been defeated as well. With the help of a Russian army of 140,000 men, the Hungarian revolutionaries were finally subdued in 1849. The revolutions in the Austrian Empire had failed.

Revolts in the Italian States

The Congress of Vienna had set up nine states in Italy, which were divided among the European powers. These states included the Kingdom of Piedmont in the north; the Two Sicilies (Naples and Sicily); the Papal States; a handful of small states; and the northern provinces of Lombardy and Venetia, which were now part of the Austrian Empire.

In 1848 a revolt broke out against the Austrians in Lombardy and Venetia. Revolutionaries in other Italian states also took up arms and sought to create liberal constitutions and a unified Italy. By 1849, however, the Austrians had reestablished complete control over Lombardy and Venetia. The old order also prevailed in the rest of Italy.

The Failures of 1848

Throughout Europe in 1848, popular revolts started upheavals that led to liberal constitutions and liberal governments. But how could so many successes in 1848 soon be followed by so many failures? Two particular reasons stand out.

The unity of the revolutionaries had made the revolutions possible. However, moderate liberals and more radical revolutionaries were soon divided over their goals; therefore, conservative rule was reestablished.

In 1848 nationalities everywhere had also revolted in pursuit of self-government. However, little was achieved as divisions among nationalities proved disastrous. The Hungarians, for example, sought their freedom from the Austrians. At the same time, they refused the same to their minorities—the Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs. Instead of joining together to fight the old empire, minorities fought each other. The old order prevailed. Even with the reestablishment of conservative governments, however, the forces of nationalism and liberalism continued to influence political events.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Drawing Conclusions Why did the revolutions of 1848 fail?

Analyzing PRIMARY SOURCES

Giuseppe Mazzini on
Young Italy

“Young Italy is a brotherhood of Italians who believe in a law of *Progress* and *Duty*, and are convinced that Italy is destined to become one nation. . .

Young Italy is *Unitarian*.

Because, without unity, there is no true nation.

Because without unity, there is no real strength; and Italy, surrounded as she is by powerful, united, and jealous nations, has need of strength before all things. . . .”

—Giuseppe Mazzini, from
*General Instructions for the
Members of Young Italy*, 1832

MAKING INFERENCE

Why would Italy's history have convinced Mazzini of the need for national unity?

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Describing** Define the term *universal male suffrage* and give examples of when it affected the revolutions of 1848.

Using Your Notes

2. **Comparing and Contrasting** Use your graphic organizer to discuss the similarities and differences between the revolutions of the 1830s and 1848.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did liberalism and nationalism present a challenge to conservatism in Europe during the 1830s and 1840s?

4. **Making Observations** What were the results of the revolutionary uprisings that occurred throughout Europe in 1848?

Writing Activity

5. **Argument** Write a paragraph that argues for or against the following statement: The revolutions of the 1830s ultimately failed.