
Nationalism, *Realpolitik*, and Realism: 1850-1871

I. Napoleon III (reigned 1852-1870)

A. Establishment of the Second Empire

1. In 1848, French voters elected Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (nephew of Napoleon I) the new president of the Second French Republic.
2. Just four years later, Louis Napoleon proclaimed France an empire with himself Emperor Napoleon III. A vast majority of the French people endorsed these proclamations.

B. Economic Progress

1. Napoleon III understood the importance of modern industrialization. His economic policies included the following achievements:
 - Railroad mileage increased by more than fivefold.
 - Moderate free-trade policies doubled exports.
 - Industrial production doubled, enriching the middle class.
2. Napoleon did not ignore the working class. He legalized trade unions and improved public housing.

C. Rebuilding Paris

1. Napoleon named Baron Georges Haussmann to oversee a vast project to redesign Paris.
2. Haussmann replaced narrow streets and congested working-class neighborhoods with wide avenues, impressive public monuments, and expansive parks.
3. The rebuilding project accomplished several objectives:
 - It transformed Paris into a symbol of France's prosperity and greatness.
 - It made it much harder for rioters to blockade streets.

D. Quest for Glory

1. Napoleon believed that the Concert of Europe (see Chapter 15) limited France's foreign policy.

Crash Course

2. Napoleon was determined to follow a foreign policy calculated to undermine the Concert of Europe and win international glory for himself and for France.

II. The Crimean War, 1853-1856

A. The Causes

1. A squabble over jurisdiction within the holy places in Turkish-ruled Jerusalem brought France (the protector of the Catholics) and Russia (the protector of the Orthodox clergy) into diplomatic controversy with Turkey in the middle.
2. Tsar Nicholas I saw an opportunity to dominate Turkey and secure entrance into the Mediterranean through the Turkish Straits.
3. Austria felt threatened by Russia's expansion into the Balkans.
4. France and Britain opposed any change in the regional balance of power.

B. The War

1. France, Britain, Turkey, and a contingent of 10,000 men from Piedmont-Sardinia captured the strongly defended Russian fortress at Sevastopol.
2. The new Russian tsar, Alexander II, sued for peace after the fall of Sevastopol.
3. The war claimed over 500,000 lives, most caused by disease and inadequate medical care.

C. Consequences

1. The Crimean War marked the first great power conflict since the Congress of Vienna in 1815 (see Chapter 15).
2. Napoleon III achieved his objective of breaking the alliance between Austria and Russia.
3. By entering the war on the side of France and Britain, Piedmont-Sardinia hoped to gain support for Italian unification.
4. Russia's humiliating defeat forced Alexander II to launch an ambitious program of reforms.