

Revolutions in Europe 1848

During the Napoleonic Wars (1792–1815) Austria, Britain, Prussia, and Russia allied to resist Napoleon's attempt to bring French revolutionary ideas to the rest of Europe by force. The eventual victory of the allies in 1815 was a victory for traditionalism. Conservative monarchies ruled Europe (except in Switzerland) in the early 19th century. Their regimes were dedicated to the suppression of groups demanding liberal reforms. At the same time, nationalist movements grew among peoples of the same language or culture who were separated by foreign rule. In 1848, nationalist independence movements and rebellions against conservative rule broke out all over Europe. Most of the revolts of 1848 failed in their immediate objectives, but nationalist feelings and demands for reforms continued to grow.

LONG-TERM CAUSES

- **Political Theory** Ideas of the French Revolution (1789) spread throughout Europe, creating a desire for political change. People demanded a voice in government and guarantees of a basic set of rights
- **Nationalism** At the Congress of Vienna (1815), following the defeat of Napoleon, the allied powers redrew the map of Europe, dividing up conquered territory without regard to growing nationalist sentiments among peoples of shared race and language
- **Repression** The Holy Alliance was a loosely worded statement drawn up by Czar Nicholas I of Russia and signed in 1815 by ruling monarchs of Prussia, Austria, France, and later Spain, agreeing to mutual support; it was seen as an affirmation of uncompromising absolutism (rule of monarch with unlimited power)

SHORT-TERM CAUSES

- | KINGDOM OF FRANCE | AUSTRIAN EMPIRE | GERMAN CONFEDERATION | ITALIAN STATES |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restoration of Bourbon monarchy by allies in 1814: rule of Bourbon kings to 1830 has little popular support ● Failure of a revolution in 1830; conservative rule of King Louis-Philippe (1830–48); growing discontent of liberals and republicans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Repressive and conservative government controlled by foreign minister Prince Metternich (1809–48) ● Popular nationalist movements among subject peoples within empire (particularly Magyars and Slavs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creation of German Confederation in 1815 (a loose alliance of German states) despite calls for a unified German state ● Domination of central Europe by Austrian Empire frustrates popular demand for a unified German state | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Restoration of monarchies in all Italian states following defeat of Napoleon ● Austrian domination of northern Italy ● Popular nationalist movements; demands for a unified Italy and freedom from Austrian rule |

1848 REVOLUTIONS

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| <p>Feb 24, 1848 Uprising of republicans in Paris and overthrow of government; abdication of King Louis-Philippe</p> <p>Feb 27, 1848 2nd French Republic proclaimed by revolutionaries</p> | <p>Mar 13, 1848 Uprising in Vienna; resignation and exile of Metternich; overthrow of government</p> <p>Apr 13, 1849 Hungarian Republic proclaimed by Hungarian independence fighters</p> | <p>Mar 15, 1848 Uprising in Prussian capital, Berlin; King Frederick William IV promises a new constitution</p> <p>May 18, 1848 National Assembly meets in Frankfurt to discuss unification of Germany</p> | <p>Mar 18–22, 1848 Violent uprising in Milan of Italian independence fighters; retreat of Austrian armies of occupation</p> <p>Mar 22, 1848 Kingdom of Piedmont declares war of independence on Austria</p> |
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RESULTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec 1848: Formation of National Assembly and election of Louis Napoleon as president ● 1852–70: Louis Napoleon rules as Emperor Napoleon III (2nd French Empire); initially repressive but more liberal measures and revival of parliamentary institutions from 1860 ● 1870: 3rd French revolution, leading to establishment of 3rd Republic (1870–14) with elected government | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1848–1849: Internal war—Austria vs. Hungary and Slavic states; nationalist rebellions suppressed ● 1848: Abdication of Emperor Ferdinand I in favor of Francis Joseph (rules to 1916); vigorously repressive regime ● Increased hatred of Austrian rule in Hungary ● 1867: Recognition of Hungarian equality in Ausgleich (Compromise) agreement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1848: Reformed constitutions in many states ● 1848: Failure of National Assembly to implement Prussian plan for German unification because of Austrian objections ● Prussia becomes center of German hopes for unification; Austria is no longer dominant in German Confederation ● 1871: Unification of Germany by Prussian chancellor Otto von Bismarck | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1848–1849: War in northern Italy ends in defeat of republicans by Austria; only Kingdom of Piedmont retains a liberal constitution ● Piedmont becomes center of Italian hopes for unification ● 1861: Independence for northern Italian states and unification of Italy through foreign policy of Piedmontese prime minister, Count Camillo Cavour |
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