

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 the further spread of reforms in the 19th century, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How did attitudes towards slavery change?
- How were voting rights for men and women reformed in the 19th century?
- What happened to the Jews in Europe?
- What did European governments do with regard to the rights of its citizens?





The idea that all men are born free and with certain basic rights began to take hold during the **Enlightenment** period. This idea led many to question the institution of slavery on moral, philosophical and political grounds.

Although the goal was to end the slave trade in both Europe and America, many felt that pushing for full abolition was too difficult to accomplish all at once. Eventually, changes occurred which allowed society to move in the direction of full abolition.



How do you think the desire to end slavery in the West links to the 19th century political reform?



In the late 18th and 19th centuries, a number of countries began to move towards the abolition of slavery.

Either press on a date or drag the pointer along the timeline to find out information about progress and abolition in each year.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Universal male suffrage

The right to participate in government was extremely limited in much of European society.

Throughout the 19th century, requirements involving property, literacy, finances, gender, and religion, were kept in place to ensure that only a select group of citizens was allowed to vote.



Why do you think this may have been?



Male suffrage timeline



Universal male suffrage slowly became more widespread in the 19th century. Drag the **green labels** to the correct space to identify the years that each country gained universal male suffrage.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Women's suffrage



Though universal male suffrage difficult to obtain, it was even more difficult for women to gain the right to vote.

As reforms granted the vote to more males throughout the 19th century, women were vocal in their disappointment that the right to participate in government was not extended to them.

The desire for women's suffrage was part of a wider movement for equality of rights for women.

This desire for equality included the right to own property, the right to divorce, and the right to attend university.





The Seneca Falls convention



In 1848, a hugely influential convention on women's rights was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The **Declaration of Sentiments** was signed by over 100 participants, calling for greater rights for women in the United States.



...because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of these United States.

- The Declaration of Sentiments



Women's suffrage in the U.K.



The women's movement in the United Kingdom was the most active in Europe. A number of groups were formed towards the end of the 19th century which organized lectures, printed leaflets and pressured members of parliament.

However, in the early 20th century, the **suffragette** movement employed more militant tactics such as smashing windows, hunger strikes and even bombing public buildings. The government responded by violently arresting the ringleaders.



Which methods were more effective?



Women's suffrage worldwide



Watch this animation for information about when women gained the vote throughout the world.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The plight of Jews in Europe



The history of Jews in Europe has been a troubled one. Historically, a number of countries did not welcome Jews. Even in areas where they were allowed, they were often forced to live in **ghetto** communities, and subjected to archaic laws that denied them citizenship and rights.

During the end of the 18th and the first part of 19th century, the situation for European Jews had been improving. However as **social Darwinism**, racial theory and changes in economic prosperity took hold, their situation began to change.





There was some **emancipation** of Jews in Europe, for example in Austria in 1782 and France in 1789. However, this was often limited and did not necessarily change people's views of the Jews.

In Russia and Eastern Europe, Jews suffered regular **pogroms**, or organized attacks on people and property. This led to thousands fleeing the Russian Empire, hoping for better treatment in the West.

Throughout the 19th century, prejudice against the Jews increased as **biological racism**, a theory that claimed to prove that Jews were a biologically inferior people, gained greater acceptance.

Why do you think so many Europeans felt that anti-Semitism was acceptable?



A French Jew named Theodor Herzl realized that no matter how much the Jews tried to assimilate into society their mere “Jewishness” made them a threat. This meant that they would never be able to feel truly part of a society.

In 1896, he proposed the creation of an independent Jewish state. This movement to create a Jewish homeland became known as **Zionism**.



Zionist sentiment grew after 1945, as Jews desired the creation of a place for victims of the **Holocaust** to emigrate. In 1948 the Jewish State of Israel was created, which to some extent realized Herzl’s dream.



A desire for self-rule



The 19th century saw a number of countries wishing to push against their colonial rulers, and gain independence.

Press on each tab to find out more information about three areas that pushed for greater self-rule.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Read the following questions about the demands of certain groups for more rights, and discuss them either in groups or together as a class.

Press **start** to begin.

start

