

# Chapter 22 – An Age of Nationalism and Realism, 1850-1871

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## The France of Napoleon III

### Louis Napoleon: Toward the Second Empire

Critics accused him of trading on his uncle's name

He was a patient man, working for three years to gain the support of the people

1851: he wanted to revise the constitution and seek a second term

when national Assembly refused to cooperate, he seized control of the government

reestablished universal male suffrage and asked for revised constitution, 10-year second term (92% agreed)

1852: asked for a return to empire (97% agreed)

### The Second Napoleonic Empire

He controlled the armed forces, police, and civil service

Only he could propose legislation, declare war

### Early Domestic Policies

Economically, France expanded spectacularly (part Industrial Revolution, part Napoleon III)

He encouraged industrial growth

Subsidized construction of railroads, harbors, roads, and canals

Looked to improve social welfare of the French

Provided hospitals and free medical care for the workers

Ordered a rebuilding of Paris (overseen by Baron Haussmann)

Narrow streets, old city walls destroyed, replaced by

broad boulevards, spacious buildings, public squares, underground sewer system, gaslight

more than aesthetic: restricted barricades (rebellion), facilitated troop movements

### Liberalization of the Regime

Responded to mounting criticism by compromising

Legalized trade unions and right to strike

Granted opposition candidates more freedom to campaign

Allowed the legislature to debate over the budget

1870: a new *plebescite* for a new constitution, parliamentary system (overwhelming agreement)

later that year, Franco-Prussian War ended Napoleon III's regime

## Foreign Policy: The Crimean War

Napoleon III wanted to be the primary power in Europe, participated in the Crimean War

### The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire had been weakened over the previous two centuries

Austrian Empire had taken Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia, and Slovenia (in 1699)

Russian Empire had taken the Crimea (in 1783) and Bessarabia (in 1812)

Nationalist revolts had freed Serbia (1817) and Greece (1830)

Russians felt a bond with the Greek Orthodox Christians in the southwest region of the Ottoman Empire

### War in the Crimea

1853: Russia demanded to protect Christian shrines in Palestine (French had been granted that privilege)

Ottomans refused, Russia invaded, Ottomans declared war

1854: British and French declared war on Russia, initially worried over balance of power; also...

British worried about future Russian access to the Mediterranean

French were insulted by Russia (both Congress of Vienna and as Christian protectors)

Russia assumed Austrian support (in return for help in 1849) but Austria remained neutral

War was poorly fought on all sides

Russia lost the war (and territory: Bessarabia, Moldavia and Wallachia)

Over 250,000 lives lost – more from disease than battle

Florence Nightingale's insistence on sanitary conditions saved lives, invented "nursing"

Legacy: Russia and Austria were enemies, Russia and Britain withdrew from Continental affairs

## Foreign Policy: The Mexican Adventure

1861: sent troops to Mexico to join British and Spanish forces in protecting European interests

1864: after other troops withdrew, he installed Austrian Archduke Maximilian as emperor of Mexico

Napoleon withdrew French troops when they were needed in Europe

1867: left without an army, Maximilian surrendered to Mexican forces, was executed

## National Unification: Italy and Germany

The breakdown of the Concert of Europe (via Crimean War) opened the door for Italian, German unification

### The Unification of Italy

After failed revolutions of 1848-1849, Italians concentrated their efforts in Piedmont-Sardinia

1852: Victor Emmanuel appointed Camillo Cavour as prime minister

#### The Leadership of Cavour

Liberal-minded nobleman who made his fortune in agriculture then banking, railroads, and shipping

Moderate who favored constitutional government

Profits from expanded economy (roads, railroads, canals, and credit) paid for equipping an army

Politically sharp

Made an agreement with Napoleon III to drive the Austrians out of Italy

In return, France would get the provinces of Nice and Savoy, France would rule Central Italy

Provoked Austria into invading, French fought but quickly settled with the Austrians

France could see that Prussia was about to enter on Austria's side

Piedmont gained only Lombardy; Austria kept Venetia; France gained Nice and Savoy anyway

Cavour was furious at the betrayal

but several Italian states were taken over by nationalists and agreed to join Piedmont

#### The Efforts of Garibaldi

Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882), a southerner, supported Mazzini and raised an army of redshirts

1860: landed in Sicily to support a revolt against the *Bourbon* king of the Two Sicilies

despite being greatly outnumbered, he managed to gain control of most of Sicily

then went up the Italian peninsula

Cavour stepped in, fearing Garibaldi's attacking Rome would anger the French

sent the Piedmontese army into the Papal States (but past Rome) and on to Naples

Garibaldi yielded to Cavour (didn't want a civil war) and retired to his farm

Papal States and Naples voted to join Piedmont

1861: The Kingdom of Italy proclaimed (under the control of Piedmont and Victor Emmanuel II)

Venetia was still controlled by Austria, Rome by the Pope (supported by French troops)

Prussia indirectly aids Italy (1866: defeats Austria and 1870: defeats France)

### The Unification of Germany

Failure of the Frankfurt Assembly (1848-1849) made German nationalists turn attention to Austria and Prussia

1850s: Prussia expanded the economy by forming the *Zollverein* (customs union) eliminating tolls and tariffs

by 1853, all German states had joined except Austria

by 1859: division of voters into three classes had accidentally placed electoral control in the rising middle class

1861: Frederick William IV died, leaving the throne to his brother William (Wilhelm) I

valued his own military training and believed the military was the key to keeping Prussia a power

proposed doubling the army, and a 3-year compulsory military service

middle class in parliament opposed it as a threat to establish obedience to the monarch/army/conservatives

rejected the budget, so William appointed Otto von Bismarck as prime minister

#### Bismarck

Born to the Junker class and remained loyal to it (a determined conservative)

A consummate politician and opportunist

Preferred alliances to war, but he believed in *Realpolitik* (political realism)

1862: Resubmitted budget, said people look to Prussia for *power*, not liberalism ("iron & blood")

his opponents rejected it again, so he went ahead without their approval

1862-1866: governed Prussia by ignoring parliament

#### The Danish War (1864)

Bismarck worked to make sure his wars were against single foes, isolated diplomatically

1863: Denmark moved to annex Schleswig and Holstein

German nationalists were outraged because there was a sizable German-speaking population there

Germanic confederation (controlled by Austria) urged sending troops

Bismarck wanted the control, so he convinced Austria to *join Prussia* in declaring war

Denmark lost and Austria got Holstein and Prussia got Schleswig

!!! that was Bismarck's plan, because it gave Prussia a source of friction with Austria

### **The Austro-Prussian War (1866)**

Bismarck got Russia's and France's promises to be neutral in any war with Austria

Prussia had been only country to support Russia's repression of 1863 Polish revolt

Bismarck "promised" Napoleon III territory in the Rhineland

He promised Venetia to Italy if Prussia won

Despite continental expectations of a quick Austrian victory, Prussia won

In part, it was technology: better railroad network, faster-firing needle guns ("machine guns")

Didn't severely punish Austria: it lost only Venetia

North German Confederation formed, controlled by Prussia

Southern German states (mostly Catholic) remained independent but signed military agreement w/Prussia

Bismarck, a conservative, used nationalism to gain support from liberals

### **The Franco-Prussian War (1870)**

By diminishing Austrian authority, Bismarck knew France would be alarmed at Prussian power

He also knew that Napoleon III needed a diplomatic triumph to offset his domestic problems

The French were looking for an opportunity to humiliate the Prussians

After Queen Isabella II of Spain was deposed, the throne was offered to Leopold, a relative of William I

France, not wishing to be surrounded by Hohenzollerns, objected

William forced Leopold to withdraw his candidacy, a decision Bismarck disagreed with

France then demanded an apology from William

Bismarck edited the letter to inflict deeper insult to the French, expecting them to declare war

1870: the French declared war and were quickly and severely beaten

Southern German states with military agreements joined in, sending troops

In less than 2 months, the Prussian army captured the entire French army and Napoleon III

The Second Empire collapsed

4 months later, Paris fell

in the treaty, France had to pay about \$1 billion and give up Alsace and Lorraine

1871: at Versailles, William I was proclaimed *Kaiser* (Emperor) of the 2nd German Empire

(the "1st German Empire" had been the Holy Roman Empire)

Prussia had *become* Germany, and the balance of power had shifted

## **Nation-Building and Reform: The National State in Mid-Century**

### **The Austrian Empire: Toward a Dual Monarchy**

The only lasting legacy of the revolt of 1848-1849 was the emancipation of the serfs

1851: the revolutionary constitutions were abolished

local laws were subordinated to a unified system of administration, law, and taxation *run by German speakers*

the Catholic Church was declared the state religion and given control of education

defeat (in the Italian War in 1859) brought change

Emperor Francis (Franz) Joseph established a 2-house parliament (*Reichsrat*)

Nominated upper house, elected lower house – but a German-speaking majority was guaranteed

Alienated minorities, particularly the Hungarians

### **Ausgleich of 1867**

Loss in the Austro-Prussian War resulted in the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary

Separate constitutions, parliaments, capitals (Vienna, Buda) and methods for domestic affairs

But a single monarch, Franz Joseph (Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary)

Did not satisfy non-Magyar minorities, mostly Slavs (Poles, Croats, Czechs, Serbs, Slovaks and Slovenes)

Remained a problem until the demise of the empire after World War I

### **Imperial Russia**

Loss in Crimean War pointed out how far behind Western Europe Russia was

Alexander II (r. 1855-1881) tried to overhaul the Russian system

Production based on serf labor could not compete with European methods

Uneducated serf soldiers were ill-suited to employing modern weapons

### Abolition of Serfdom

1861: Alexander issued emancipation decree

allowed serfs to own property, marry whom they chose, bring lawsuits to court

bought land from the landowners and gave it\* to the freed serfs (but it was the least productive land)

\*actually, the peasants were to repay the government over time

payment collected by the *mir*, the village commune, which didn't want the peasants to leave the land

led to unhappy, land-starved peasants tied to old systems of farming

### Other reforms

1864: *zemstvos*, local assemblies allowed some self-governing

but electorate favoring property ownership (the nobles)

liberals hoped the *zemstvos* would develop into a national parliamentary system – but they never did  
desire for reform grew dramatically

1870: Alexander Herzen proposed “Land and Freedom”, believing a new Russia must begin with peasants  
his populism depended on revolutionary acts by the peasants – who weren't interested

populists resorted to more violent means

1878: Vera Zasulich shot and wounded a government official, was acquitted by a sympathetic jury

1881: a group of radicals, the People's Will, assassinated Alexander II

his son, Alexander III, turned against reform and returned to traditional repression

## Great Britain: The Victorian Age

Not troubled by revolts of 1848 – Its little liberalization provided stability

1832: Reform Act gave representation to industrial middle class

continuing economic growth: middle-class prosperity, some improvement for working class

Queen Victoria's sense of duty, moral respectability, and long reign (1837-1901) set the tone

There was uneasiness within Parliament (landowners vs. industrialists)

### Disraeli and the Reform Act of 1867

Call for extension of the franchise grew and the **Liberals** (formerly the Whigs) were willing to respond

The **Conservatives** (formerly the Tories) actually extended the franchise

Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), Tory prime minister, wanted to win new voters to his party

The monetary requirement was lowered – number of voters increased from 1 million to 2 million

ironically, it produced a huge *Liberal* victory in 1868

parties tightened their tactics and became more distinct from each other

### The Liberal Policies of William Gladstone

First term (1868-1874) produced many reforms

Civil service jobs by examination rather than patronage, prohibited purchasing military commissions

Introduced the secret ballot

## The United States: Slavery and War

By mid-1800s, the U.S. was torn over the issue of slavery

South's economy was built on cotton and the use of slaves for labor

1810: cotton was worth \$10M; by 1860: increased to \$249M

93% was produced by African-American slaves

despite no imported slaves since 1808, population had increased to 4M

South was committed to the system, but abolitionists in the North created tensions that led to war

By the 1850s, the Whig party had died and the Democrats split on North-South lines

The new party, the Republicans, was anti-slavery and worried about its spread beyond the South

1860: Abraham Lincoln (Republican) was elected on an anti-slavery platform

Received almost no votes from the South (wasn't even on the ballot in 10 states)

1861: South Carolina seceded, followed by 6 other states, forming the Confederate States of America

### The Civil War

Fought for four years (1861-1865) it was extremely bloody (foreshadowing 20th-C. warfare)

Over 600,000 lives lost in battle or through disease

North began to dominate the conflict

Superior assets, including railroads and telegraph

Public opinion began to change: it became a war over slavery rather than preserving the Union  
1863: Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation (freeing all *Southern* slaves)  
Union blockade of Southern ports was effective  
Confederates eventually had a shortage of soldiers  
1865: Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

### The Emergence of a Canadian Nation

1763: the Treaty of Paris (Seven Years' War) handed New France (Canada) to Britain  
Upper Canada (now Ontario) was English-speaking; Lower Canada (Quebec) was French-speaking  
Huge influx of British immigrants (1815-1850) resulted in pressure for self-government  
1837: rebels in Lower Canada demanded separation from Britain  
rebellion was crushed, but Britain looked for ways to stabilize Canada  
American Civil War worried the British: did the U.S. have designs on expansion into Canada?  
1867: Parliament created the Dominion of Canada  
had its own constitution, but foreign affairs were still under control of the British government

### Industrialization and the Marxist Response

1850-1871: Continental industrialization "came of age"

#### Industrialization on the Continent

Industrialization of textiles (cotton and wool) increased but remained behind Britain  
But the focus was really on railroads  
Iron and coal industries were spurred on by railroads  
But Britain still produced ½ the world's iron (4x Germany, 5x France)  
Expansion of markets aided by elimination of tolls on the Danube and Rhine Rivers  
Governments allowed, then encouraged, the formation of joint-stock companies  
Before 1870: businesses could hire labor based on market forces (supply and demand)  
What unions there were were small and ineffective  
Change for the working class depended on the growth of socialism in politics and labor

#### Marx and Marxism

1848: *The Communist Manifesto* was published by Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895)  
Marx was a German Jew descended from a long line of rabbis  
Enrolled at U. of Bonn, but his father sent him to more serious U. of Berlin  
Studied German philosopher G.W.F. Hegel, received a PhD.  
Intended to be a professor, but refused because of his avowed atheism  
Became a journalist, edited a liberal bourgeois newspaper  
It was suppressed for its radical ideas, so he moved to Paris  
Engels was the son of a wealthy German industrialist, had worked in his plant in Manchester  
Saw working conditions first-hand, published *The Conditions of the Working Class in England* (1844)  
Contributed his experience (and wealth) to Marx's causes  
1847: Marx and Engels joined a German group of revolutionaries, the Communist League  
*The Communist Manifesto*, though impressively radical, was largely unnoticed  
Marx's ideas were a combination of French and German ideas  
Revolution could totally restructure society  
From Hegel: everything evolves; history is the record of struggles between antagonists  
History is determined by material, not historical, forces

#### Ideas of the Communist Manifesto

History up to that point was the history of class struggles  
There have always been oppressors and the oppressed  
Now it was the oppression of the *proletariat* (working class) by the *bourgeoisie* (industrial middle class)  
After the revolution, the proletariat would form a dictatorship to control the means of production  
A classless society would emerge, and class struggle would disappear  
The lack of a struggle would lead to progress in science, technology, and industry – to everyone's benefit  
After the failure of the Revolutions of 1848, Marx went to London (for the rest of his life)  
Wrote *Das Kapital* about political economy

## Organizing the Working Class

Marx enthusiastically supported the International Working Men's Association  
Formed in 1864 by British and French trade unionists

## Science and Culture in an Age of Realism

### A New Age of Science

The 1600s Scientific Revolution had created a new, more rational approach to the natural world – *for the elite*  
For the first half of the 1800s, improvements were far more *technological* than scientific

After 1830, the benefits of technology spurred an interest in basic scientific research

The steam engine encouraged the study of thermodynamics, the relationship between heat and energy

Louis Pasteur's germ theory spurred development of modern medical practices

In chemistry, Dmitri Mendeleev's organization of the periodic table (1860s)

Michael Faraday discovered electromagnetic induction led to the development of commercial electricity

An increasing faith in the scientific method tended to undermine religion

Led to *materialism*, the idea that everything (even mental, spiritual, or ideal) was the result of physical forces

Also undermined Romanticism: no validity to revelations based on intuition or feelings

### Charles Darwin and the Theory of Organic Evolution

Darwin (1809-1882) was an amateur scientist (like many of the great 19th-C. scientists)

Studied theology at Cambridge, but followed his passions for geology and biology

Appointed as official naturalist on the *H.M.S Beagle*, headed to South America and the South Pacific

He was to study plant and animal life

His observation of differences between life forms on islands and the mainland led to new theory

#### *Evolution by natural selection*

Animals evolved in response to their environments

1859: published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*

### The Theory of Evolution

Basic idea: organic evolution, that animals evolved over a very long time from earlier, simpler life forms

Built on top of many previous ideas

Malthus's idea that animal populations outgrow the food supply – and must struggle to survive

Those "variants" best suited ("fittest") to the environment reproduce

Over time, so much small change adds up to a new species

*On the Origin of Species* did not address human evolution – that came in 1871 with *The Descent of Man*

Humans fit the rule (they were not an exception)

Caused controversies

Are humans not unique? Is human nature basically violent?

### A Revolution in Health Care

Early 1800s Paris: clinical observation + active physical examination + knowledge from autopsies

#### Pasteur and Germs

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), a chemist not a doctor, proposed a germ theory of disease

1857: discovered that microorganisms were responsible for fermentation, launched bacteriology

wine industry used his knowledge to develop *pasteurization* (using heat to destroy organisms)

1885: developed vaccine against rabies

1890s: vaccination against diphtheria, typhoid fever, cholera, and the plague

#### New Surgical Practices

Surgeons had set broken bones, treated wounds and amputated limbs but foiled by postoperative infection

Joseph Lister (1827-1912) used carbolic acid (a disinfectant) to eliminate infection during surgery

Chloroform replaced alcohol, opiates, and ether as an anesthetic, and allowed for longer operations

#### New Public Health Measures

Urban public health movement of the 1840s and 1850s began to pursue *preventative* medicine

Focused on clean water, adequate sewage disposal, and less crowded housing conditions

Pasteurization, purification of water, immunization, and control of waterborne disease

Doctors are hired by the government to deal with public health issues

#### New Medical Schools

Early 1800s: doctors learned through apprenticeships

Professional associations: 1832–British; 1847–American; 1872–German

1893: Johns Hopkins University provided a model: 4-year graded curriculum clinical training, labs

### **Women and Medical Schools**

Harriet Hunt was prevented admission by the opposition of male students

1849: Elizabeth Blackwell received an M.D. degree

separate women's colleges founded – 1850: Pennsylvania; 1874: London

even after graduation many were denied licensed, refused hospital practice

1876: Britain passed a bill allowing women to take entrance exams

1915: women finally allowed full membership in the American Medical Association

### **Science and the Study of Society**

August Comte (1798-1857) wrote *System of Positive Philosophy*, invented sociology, proposed hierarchy of sciences

Math was the basis for physical sciences, earth sciences, and biological science

Sociology was at the top of the social sciences

Underneath were economics, anthropology, history and social psychology

Wanted to collect data on human behavior

### **Realism in Literature**

1850: the term *Realism* was first applied to painting, then literature

literary Realists openly rejected Romanticism

describe people in ordinary settings with ordinary language, not unusual settings and flowery language

moved away from poetry to prose

Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880) wrote *Madame Bovary* about a woman trapped in a loveless marriage

Portrayed the hypocrisy and smugness of middle class

William Thackeray (1811-1863) wrote *Vanity Fair*

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) set novels in lower and middle class during industrial age

Descriptions of the urban poor and the brutalization of life were vivid

### **Realism in Art**

Depicted ordinary people (even peasants, workers, or prostitutes) doing ordinary things

Interested in the natural environment

#### **Gustave Courbet**

Subjects were factory workers, peasants, and wives of saloon keepers

1849: *The Stonebreakers* showed two miserable road workers

#### **Jean-François Millet**

Peasants working in the fields (e.g., *The Gleaners*)

### **Music: The Twilight of Romanticism**

#### **Franz Liszt**

Hungarian composer with dazzling performances and personality

Wrote piano pieces, sacred music, and *symphonic poems* (based on a literary or pictorial idea)

#### **Richard Wagner**

Nationalist composer, who wrote nationalistic operas

Called opera *Gesamtkunstwerk* (“total art work”) incorporating music, acting, dance, poetry, and scenic design

Looked to German myths and epic tales, wrote four-part *Ring of the Niebelung*