The Great Powers of Europe, 1871–1900
The Congress of Vienna

After the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, the victors met at Vienna to restore order and stability to Europe. They also wanted to restore boundaries.

Leaders: Klemens von Metternich (Austria); Czar Alexander I (Russia); Lord Castlereagh (England); Maurice de Talleyrand (France).

Metternich: restore Europe the way it was before the French Revolution.
3 Major Principles

- **Principle of Legitimacy** - put all rightful kings back in power

- **Principle of Compensation** - France should have to pay for the wars and damage that they caused

- **Balance of Power** - don’t let any one country get too powerful.
Contempt for the French Revolution

Denial of Democracy - People were not given any voice about the new governments that were established.

Denial of Nationalism - National groups were denied independence. Examples - Poles, Finns, Belgians.
The Metternich System

Simple version → Quadruple Alliance → made up of Britain, Austria, Russia, and Prussia → all policed Europe and crushed any rebellion against the Congress of Vienna.
Germany at the Center of Europe

International relations revolved around a united Germany, which, under Bismarck’s leadership, isolated France and forged a loose coalition with Austria-Hungary and Russia.

At home, Bismarck used mass politics and social legislation to gain popular support and to develop a strong sense of national unity and pride amongst the German people.
Wilhelm II (r. 1888–1918) dismissed Bismarck and initiated a German foreign policy that placed emphasis on the acquisition of colonies.
The Liberal Powers: France and Great Britain

France was now a second-rate power in Europe, its population and army being smaller than those of Germany, and its rate of industrial growth lower than that of the Germans.

French society seemed divided between monarchist Catholics and republicans with anticlerical views; in fact, popular participation in politics, a strong sense of nationhood, and a system of universal education gave the French people a deeper cohesion than appeared on the surface.
In Britain, a stable government and a narrowing in the disparity of wealth were accompanied by a number of problems.

Particularly notable were Irish resentment of English rule, an economy that was lagging behind those of the United States and Germany, and an enormous empire that was very expensive to administer and to defend.

For most of the nineteenth century Britain pursued a policy of “splendid isolation” toward Europe; preoccupation with India led the British to exaggerate the Russian threat to the Ottoman Empire and to the Central Asian approaches to India while they ignored the rise of Germany.
The Conservative Powers: Russia and Austria-Hungary

- The forces of nationalism weakened Russia and Austria-Hungary.
- Austria had alienated its Slavic-speaking minorities by renaming itself the “Austro-Hungarian Empire.”
- The Empire offended Russia by attempting to dominate the Balkans, and particularly by the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908.
Russia

- 1800s Russia consolidated power over its territory with absolute power in the Romanov’s hands
- Most citizens were serfs with no rights — living slave-like existence
- Used secret police to squash rebellions and wanted reforms
Ethnic diversity also contributed to instability in Russia.

Attempts to foster Russian nationalism and to impose the Russian language on a diverse population proved to be divisive → “Russification”
In 1861 Tsar Alexander II emancipated the peasants from serfdom, but did so in such a way that it only turned them into communal farmers with few skills and little capital.

Tsars Alexander III (r. 1881–1894) and Nicholas II (r. 1894–1917) opposed all forms of social change.
Russian industrialization was carried out by the state, and thus the middle-class remained small and weak while the land-owning aristocracy dominated the court and administration.

Defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1905) and the Revolution of 1905 demonstrated Russia’s weakness and caused Tsar Nicholas to introduce a constitution and a parliament (the Duma), but he soon reverted to the traditional despotism of his forefathers.
Japan Joins the Great Powers, 1865–1905
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In China a “self-strengthening movement” tried to bring about reforms, but the Empress Dowager Cixi and other officials opposed railways or other technologies that would carry foreign influences into the interior. They were able to slow down foreign intrusion, but in doing so, they denied themselves the best means of defense against foreign pressure.
In the early nineteenth century, Japan was ruled by the Tokugawa shogunate and local lords had significant autonomy. This system made it hard for Japan to coordinate its response to outside threats.
In 1853, the American Commodore Matthew C. Perry arrived in Japan with a fleet of steam-powered warships and demanded that the Japanese open their ports to trade and American ships.
Dissatisfaction with the shogunate's capitulation to American and European demands led to a civil war and the overthrow of the shogunate in 1868.
The Meiji Restoration and the Modernization of Japan, 1868–1894

- The new rulers of Japan were known as the Meiji oligarchs.
- The Meiji oligarchs were willing to change their institutions and their society in order to help transform their country into a world-class industrial and military power.
- The Japanese had a long history of adopting ideas and culture from China and Korea; in the same spirit, the Japanese learned industrial and military technology, science, engineering, and even clothing styles and pastimes from the West.
Meiji Restoration—Shogun Out, Emperor In, Westerners Out

- Japanese Westernization
  - Metric system, clocks, calendar, fashions
  - NOT religion

- Emerged a world power
- Building RRs and steamships
- 1876 samurai class abolished and universal military service was established
- 1890s able to reduce European & US influence
The Birth of Japanese Imperialism

Industrialization was accompanied by the development of an authoritarian constitutional monarchy and a foreign policy that defined Japan’s “sphere of influence” to include Korea, Manchuria, and part of China.
Japan defeated China in a war that began in 1894, thus precipitating an abortive Chinese reform effort (the Hundred Days Reform) in 1898 and setting the stage for Japanese competition with Russia for influence in the Chinese province of Manchuria.

Japanese power was further demonstrated when Japan defeated Russia in 1905 and annexed Korea in 1910.
C/C Industrial Revolution in Europe and Japan

- Japan’s was faster (a few decades to Europe’s century)
- Japan didn’t have to invent, but implement
- Similar that private corporations rose up (Ex. Mitsubishi family became wealthy)
  - Built factories
  - Urbanized
  - Reforms