Ideologies of Change: Europe 1815-1914

Revolutions of 1848
Europe: c. 1814

Congress of Vienna:

- Late 18th c. French Revolution (social, economic, political)
- under Napoleon: France led Europe into War
- defeated by ‘allies’ -- Russia, Prussia, Austria, Britain, all ‘conservative monarchies’
- France accepted return of Bourbon dynasty

1814-15: Congress was agreement to ‘balance’ power and control for outbreak of ‘Radical’ or ‘Revolutionary’ ideas
Four Allies Meet in Vienna
National European Boundaries: set by Congress of Vienna 1815
“Balancing Dance” : 1815
Europe: 1815 - 1848

Attempt to limit ‘radicalism’ provoked new responses:

- Liberalism
- Socialism
- Nationalism

All rooted in ‘New Middle Classes’
Europe: 1815 -1848

Social-Economic ‘structure’ of Europe c. 1815:

- ‘Conservatives’ supported landed, traditional aristocracies, Monarchies whose right to wealth and power was protected by birth

- 19th C.: compatible with limited ‘parliamentary representation’ -- limited to their elite class

- exclusively male
Europe: 1815 -1848

Social-Economic ‘structure’ of Europe c. 1815:

- Newly emerging ‘Middle Classes’: role of Industrialization

- Many identified with ‘conservative elite’: aimed to climb socio/economic ladder

- Others sought new identity: aimed for more representation

‘Radical’ or ‘Revolutionary’ did not necessarily mean overthrowing monarchies
Europe: 1815 -1848

- The Middle Class: a new phenomenon

- Trading Families challenged 'Traditional Wealth’ since 16thC.

- Commerce (especially in slaves, with the Americas) created wealth that demanded political attention

- 19th century change: new wealth generated by Industrialization (factory owners, managers etc)

Political alignments reflected different ‘sources’ of wealth
Europe: 1815 - 1848

- **Liberalism:**
  
  - Acknowledged existing power structure to extent it permitted limited (political) representation
  
  - Wanted to ‘expand’ limits: with respect to equality before law, individual rights
  
  - Wanted to ‘retain’ limits: property pre-requisites

- By mid-century: influence of ‘laissez-faire’ economics causing divisions
Europe: 1815 -1848

- Socialism

  - French middle class appalled by complete rejection of Revolution’s values

  - Seeming turn to ‘laissez-faire’ economics by some factions middle class, exacerbated position

  - Saw poor getting poorer: economy industrializing, urban

  - argued need for Government intervention, goal of ‘equalizing’ access to wealth \([\textit{debate Textbook p.748}]\)
Factory Towns
Manchester (c. 1865)
A huge problem: the children of the poor – abhorred and feared by the Wealthy

Such a serious problem that state-run hospices were established in 19th century to care for abandoned children.
Couple Leaving Child 1862-3

From Le Boulevard. Gustave Doré.
Europe: 1815 - 1848

- **Socialism:**

- Intellectual centre France until 1840s

- Shift occurred with Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

- German Intellectuals drawing heavily on French ‘ideas’; influenced by Marx’s visit to Industrialized England (Manchester) in 1830s

*(Marx, Engels discussed Textbook p. 708)*
Communist Manifesto: Russian publication
Europe: 1815 -1848

• The Communist Manifesto 1848

- Based on French Socialism but disagreed that the Middle Class (and governments elected by it) could/would ever ‘care for’ the Poor

- Argued *bourgeoisie* (new middle class) would rise up against aristocrats; proletariat (new working class) would rise up against bourgeoisie

- Capitalism would bring about its own downfall. And Soon!
Europe: 1815 -1848

- The Communist Manifesto 1848

  - Socialist agenda grew from economy and society rooted in agriculture, in early phases of ‘industrialization’ (late 1700s-early 1820s)

  - Communist agenda grew from economies and societies rooted in late industrialization (England and Germany, 1830s) and workers: *proletariat*

Recognized as major ideology: first to give agency to ‘workers’ -- notably not to ‘poor’ in general
Europe: 1815 - 1848

- Nationalism: ideology consistent with other new political beliefs
  - ‘cultural sharing’ of language, history defines a ‘people’, a ‘nation’: rights to territory, autonomy, power
  - Unrealistic (in European context), ‘romanticized’ but still became powerful political force (see ‘Views’ Textbook p.721)
  - Emotionally appealing: used art, music, ritual, rhetoric

Emotions can be channelled easily, not always for ‘good’
Europe: 1815-1848

• All ideologies translated powerfully into 20th C.

• Nationalism embraced by conservatives, liberals, socialists in different contexts (e.g. Ottoman Empire, Russian Empire, Latin America)

• Antithetical only to Marxists: class-consciousness cross cuts national (and all other) forms of consciousness

• Nationalism tied into ‘colonialism’: expansion of empire became part of nationalist platform later part of 19th C.
Reform & Revolution

- Great Britain

  - Centre of Europe’s Industrial Revolution (from 18\textsuperscript{th} C.) produced large middle class, even larger working class

  - Middle class demanding ‘liberal’ reforms: greater representation, more legal rights – ‘buy in’ to political, social structure

  - Working class protesting their lack of rights: wanted to vote, better working conditions – became strong voice in 1840s
Reform & Revolution

• Great Britain

- Conservative government responded with ‘Ten Hours Act’ limiting workday for women, children – provided some relief for huge proportion work force

- Dampened workers’ radicalism

But workers issues grew in political importance – strikes, rise of unions – by latter part century
Women and Children:

Majority of Workers in Textile Industries
Factory Work and Women
Reform & Revolution

- **Great Britain**

  - Real problem: ‘The Irish’

  - Significance: showed weakness of ‘laissez-faire’ economy

  - Great Famine 1840s-1851: no government assistance

  - Over million and a half died, over a million fled (other parts of Europe but mostly, America)

Origins domestic political conflict dominating 20th C. Britain
Reform & Revolution

- **France**

  - Example of ‘liberalism’: new constitution 1814 protected many rights gained in former revolution by middle class and peasantry (property key factor)

  - Voting restricted to very small minority of them

  - 1824-30: conservative factions drew on nationalism to gain support

  - Colonial conquest Algiers (North Africa) – “New Imperialism”
Reform & Revolution

• France

- success: government drew on ‘nationalist pride’ to repute 1814 Constitution immediately afterwards (1830)

- Sparked liberal protest across Europe

- Louis Phillippe took throne: reinstated Constitution but kept control of parliament; only small enfranshismen

- 1840s: economy suffering – agricultural disasters, slow industrial growth, decline living conditions
Reform & Revolution

- France

- Political protests increased (as in much of Europe)

- 1848: protest became revolution in Paris

- Several ‘socio-economic’ groups (middle classes, workers, peasants) including liberals, socialists—united against ‘bourgeois monarchy’

- Paris centre of violent conflict – ‘up with the barricades’
Paris 1848
Reform & Revolution

• France

- King again abdicated: new monarchy initially conciliatory
  - Right to vote extended to all male adults
  - Workshops established for the poor
  - Slavery abolished in Colonies

- Political coalition that fought for ‘revolution’ fell apart – too many differences, especially between ‘others’ and socialists

- In spite of expansion of voter-base, election of 1848 overwhelmingly put conservatives into assembly
“We Managed to get rid of Louis Phillipe – why not this Claptrap as Well!”

‘Claptrap’ is Military – comment on association of hated military with Monarchy
Reform & Revolution

• France

- ‘clash of ideologies’ became ‘clash of arms’: 3 days in June, more than 10,000 killed or wounded

- Government had army and peasants on its side: ‘won’

- Widespread fear of more violence cross-cut socio-economic, political groups

Louis Napoleon elected ‘landslide’ victory: dismissed assembly, year later recognized as ‘hereditary Emperor’
Reform & Revolution

• France

- Experience shows conflicts and contradictions of 19th C. political movements, strength of new ideologies

- In real terms, weakened France vis-à-vis ‘neighbours’: soon allowed for significant changes in so-called ‘balance’ created by Congress Vienna (i.e. disastrous War with Prussia, 1870)

- Exacerbated growth ‘nationalism’ as expressed through Colonialism; reflected in ‘Scramble for Africa’
Reform & Revolution

- Central Europe

- France reflected on larger canvas: shared economic crises mid-1840s, political protests widespread

- Demands were of ‘liberal’ nature: establishment of Constitution (lacking in Austrian Empire, German principalities, Prussia etc.), representative government, civil ‘rights’, equality in law...

- Monarchies/elites resisted: political coalitions (like France) formed to increase pressure of demands – workers, students, middle classes (including peasants)
Reform & Revolution

- Central Europe
  
  - But (also as in France): coalitions weak
  
  - workers of less significance (regions less industrialized): relatively easy to ‘buy-off’ middle-classes among whom property-owning peasants predominant
  
  - Austrian Empire: in Hungary, monarch appeased peasants by abolishing serfdom
“Vengeance of Serfs”

Engraving by Charles Michel Geoffroy, 1845
Proclamation of Count Josip Jelacic

Abolishing Serfdom in the Kingdom of Croatia

[April 25, 1848]
Reform & Revolution

- Central Europe

- Prussia: ‘nationalist’ middle class seeking unification (of 38 states)

- Pushed demands, acquired workers’ support from Berlin

- March 1848: shadowed events in France, King agreed to ‘new German State’; called elections not surprisingly – won

Less than year later (like France): reasserted Royal Power
Streets of Berlin 1848
Thus, across Europe, 1848 uprisings inspired by late-18th C. revolutionary era, failed. Reform movements [liberals, socialists] splintered into competing factions, forces of order [Conservatives] proved better organized and more united on domestic and international levels [*especially ‘use’ of Nationalism as uniting force; we will see more of the international aspect of this situation over the next two weeks*].

One lasting success of revolutions [*in Central Europe – East was different question, as we will see in looking at Russia*]: Abolition of Serfdom

[paraphrased from Textbook p.727]