

The Late 1800s

POLITICS

Crimean War (1853-1856) Russia moves to expand into Ottoman Empire (“Sick Man of Europe”). Russia invades satellite states of Austria. France, with Great Britain, declares war on Russia: savage attacks and loss of life. Tsar Nicolas I dies in 1855, and Alexander II asks for peace. Crimean War ends the Concert of Europe. Weakens Austria and Russia so that Italy and Germany can unite without interference.

FRANCE: After Napoleon III’s defeat by Prussia, there was a rogue government in Paris, which declared itself as the **Commune**. In March-May 1871, fighting decimated Paris.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Franz Joseph (1848-1916) improves efficiency and modernization of Austrian Empire. Hungary emerges as a strong partner after the empire’s defeat by Bismarck in 1855. Dual Monarchy (or *Ausgleich*) after 1866. Czechs, Poles, Slovaks unite under Pan-Slavism: friction led to World War I.

RUSSIA – Defeat in the Crimean War led Alexander II to accept reforms. Russia has little industrialization. Emancipation of 50 million serfs – 1861. Communities of freed serfs were called *mir*s. Serfs were forced to redeem land through long-term loans. *Zemstovs* (regional councils) were run by the nobles. Reforms continue but aristocrats cling to way of life. Some young people become nihilists which contributes to the spirit of defiance and revolution.

POLAND: January uprising (1863-1865) Inspired by defeat of Russia in Crimea, and unification of Italy, Poles, Lithuanians and Belarusians fight against Russia’s rule. Upheaval and massacres.

UNIFICATION

GERMANY: Reformation 1517 and beyond: States choose religion 1618-1648 Germany devastated in 30 years war. Napoleon establishes Confederation of Rhine in 1806. *Zollverein* (customs union) established in 1834. **Frankfurt Conference** fails in 1848 when Prussian king refuses throne with constitutional limits. Bismarck practices *Realpolitik* (opportunist and realist) and fights Denmark, Austria, and France. Germany declares itself an Empire at Versailles in 1871.

ITALY: In Renaissance: city states, republics, military states. Pre-unification: Venetia under Austrian rule, Papal states in the middle, and Bourbon king in the South. **Mazzini** (1805-1872) founder of Young Italy, dedicated to liberation and unification, *Risorgimento*. **Cavour** along with Piedmont king, Victor Emmanuel, enters Crimean War, to secure France’s support against Austria. Piedmont Sardinia takes led in unification. **Garibaldi:** a committed republican and guerrilla fighter sails to Sicily with **redshirts:** Bourbon kingdom collapses.

IMPERIALISM

Crosses over all topics, including political, social, and economic. **Old Imperialism** – the trader based domination of earlier centuries found in South America (Spain) and India (France and Portugal). **New Imperialism** – means direct control and subjugation of local peoples. It aims to advance Western religion and culture, while shipping raw materials to Europe. The European nations become dependent on goods from the colonies India, China, Indonesia all fall under imperial control. Japan modernizes at a rapid rate to avoid domination.

ECONOMICS

Napoleon is a modernizer. Supports free trade and public works programs that will lure working class away from radical politics. Innovative investment banks finance projects, (Suez Canal), but cause severe economic fluctuations. Electricity and internal combustion engine. Inner circle (Britain, Germany, Belgium) with outer circle Austria, Spain, Italy. The limited liability corporation protects investors and lessens the risks. Trade deficits, rapid technology, trusts and monopolies create economic instability. White collar sector. Department stores provide a conduit of goods imported from Imperial colonies.

(see **Imperialism** above)

RELIGION

Catholicism comes under attack for thwarting Italian unification. Bismarck targets influence of Catholic church with his *Kulturkampf*. Jesuits were expelled from Germany in 1872. Competition between church and state continues in this age of *Realpolitik*. Church remains entrenched in Southern Europe.

Imperialism includes Christian missionaries spanning the globe, providing religion, education to “benighted savages”

SOCIAL

Cities address crowding/sanitation issues by new construction.

Positivism: A school of thought that believes social problems can be solved with science and progress: a pre-progressive movement. Industrial heiresses wed into aristocratic circles.

Upper classes keep servants, while middle class employ one or two.

Reform organizations and charities continue to address problems of poverty. Health clinics, scholarships, government supervision of health and dress aim to make Europeans fit for competition. Sports: Sports become national pastimes, and another source of competition among nations. Team sports promote social order for both men and women. Bicycle liberates working class.

Women: Childbirth deaths decrease with knowledge of infection and bacteria due to findings of Pasteur and Lister. In Britain, women's colleges were formed. John Stuart Mill writes *The Subjection of Women* (1869) inspires a commitment to obtaining basic rights for women, including the vote (the main goal during the 19th century). Lawmakers begin to limit hours of working women. Education and professions begin to open to women. Use of birth control begins to filter into slums.

MASS POLITICS

Universal male suffrage expands. Unions and strikes occur. **Second International** (1889) a socialist workers' organization meets to adopt a Marxist program to lure workers for support. From 1880's, collective action for better pay, lower prices, and better working conditions increases. Unions remain male oriented. Classical Liberalism wanes as workers gain more rights.

MIGRATION: Famine and abolition of serfdom led to the mass migration from Europe to the Americas. Jews located in the Russian Border States flee *pogroms* (attacks by Tsarist police) to settle in Austrian Empire – seeds of Hitler's anti-Semitism.

INTELLECTUAL

Darwin: *On the Origin of Species* (1859) a pivotal book in history. – Survival of the fittest, Social Darwinism is now applied to the weaker imperial nations as a justification for exploitation. Education expands from primary education to professional schools.

Marx using the word from Cabet called "communism" (1840); Marx and Engels publish the *Communist Manifesto* (1848), discussing the downfall of the *bourgeoisie* (capitalists) and the rise of the *proletariat* (working class). Marx's *Das Kapital* (1867) views society and economics through the lens of class conflict and historical forces.

Anarchism is another theory that abhors the centralized state. Anarchists inspire assassination of many European leaders.

ARTISTIC

Realism replaces Romanticism. Novels use anti-heroes to discuss dark themes of poverty and drudgery and disappointment. The Arts now favor realism and help provide a vehicle for shared public discussion. In the 1870's and 1880's writers such as Ibsen, Zola, and Hardy attack deteriorating societal conditions. Reaction against the crisp lines of photography by impressionist painters with distinctive blurred lines, vibrant color. Monet and Van Gogh.