



The Revolutions Of 1848

“The Springtime of Peoples”

REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

- The outbreak of revolution in France leads to the outbreak of revolution in

1. Prussia
2. Austria
3. Italy

PRUSSIA 1848

- Rev. breaks out – King Frederick William IV
1. Agrees to abolish censorship
 2. Create a new constitution
 3. Work to create a unified Germany



The German States



Germania - 1848



Frederick William IV of Prussia (1840-1861)



- * Mad as a hatter!
- * Anti-liberal, but an 'Arthurian' medieval romantic.
 - Agricultural romantic.
- * Relied on *Junker* support.
- * Prussia in the mid-19^c:
 - Efficient.
 - Good economy.
 - Strong military.



The Germans Follow the French

- * After the February French revolutions, there were many riots in minor German states.
- * Austria and Prussia expected to intervene to crush these revolts, BUT:
 - Vienna Revolution → led to the fall of Metternich.
 - Berlin riots
 - Prussian army efficiently suppressed the revolutionaries.
 - King Frederick William IV withdraws the troops and hand the Prussia liberals a big victory!
 - Other Princedoms collapse when Prussia's nerve fails.



Funeral for Berlin Freedom Fighters





The Frankfurt Assembly

- * German liberals are overjoyed!
- * German National Assembly established in Frankfurt:
 - Universal suffrage.
 - Delegates mostly from the middle class.
 - Debate over the nature of the state → monarchy of Habsburgs or Hohenzollerns?
 - They chose the Austrian Habsburg Archduke John rather than the King of Prussia.
 - He was a well-known liberal sympathizer.
 - But they couldn't guarantee the loyalty of the Prussian Army.



Frankfurt Assembly Meets



THE FRANKFURT ASSEMBLY

1. Create a new constit. for a unified Germany
2. GROSSDEUTSCH
3. KLEINDEUTSCH
4. Austria withdraws
5. Prussia withdraws
6. Frankfurt Assembly collapses/fails



A Citizen Militia on Parade in Berlin





The "Three Germanies"



Prussian Resurgence

- * The Prussian army moved to crush the new Polish Grand Duchy.
- * The Prussian parliament disagreed with the Frankfurt Parliament.
- * The Prussian army invaded Schleswig-Holstein (at Frankfurt's request).
 - Horrified international liberal opinion.
 - Britain & Russia threatened war with Prussia.
 - Prussia agreed to its own peace with Denmark.
 - The Prussian army abandoned the Frankfurt government.



Austria & Prussia Reassert Control

- * Austria re-gained control of Vienna.
- * Frederick William deposed the Berlin parliament.
- * The Frankfurt Assembly offered the emperorship to Frederick William.
 - He declined.
 - Radicals took to the barricades again.
 - The Prussian army crushed all resistance.
 - April, 1849 → the Assembly collapsed.



A New German Confederation



- * Frederick William IV of Prussia was still interested in ruling a united Germany.
- * 1850 → the German Confederation was re-established at Olmutz.
- * But, Frederick was forced to accept Austrian leadership of Central Europe.



Liberalism Discredited in Germany

- * Little popular support.
- * The union of liberals and democrats didn't last.
- * Rule of force was the only winner!
- * There was a massive exodus of liberal intelligentsia.
 - Militarism, hierarchy, and statism were triumphant!
 - Capitalists followed suit.



The HAPSBURG EMPIRE



The Austrian Empire: 1830



Ferdinand I (1793-1875)

- * The nature of the Austrian Empire:
 - Very conservative monarchy [liberal institutions didn't exist].
- * Culturally and racially heterogeneous.
- * Social reliance on serfdom dooms masses of people to a life without hope.
- * Corrupt and inefficient.
- * Competition with an increasingly powerful Prussia.



↓
Therefore, the Empire was vulnerable to revolutionary challenges.

Austrian Students Form a Militia



Vienna, 1848: The Liberal Revolution

- * The "February Revolution" in France triggered a rebellion for liberal reforms.
- * March 13 → rioting broke out in Vienna.
 - The Austrian Empire collapsed.
 - Metternich fled.
 - Constituent Assembly met.
 - Serfdom [robot] abolished.
 - The revolution began to wane.
 - The revolutionary government failed to govern effectively.



The New Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I [r. 1848-1916]



AUSTRIA 1848

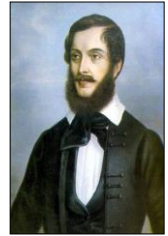
1. Revolution in the Aust. Emp. breaks out in March 1848
2. LOUIS KOSSUTH leads Hungarians demanding
 - a. sovereignty
 - b. own legislature
3. demonstrations/riots in Buda, Prague, Vienna
4. Metternich dismissed and flees
5. Liberals in Vienna demand new lib. constit.
6. Hungary is granted independence
7. Bohemia begins to demand independence
8. Austrian Emperor is weak and gives in

The Hungarian Revolution



Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894)

- * Hungarian revolutionary leader.
- * March laws provided for Hungarian independence.
- * Austrians invade.
 - Hungarian armies drove within sight of Vienna!
- * Slavic minorities resisted Magyar invasion & the Hungarian army withdrew.
- * Austrian & Russian armies defeated the Hungarian army.
- * Hungary would have to wait until 1866 for autonomy.



Tsar Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855)



- * He raised an army of 400,000 in response to a request from Franz Joseph.
 - 140,000 put down the Hungarian revolt.

Bohemia, 1848

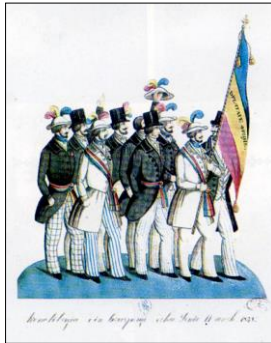
- * Bohemia was split between **Pan-Slavs** & **Pan-Germans**.
- * Prague Conference:
 - Developed the idea of **Austro-Slavism**.
 - A constitution & autonomy within the Habsburg Empire.
- * The Austrian military ultimately attacked Prague, occupied Bohemia & crushed the rebellion.



The Prague Barricades



Revolution in Romania



THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

1. June – Austrian General Windischgraft crushes the rebels in Prague
2. October – rebels in Vienna are crushed
3. December – weak Emperor Ferdinand is replaced by Emperor Francis Joseph
4. Francis Joseph works to restore imperial power
5. 1849 the Russians send in army to assist Habsburgs in crushing the Hungarians
6. The revolutions in Austria fail/Emperor is in total control again

REVOLTS IN THE ITALIAN STATES

- The attempted revolutions in Italy fail/crushed by Austria
- THE RISORGIMENTO = “resurgence” = desire for Italian unity and independence
- GIUSEPPE MAZZINI –
 1. leader of the risorgimento
 2. Italian nationalist
 3. founds a group called “YOUNG ITALY” 1831



Italy

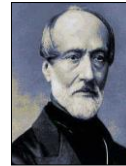


Upheaval in Italy, 1848

- * Italian nationalists and liberals sought to end foreign domination of Italy.
- * Milan, Lombardy & Venetia wanted to expel their Austrian rulers.
- * Bourbon rulers in Kingdom of Two Sicilies.
- * House of Savoy in Sardinia-Piedmont grant liberal constitutions.
 - Sardinia-Piedmont declared war on Austria.
- * Beginning in May, revolutions suppressed.



Italy, 1848



- * **Giuseppe Mazzini** established a Roman Republic in 1849 protected by **Giuseppe Garibaldi**.
- * **Pope Pius IX** forced to flee.
- * Austrian General Radetsky crushed Sardinia-Piedmont.
- * French troops take back the Papal States.
- * **Victor Emmanuel II** takes the throne in Sardinia-Piedmont.



Reasons for Failure in Italy

- * Rural people did not support the revolutions.
 - Revolutionaries focused mainly on urban middle classes.
- * The revolutionaries were not united.
 - Fear of radicals among moderates lead to the collapse of the revolutions.
- * Lack of leadership and administrative experience among the revolutionaries.

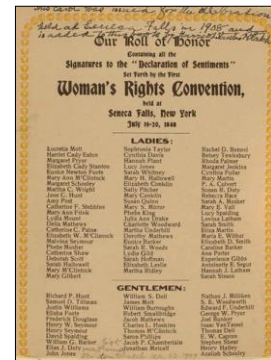


**1848:
Outside
the
Continent**

A detail from a painting showing a street scene. In the foreground, there is a large pile of debris, including wooden planks and rubble. Several figures are visible, some appearing to be working or moving the debris. In the background, a large, multi-story building with a red-tiled roof and many windows is visible. The scene is set in a city street, and the overall atmosphere is one of activity and reconstruction.



- * The Movement reached its height with the Kennington Common demonstration on April 10, 1848.
- * This could have been the prelude to revolution in Britain, but the meeting was peaceful.
- * The Chartist leaders did not follow up on the meeting, and the movement died.



The Communist Manifesto



Karl Marx



Friedrich Engels

Why did the 1848 Revolutions Fail?

- * They failed to attract popular support from the working classes.
- * The middle classes led these revolutions, but as they turned radical, the middle class held back.
- * Nationalism divided more than united.
- * Where revolutions were successful, the Old Guard was left in place and they turned against the revolutionaries.
- * Some gains lasted [abolition of serfdom, etc.]
- * BUT, in the long term, most liberal gains would be solidified by the end of the 19th:
 - The unification of Germany and Italy.
 - The collapse of the Hapsburg Empire at the end of World War I.

The Bottom Line

- * It looked like the Conservative forces had triumphed.
- * BUT...
 - Things had changed forever.
 - Economic/social problems continued to be constant challenges to the ruling order.
 - Conservatives would have to make concessions in order to stay in power.
 - Many of the limited Liberal achievements remained permanent.

Some Bibliographic Sources

- * "The Revolutions of 1848" by R. Folmer. St. Joseph's H. S. (PPT).
- * "The Revolutions of 1848" by Stephen Luscombe. (PPT).