

Napoleon and the Concert of Europe (c. 1795-1840s)

POLITICAL

NAPOLEONIC FRANCE – Napoleon promised order and a continuation of French Revolution ideals. He placed many of his relatives on thrones of Europe. Established other European states as French dependents through force or war with his *Grande Armée*. He defeated Austria (1805), Prussia (1806), and Russia (1807). He overreached in Spain (who was supported by Great Britain) and Russia (1812). He was exiled to Elba in 1814, returned to France in 1815 and fought at **Waterloo**, Belgium in June 1815. He was defeated and sent into exile at St. Helena, a remote Atlantic island. Napoleon's son would die at 19, but his nephew would rule France as Napoleon III in 1851.

POLAND: Napoleon established Grand Duchy of Warsaw, a separate Polish State, after his defeat of Prussia. After the Congress of Vienna, Poland would eventually fall into Russia domination.

RESTORATION OF EUROPE: Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) Its goals were:

- **Legitimacy:** Restore thrones prior to 1789 revolution.
- **Post-war Stability:** Return France to pre 1789 territory.
- **Prevent Revolution:** Conservative domination.

Future congresses were to be held to keep the lid on revolution. The Metternich system of suppression (intervention), censorship, and spying would continue until 1848. Radical/Republican/student groups were the target.

RUSSIA: Death of Alexander I results in **Decembrist Revolt** in 1825. Soldiers rallied around Constantine instead of conservative Nicholas I. They were imprisoned and executed. Nicholas I adopted Metternich system of spying and suppression.

GREECE: Combined force of British, French, and Russia destroyed Turkish Fleet in 1827. In 1830, Greece was declared independent.

LATIN AMERICA: Simon Bolivar led rebellion against Spain. Former colonies became independent. (1821-1823)

REVOLUTIONS OF 1830:

- **FRANCE:** Charles X kicked off throne, replaced by Louis Philippe. Revolts wanted to re-establish republic of 1789.
- **BELGIUM:** Became independent from Dutch. Neutrality upheld in 1834 (which would lead to World War I).
- **POLAND:** inspired by French revolt but could not overcome might of Russia. Nicholas I retaliated by executing or exiling Poles (many fled to Paris, including Frederick Chopin).
- **BRITAIN:** On verge of a revolt, Reform Bill of 1832 passed after massive demonstrations. Voting power increased and representation of the Industrial North occurred.

REVOLUTIONS OF 1848

- **FRANCE**
 - February 1848 – Massive demonstrations and barricades led Louis Philippe to abdicate and flee to England. France declared itself a republic. Liberals and conservatives united to restore stability while communists marched in the street.
 - April 1848 – National Assembly of conservatives and liberals. During the **June Days** the republic's army crushed workers.
 - Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (Nephew of Napoleon I), who had tried to gain power in Strasbourg (1836) and Boulogne (1840), returned and was voted in by national plebiscite. By 1852, he declared himself the Emperor Napoleon III.
- **GERMANY:** Delegates met in Frankfurt to establish unification. They prepared a liberal constitution, leaving out Austria and other groups. Prussia King refused any crown with constitutional limitations.
- **ITALY:** Revolts broke out in Sicily against Bourbon king. Class divisions prevented Mazzini's vision of a united Italy. Piedmont Sardinia took a leading role. Hopes for unity in near future.
- **AUSTRIAN EMPIRE:** Magyar (Hungarian) nationalists' revolted (led by Kossuth) and demanded home- rule. Divisions were quelled when the Austrian government abolished peasant obligations (*seigniorial* duties) much as France did in 1789. Franz Joseph, nephew of old king, took throne. Nicholas of Russia lent support.

ECONOMICS – INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

Britain: Textile industry continued to grow with Cotton imported from India and American South. As workers congregated in factories, they organized to support reforms, and later labor unions. When workers attended meeting, they were killed by military in the **Peterloo Massacre** (1819). The government passed **Six Acts** to limit rights of assembly and institute censorship. Railroads changed the landscape as no other invention. Coal and iron ore fueled the Industrial age. Steam used more than water power.

RELIGION

Concordant of 1801 (between Napoleon and the Pope) ended decades of church/state conflict, Government agreed to pay salaries of clergy who swear loyalty to state. After the French Revolution and Napoleonic upheaval, the Catholic Church revived, including the Jesuit order.

Religion came up against the forces of nationalism, and sided with governments who sought to repress revolution. Revivalist movements continued with the **Methodists** (established in 1792) gaining members in England.

SOCIAL – NAPOLEON

Napoleon's **Civil Code** guaranteed religious liberty and equality, Criminal Codes were also reformed. Inheritances must go to all children. Napoleon uses censorship to limit criticism. Critics of his despotic reign, such as Germaine de Stäel, moved to Switzerland.

Women's rights were curtailed to reinforce women's traditional roles. Little interest in women's education.

INTELLECTUAL (THE IDEOLOGIES OR "ISMS")

CONSERVATISM: supported by church and aristocrats. Favored tradition, slow change, the old regime, and against revolution.

LIBERALISM: include the middle class, merchants, and professionals. They were for liberty and against slave trade; change, but no violence. Liberalism includes

- UTILITARIANISM: Jeremy Bentham defined it as "the greatest good for the greatest number"
- CLASSICAL LIBERALISM: economic free trade (*laissez-faire*) with no restraints on competition.
- SOCIALISM: the belief that people should cooperate instead of compete. Robert Owen established a workers community in New Lanark, Scotland (1800-1840). Saint-Simon and Charles Fourier were French socialists who favored small communities based on utopian ideals. There were many different communal experiments.

NATIONALISM: extended across the continent, with special force in polyglot Austria. In Germany, student groups such as the *Burschenschaften* rally against Napoleonic influence.

SCIENCE

Napoleon, trained in mathematics and artillery, embraced scientific and technological progress. Expedition to Egypt discovered Rosetta stone, which would unlock key to hieroglyphs by 1822. France used state funds to award inventiveness. Medical advances in surgery occurred as the Napoleonic Wars provided plenty of practice.

ARTISTIC

Napoleonic Arts: Napoleon had himself depicted as emperor by Jacques Louis David and Ingres. Motifs from Egypt were used in furniture and architecture. Goya (Spanish painter) depicted the horrors of Napoleon's Spanish invasion in *The Third of May*. Romantic themes continue in painting after Napoleon. Paintings with Oriental themes (especially Egypt). Caspar David Friedrich was the iconic Romantic painter whose moody landscapes and forest scenes depict the individual among an awesome nature.

Romantic Nationalism included the brothers Grimm collecting folk tales and Sir Walter Scott's writings of the Scottish highlands. In music, Beethoven established musical romanticism. Novels were suited to addressing social problems: **Dickens** (1812- 1870), Charlotte **Brontë**, **George Sand**, all showed the distressing social conditions of industrialization and urbanization and rotting social structures. Culture exploded as ordinary citizens crowded theaters.