Nationalism and Revolution

An Age of Revolutions (1750–1914)

Contents

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Latin American independence

European nationalism

Breaking the balance

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
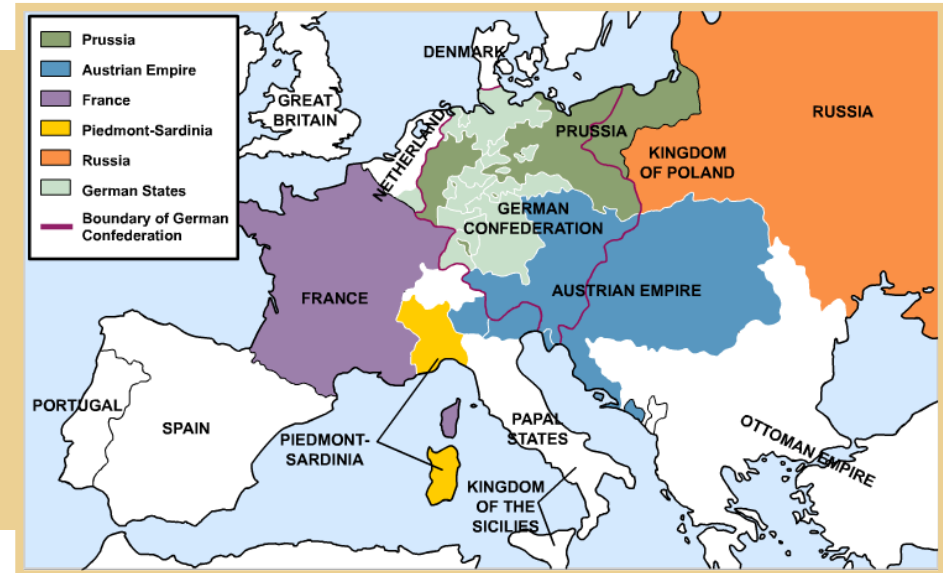
European nationalism

By the end of this section, you will have learned about the spread of nationalist revolutions in Europe, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What political attitudes developed in Europe in the early 19th century?

- How did nationalist movements develop?

- What were the effects of the 1848 revolutions?

- What European nations formed as a result of nationalist revolutions?

After the defeat of Napoleon, European governments had two main goals.

First, they wanted to maintain international peace. At the Congress of Vienna, they created a **balance of power** in Europe that they hoped would prevent major wars.

Second, governments sought to strengthen their control within their own nations to prevent revolution. This led to rising **conservatism** and the support of traditional monarchies.

What issues might these policies cause?

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New ideologies arose to challenge the conservative order.

Liberals wanted to empower elected parliaments. Liberals were mainly middle-class businessmen who thought only educated people should be able to vote.

Radicals supported universal male **suffrage**. They believed in the ideals of the French Revolution: liberty, equality and brotherhood.

Nationalism united people from both groups. Nationalists believed that nations should be composed of people who shared a common language and culture, rather than a common monarch.

Do you think people who share a common culture should be able to form their own nation?
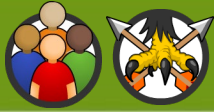
When a nation's government is independent of foreign powers, it is called a **nation-state**.
In 1815, the only nation states in Europe were England, France and Spain. Other countries were made up of many ethnic groups that had been united by conquest or politics. In the early 1800s, nationalist movements spread across Europe.
Can you match each type of nationalist movement to its definition?
Press **start** to begin.

start

In the early 1800s, the Austrian, Russian and Ottoman empires controlled vast territories containing a wide variety of people. As nationalist revolts erupted in these empires, they upset the delicate balance of power created by the Congress of Vienna.

Press the explosion symbols on the map to read about a nationalist revolution that took place in that region.
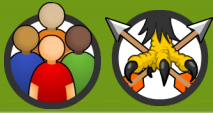
Press **start** to begin.

start

Why did some revolts succeed and others fail?

By the mid-1830s, Europe seemed to have stabilized. This appearance was shattered in 1848 when revolutions swept through Europe, rocking the conservative order to its foundations.

Press **start** to begin.

start

What do you notice about how the revolutions spread?

Nationalist revolutions in the early 19th century had mixed results. Can you remember which revolutions successfully created new nations, and which did not?

Drag each nation or province into the correct place depending on whether or not it had won its independence by 1848.

Press **start** to begin.

start

Read the following statements about early European nationalist movements and decide whether each one is true or false.

Press **start** to begin.

start