

# Democracy and Progress

*An Age of Revolutions*  
(1750–1914)



Early European reform

Reform spreads further

The American experiment

An age of innovation

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about reform occurring in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What reforms did Great Britain enact to empower its citizens?
- How did France empower more citizens, and what problems did the reformers face?
- How did reforms enacted in Russia compare to those elsewhere in Europe?





In order to contextualize 19<sup>th</sup> century democracy and reform, use this timeline to recap previous key historical events. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about what happened in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







# A time of change

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was a time of great change and progress for people in Europe and the Americas.  
Press on the buttons to find out more about the main driving forces behind these changes.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



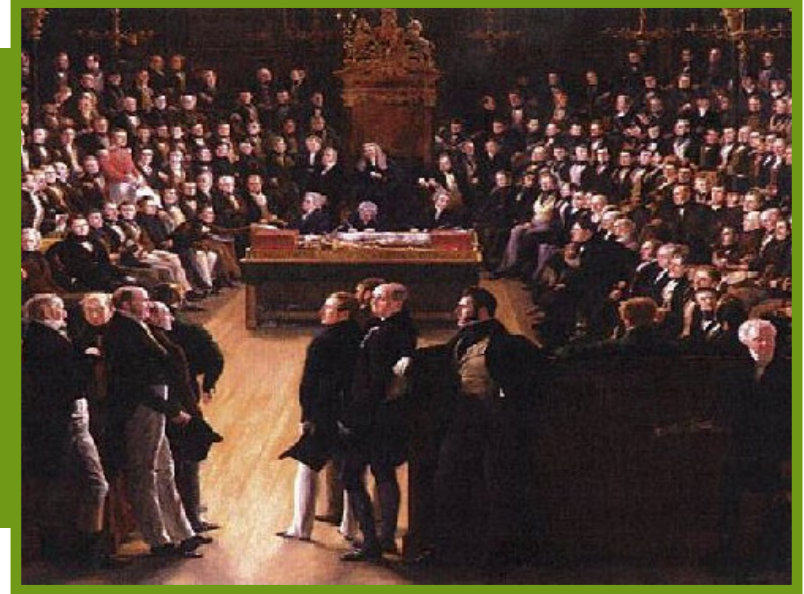


# Reform in Great Britain



Liberal reform, although not always fast moving, had the greatest success in Great Britain.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, only men who owned large amounts of land could vote – this meant that only around 5% of the population could elect members of the British Parliament.



In 1830 there were a number of protests around the country in favor of reform which would allow more people to vote.

What part do you think the industrialization of the UK may have played in the desire for reform?



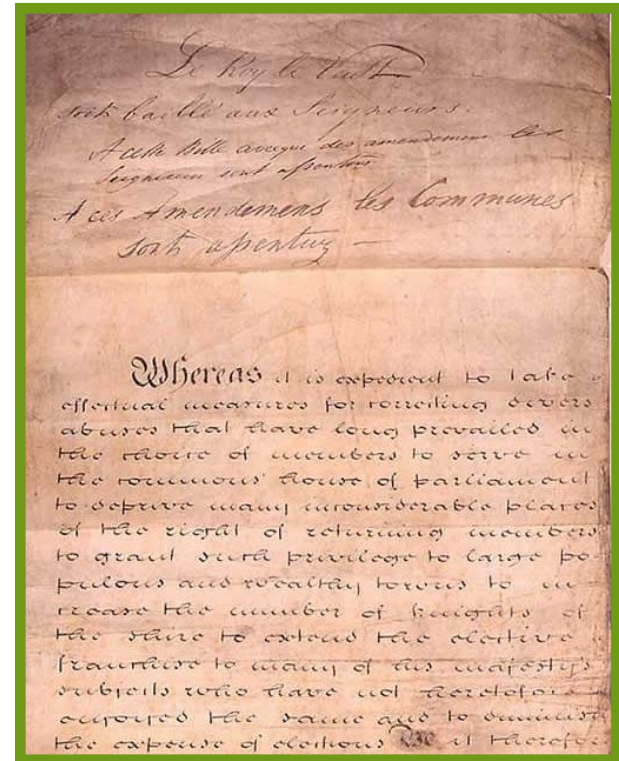
# The Great Reform Act 1832



Reform was slow at first. In response to growing pressure from the public for a greater voice, Parliament passed the **Reform Act** in 1832.

This Bill had a number of results:

- parliamentary representation was redistributed to better reflect the population of the country
- the requirements to vote were lowered, allowing for a larger and more representative **franchise**.



Why do you think that the right to vote was not extended to everyone with the Reform Act 1832?





In the years between 1860 and 1890, the British Parliament enacted a number of reforms which empowered the middle and working classes. Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about progress and reform in each year.  
Press **start** to begin.

**start**







The reign of Napoleon III in France between 1848 and 1870 was one of economic prosperity, but the country suffered numerous defeats internationally.

Napoleon lost control of the unification of Italy, failed in a war against Mexico and led France to a humiliating defeat in the **Franco-Prussian War**.



He was captured at the Battle of Sedan in 1870 and gave up the throne, dying in exile three years later. France was then faced with a number of political and social problems.





After Napoleon III was overthrown, France was thrown into political turmoil and social upheaval. Press on the buttons to find out more about the five year period between the end of Napoleon's reign and the establishment of the Third Republic.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





The **Dreyfus Affair** was a scandal which divided France in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and posed a threat to the whole of the Republic.

Watch this animation to find out about the key events of the Affair.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





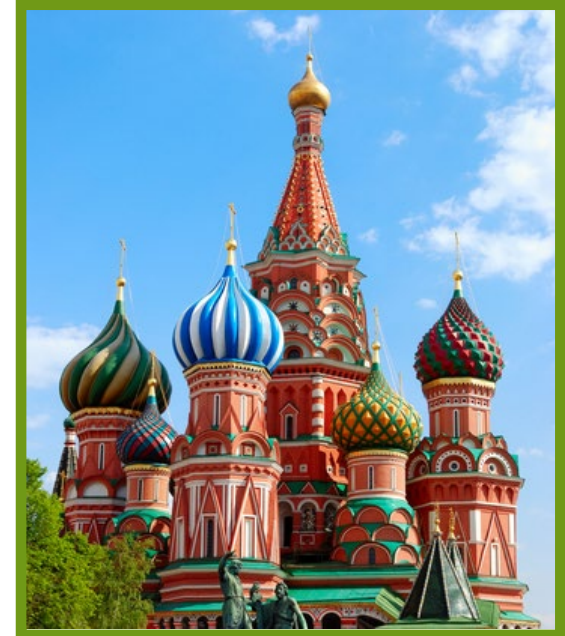
# Reform in Russia



In the 1860s, Tsar **Alexander II** began to introduce reforms in Russia based on the Western model.

In 1861 he abolished **serfdom**, meaning that over 21 million serfs (peasants) were freed from slavery.

The judicial system was also extensively reformed, and trials by jury were introduced.



Alexander also lowered the period of mandatory military service, first to 15 years in 1860, then in 1874 to 6 years in active duty and 9 years in the reserves

How do you think these reforms compare with those of other countries in Europe?







Reform in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe featured a lot of key people and important terms that you need to know. Can you match each person to the correct description?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**

