Political Developments in Europe During the 19th Century

TOPICS COVERED:
- The Congress of Vienna
- European nationalism
- Changes to the Ottoman, Austrian, and Russian empires
- The Unification of Italy
- The Unification of Germany
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

• After Napoleon’s defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, European heads of government were looking to establish long-lasting peace and stability on the continent.

• The goal was collective security and stability for all of Europe.

• A series of meetings known as the Congress of Vienna were called to set up policies to achieve this goal. This went on for 8 months.
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

• Most of the decisions were made among representatives of the five “great powers”- Russia, Prussia, Austria, Great Britain, and France.

• By far the most influential representative was the foreign minister of Austria, Klemens von Metternich.

• Metternich distrusted the democratic ideals of the French Revolution and had 3 primary goals:
  1. Prevent future French aggression by surrounding France with strong countries.
  2. Restore a balance of power so that no country would be a threat to others.
  3. Restore Europe’s traditional royal families to the thrones they held before Napoleon’s conquests.
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Results of the Congress of Vienna:

• France’s neighboring countries were strengthened (ex: 39 German states were loosely joined to create the German Confederation; the former Austrian Netherlands and Dutch Netherlands were united to form the Kingdom of the Netherlands)

• Ruling families of France, Spain, and several states in Italy and Central Europe regained their thrones (it was believed this would stabilize relations among European nations)
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Although France had been the aggressor under Napoleon, it was not severely punished at the Congress of Vienna. Why not?

- Wanted to weaken France, but not leave it powerless- severely punishing France could encourage the French to take revenge; also, if France was broken up, another country might become so strong that it would threaten it all (a strong France was needed to help with collective security)
- The result? France remained a major but diminished European power.
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Why is the Congress of Vienna significant?

• Political triumph- for the first time, European nations had cooperated to control European political affairs.

• Sense of fairness- no one was left bearing a grudge

• By agreeing to come to one another’s aid in case of threats to peace, European countries had temporarily ensured that there would be a balance of power in Europe- resulted in peace for 40 years (until Britain and France fought Russia in the Crimean War)
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Europe after the Congress of Vienna

• The Congress of Vienna was a victory for conservatives (people who prefer tradition and are largely against radical change) as kings and princes resumed power in many countries.

• Britain & France had constitutional monarchies with limits, while governments in Eastern and Central Europe were more absolute.
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Europe after the Congress of Vienna

• 1815- Russia, Austria, and Prussia signed an agreement called the Holy Alliance, which pledged to base their relations with other nations on Christian principles in order to combat the forces of revolution.

• A series of alliances devised by Klemens von Metternich (Austria) called the Concert of Europe ensured that nations would help one another if any revolutions broke out.

• While these attempts tried to undo the French Revolution, they couldn’t fully realize that goal. The French Revolution had given Europe its first experiment in democratic government. Conflict between liberals (those wanting more change, mainly rights and opportunities for more people) and conservatives would help contribute to later revolutions in Europe in the 19th century.
The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)

Other effects of the Congress of Vienna

• Creoles in Spain’s Latin American colonies took control when Napoleon replaced the King of Spain with his brother; after the Congress of Vienna, peninsulares tried to re-establish control over colonies. This sparked conflict and led to the wars for independence for Spain’s colonies in Latin America.

• France’s power decreased, while Britain and Prussia emerged as the dominant powers in Europe.
While the Congress of Vienna largely succeeded in preventing international wars between European countries, it did not prevent conflict from surfacing within European countries.

Revolutions erupted across Europe between 1815-1848.

There was disagreement and conflict within nations between conservatives (who favored the status quo), liberals (who argued for many changes in moderation) and radicals (who favored drastic change to extend rights to all people).

Much of this had to do with an increase in nationalism - the belief that people’s greatest loyalty should not be to a king or an empire but to a nation of people who share a common culture and history.
NATIONALISM IN EUROPE

• When a nation (a group of people that share a common identity and therefore a common bond) had its own independent government, it became a **nation-state**.

• In 1815, only France, England, and Spain could be called nation-states in Europe.

• Nationalism was typically opposed by conservatives and favored by both liberals and radicals.

• Nationalism would lead to the **unification** of previously fragmented territories as well as **division** within large empires as groups of people began to break away and form their own countries.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist Uprisings and the Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Empire ruled over a diverse population of Turks (the majority), Greeks, Slavs, Arabs, Bulgarians, and Armenians.

- **Greece**, being primarily **Orthodox Christian**, sought to break away from the Ottoman Turks in 1821

- While revolution was opposed by most European governments after the French Revolution, Greek independence was popular (Russians felt a connection to the Greek Orthodox Church; Educated Europeans and Americans respected ancient Greek culture)

- Powerful nations took the side of Greece- in 1827, a combined British, French, and Russian fleet defeated the Ottoman fleet; in 1830, a treaty among the victors was signed guaranteeing an independent kingdom of Greece.
Nationalism and the Ottoman Empire in the 19th Century
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist Uprisings and the Ottoman Empire

• 1856: Under pressure from the British and French, the Ottomans granted equal citizenship to all people under their rule.

• Turks (the majority) were angered by this—tension resulted.

• In response to nationalism in Armenia, the Ottomans massacred and deported Armenians from 1894-1896, and again in 1915.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• Early 1830s: A series of uprisings
  • 1830: **Belgium** declared its independence from Dutch control
  • **Italy**: nationalists attempted to unite separate Italian states- Prince Metternich of Austria sent troops to restore order in Italy
  • **Poles** living under Russian control staged a revolt in 1830- took the Russian army a year to stop the uprising

• By the mid-1830s, the old order seemed to prevail, but didn’t last- change was in the air

• 1848: Ethnic uprisings erupted throughout Europe, resulting in a back-and-forth between conservatives and liberals/radicals

• Most of Europe would return to the conservatism that controlled governments prior to 1848
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist uprisings in the Austrian Empire- 1848:

• The Austrian Empire ruled over a diverse population of Austrians, Slovenes, Hungarians, Germans, Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Poles, Serbs, and Italians. As the 19th century went on, more of these people would demand self-rule.

• An unruly mob in Vienna in 1848 clashed with police, resulting in Metternich resigning. More liberal uprisings broke out throughout the empire.

• In Budapest, the nationalist leader called for a parliament and self-government for Hungary

• In Prague, Czech liberals demanded Bohemian independence
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist uprisings in the Austrian Empire

- 1866: Prussia defeated Austria in the Austro-Prussian War; Prussia took control of the North German Confederation.

- Later, pressure from the Hungarians resulted in Austria splitting in half, declaring Austria and Hungary independent states, with the Emperor of Austria ruler of both. The empire was now called Austria-Hungary, or the Austro-Hungarian Empire.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist uprisings in France:

• 1830: **King Charles X**, King of France, tried to return France to an absolute monarchy- this sparked riots; Charles fled to Britain

• Charles was replaced by **Louis-Philippe**, who supported liberal reforms in France

• 1848: Louis-Philippe became unpopular; for the second time, a Paris mob overturned the monarchy and established a republic

• The new government fell apart almost immediately as radicals split into factions, with one faction wanting just political reform and the other wanting social and economic reform as well- this turned people away from the radicals

• A moderate constitution was drawn up in 1848 calling for a parliament and a strong president elected by the people
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist uprisings in France:

- December 1848: **Louis-Napoleon** (Napoleon Bonaparte’s nephew) won the presidential election; four years later, he took the title **Emperor Napoleon III**.
  - Most French people welcomed this change- wanted stability
  - As France’s emperor, Louis-Napoleon helped France modernize, building railroads and promoting industry. This helped France achieve prosperity.
RUSSIAN TSAR PROFILE: PETER THE GREAT

• Ruled Russia from 1696-1725
• Attempted to modernize and westernize Russia, making it more like Western Europe
• Brought the Russian Orthodox Church under state control- abolished the patriarch, set up a group to run the church under his direction
• Reduced the power of landowners by recruiting men from lower-ranking families
• Modernized Russia by:
  • Hiring European officers who drilled Russian soldiers in European tactics with European weapons
  • Introduced potatoes- became a staple of the Russian diet
  • Started Russia’s first newspaper
  • Raised the status of women by having them attend social gatherings
  • Ordered the nobles to shave their beards and dress more European
  • Advanced education by opening schools for navigation, as well as schools for the arts and sciences
  • Encouraging or forcing Russians to study in other countries
  • Built the city of St. Petersburg, giving Russia a “Window to the West” on the Baltic Sea
RUSSIAN TSAR PROFILE: CATHERINE THE GREAT

- Ruled Russia from 1762-1796
- Well-educated, read the works of Enlightenment philosophers
- Ruled with absolute authority but tried to reform Russia—formed a commission to reform Russia’s laws, attempted to allow religious toleration, abolish torture and capital punishment— the commission did not achieve these goals, however
- Eventually put in place limited reforms, but did little to improve the lives of peasants—crushed the serf uprising in 1773 and ended her previous support for ending serfdom, convinced that she needed nobles’ political support
- Expanded Russia’s territory—fought the Ottoman Empire to gain land north of the Black Sea, won shipping rights from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea; expanded west into Poland
Changes in Russia:

- Despite efforts by Peter and Catherine to modernize Russia, Russia was still behind Western Europe in terms of overall development by 1800.

- Many people began to see serfdom as holding Russia back; the movement to abolish serfdom gained steam among many in Russia.

- However, tsars had been reluctant to free the serfs because it might anger the nobles (boyars), whose support they needed to stay in power.

- Russia attempted to take over part of the Ottoman Empire in 1853. Russia’s lower development was showcased in the Crimean War (1853-1856), when it lost to the allied forces of Britain, France, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia. Russia had difficulty moving troops and supplies.
Changes in Russia:

- After Russia’s loss in the Crimean War, it was clear changes had to be made:
  - Alexander II decided to move Russia toward modernization and social change
  - Serfs were freed in 1861, but results were mixed:
    - Peasant communities, rather than individual peasants, received about half of the farmland in Russia; nobles kept the other half.
    - While the government paid the nobles for their land, each peasant community had 49 years to pay the government for the land it had received.
    - While legally free, debt still tied serfs to the land.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Changes in Russia:

• Alexander II was assassinated in 1881; his successor, Alexander III, tightened tsarist control over Russia, but encouraged industrial expansion.

• A major force behind Russia’s industrialization in the late 1800s was nationalism—it fueled the desire for Russia to compete more effectively with other nations.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

Nationalist Uprisings in Russia:

• The Russian tsar ruled over Russians but also Ukrainians, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Finns, Jews, Romanians, Georgians, Armenians, Turks, and others.

• Romanov tsars sought to maintain control over all peoples within the Russian Empire- instituted a policy of **Russification** (forcing Russian culture on all ethnic groups in the empire).

• Russification strengthened ethnic nationalist feelings, helped to disunify Russia

• This, combined with changes from industrialization and the shock of World War I and the Communist Revolution in 1917, led to the end of the tsars.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• Between 1815-1848, fewer and fewer Italians were happy living under foreign rulers.

• Italian nationalists looked for leadership from Sardinia, the largest and most powerful of the Italian states.

• Sardinia adopted a liberal constitution in 1848, which appealed to the liberal Italian middle classes.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

- 1852: Camillo di Cavour was named Sardinia’s prime minister- he used diplomacy and strategic alliances to gain control of northern Italy for Sardinia
- 1858: Cavour formed an alliance with Napoleon III of France to drive out the Austrians out of northern Italian provinces- took all of northern Italy except Venetia.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

- 1860: Cavour supported Italian nationalists in the south led by Giuseppe Garibaldi.
  - Garibaldi started by capturing Sicily, then moving to the Italian mainland and marching north.
  - Eventually, Garibaldi agreed to unite the southern areas he had conquered with Sardinia’s territory in northern Italy.
  - Garibaldi willingly moved aside and let the Sardinian king rule.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• 1866: Austrian province of Venetia became part of Italy
• 1870: Italian forces took over the Papal States, putting Rome under Italian control
• 1870: Italy was united with Rome as the capital
• The pope continued to govern a section of Rome called Vatican City.
UNIFIED ITALY!!!
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• 1815: The Congress of Vienna grouped 39 German states into a loose grouping called the German Confederation, dominated by Austria

• Prussia sought to unify all German states

• Prussia’s advantages:
  • Unlike the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Prussia had a mainly German population (nationalism actually unified Prussia)
  • Powerful military
  • 1848: a liberal constitution was adopted
You can see from this 1815 map that Germany had many states that were formed to make the German Confederation, with Austria, Prussia, and German states vying for control.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• 1861: **Wilhelm I** became ruler of Prussia

• The liberal parliament refused to give Wilhelm money for reforms that would double the size of the Prussian army - he saw this as a challenge to his authority.

• The **Junkers** (yunk-kuhrz), strongly conservative members of Prussia’s wealthy landowning class, supported Wilhelm’s view.

• 1862: Wilhelm chose a conservative Junker named **Otto von Bismarck** as his prime minister: Bismarck was a master of **realpolitik** (“the politics of reality” - tough power politics with no room for idealism).

• With Wilhelm’s approval, Bismarck declared that he would rule without parliament’s consent and without a legal budget.
Nationalistic Movements in Europe During the 19th Century

• 1864-1871: Otto von Bismarck leads Prussia’s drive to unify German states
  • 1864: Prussia and Austria formed an alliance, won some border provinces from Denmark
  • 1866: Bismarck deliberately prompted war between Austria and Prussia, known as the Seven Weeks’ War- Prussia humiliated Austria with their superior military. Austria lost Venetia (given to Italy), and had to accept Prussia’s annexation of more German territory. Prussia took control of northern Germany.
  • 1870: Bismarck provoked France (by falsely saying that the French ambassador had insulted the Prussian king, prompting France to declare war on Prussia)- The Franco-Prussian War resulted in Prussia defeating France
  • 1871: Germany was fully united under Prussian king Wilhelm, who became Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany
  • Germany became known as the Second Reich (the Holy Roman Empire was the First Reich).
UNIFIED GERMANY!!!
Let’s Sum It Up

• What is nationalism?
• What role did nationalism play in Europe during the 19th century?
• How did nationalism affect various places in Europe? Where did nationalism promote unification, and where did nationalism cause division?