

Revolutions Review

1688 – Glorious Revolution (England)

Successful establishment of constitutional monarchy

- *William and Mary* replace *James II* (r. 1685-1688)
- Causes: concern that James II was going to reinstitute (a) absolutism and (b) Catholicism, which would continue under the rule of his son
 - violated **Test Act** (est. 1673 by Charles II), which required all officeholders to take communion in the Anglican Church = Catholics couldn't serve in gov't. or military ... by violating the Test Act, James II was not only supporting Catholicism but also asserting his authority over Parliament's
- How revolution was carried out: A group of important people offered the throne to Mary (James's Protestant daughter) and William (her Dutch husband) → James II and family fled to France, where Louis XIV took care of them
- Significance:
 - relatively bloodless
 - completed destruction of absolutist monarchy ... Parliament gave the throne to William and Mary, and in so doing, asserted its supremacy over the monarch
- New developments following the revolution:
 - **Bill of Rights** created
 - Development of cabinet system (= power to the ministers, not just the king)

1789 – French Revolution

Successful establishment of constitutional monarchy

- Causes:
 - Discontent with absolutist rule of **Louis XVI**
 - Unequal estate system – **Third Estate** (98% of pop.) left powerless
 - Enlightenment ideas
 - Model of the American Revolution
 - Economic troubles: huge debt, soaring bread prices (spark = king wanted to raise taxes to pay the debt)
- 4 phases:
 - Liberal Phase (1789-1791) – absolute monarchy → constitutional monarchy; driven by **National Assembly**
 - Radical Phase (1792-1794) – constitutional monarchy → republic; driven by **Robespierre, National Convention, Committee of Public Safety, Reign of Terror**
 - **Directory** Rule (1795-1799) – corrupt, weak republic
 - **Napoleon** (1799-1815) – rule by “emperor”; **Napoleonic Code**; wars of expansion
 - 1815 – Napoleon ousted → constitutional monarchy restored (Louis XVIII)

1830 – French Revolution

Unsuccessful liberal revolution

- *Louis Philippe* (r. 1830-1848) replaces *Charles X* (r. 1824-1830)
- Causes: Charles X was too conservative:
 - repudiated **Constitutional Charter of 1814** (a liberal constitution)
 - took voting rights away from middle class

- press censorship
- How revolution was carried out: insurrection in Paris and gov't. collapse → Charles fled and upper middle class made Louis Philippe king
- Outcome: Louis Philippe – liberal in appearance, but situation remained essentially unchanged
 - (+) accepted Constitutional Charter of 1814; adopted French Revolution flag; “king of the French people”
 - (-) lack of social legislation; corruption; special interest groups dominated politics; suffrage limited to the wealthy
 - responses of the social classes to this regime:
 - upper middle class – benefited (“bourgeois monarchy”)
 - old aristocracy – lost power but otherwise they were fine
 - republicans, democrats, social reformers, urban poor – disappointed because liberal reforms did not go far enough (ex. suffrage extended only from 100,000-170,000 citizens)

Revolutions of 1848

Unsuccessful revolutions driven by liberalism, nationalism, and socialism

- General patterns:
 - based on:
 - liberalism – written constitutions, rep. gov't., civil liberties
 - nationalism – independent nation-states
 - socialism – workers' rights
 - began in France → spread to Central Europe
 - working class, middle class, peasant (liberal revolutionaries) vs. government, aristocracy, army (conservatives)
 - revolutionaries succeeded at 1st – government gave in to demands but then reasserted authority (ALL REVOLUTIONS FAILED)

1848 – France

Unsuccessful liberal and socialist revolution

- *Louis Napoleon (pres. 1848-1852, emperor 1852-1871) replaces Louis Philippe (r. 1830-1848)*
- Causes:
 - Revolution of 1830 did not go far enough ...
 - liberalism – middle class wanted to expand the suffrage
 - socialism – urban working class wanted further social reforms
 - economic crises (poor harvests → increased food prices, unemployment)
- Events (begin in February):
 - middle and working classes revolt in Paris
 - Louis Philippe abdicates → grandson becomes king, under constitutional monarchy
 - commoners refuse monarchy and proclaim the **Second Republic (1848-1852)**
- Second Republic:
 - Initial reforms: universal manhood suffrage, freed slaves in colonies, abolished death penalty, 10-hour workday
 - Divisions among revolutionary leaders prevented further reforms ... both desired a republican form of government, but they differed over social legislation and economic policies:
 - moderate republicans (liberals) – middle class, Alexis de Tocqueville
 - radical republicans (socialists) – working class, Louis Blanc (est. national workshops temporarily)
 - moderate republicans triumphed
- Outcome: a new conservative constitution (not democratic, not socialist), Pres. Louis Napoleon

1848 – Austria

Unsuccessful liberal and nationalist revolution

- *Hungary and other minorities attempt to break apart the Austrian Empire, but fail*
- Causes: Desire for national autonomy and rep. gov't.
- Events/Outcome:
 - **Hungary** demanded autonomy → **Ferdinand I (r. 1835-1848)** promised reforms & liberal constitution, but promises not fulfilled due to conflicting interests among revolutionaries (ex. divide b/t classes over socialist reforms, minority groups in Hungary didn't want a Hungarian state)
 - **Archduchess Sophia** demanded Ferdinand abdicate in favor of her son, **Francis Joseph (r. 1848-1916)**, and crushed the revolution w/ Russian (Nicholas I) help
- Success only comes much later:
 - 1867 – Dual Monarchy
 - 1919 (post-WWI) – dissolution of Austrian Empire

1848 – Prussia

Unsuccessful liberal and nationalist revolution

- *Liberals attempt to get a liberal constitution, while nationalists attempt to unify Germany ... both fail*
- German Confederation = 1815-1866, loose affiliation of 39 states
- Events:
 - lower and middle class uprising in Berlin
 - **Frederick William IV (r. 1840-1861)** promised liberal constitution and German unification
 - **Constituent Assembly (Berlin)** – liberal constitution for Prussia
 - **National Assembly (Frankfurt)** – constitution for unified Germany
 - distracted by war with Denmark over Schleswig-Holstein (Germans there revolted against Danish rule) → Denmark won
 - March 1849 – constitution written and Frederick William IV elected emperor of unified Germany
- Outcome – everything failed:
 - liberal reform – Frederick William IV reneged
 - national unification – Austria got in the way

1917 – Russian Revolution

Establishment of communism

- 2 revolutions:
 - Feb/March – democratic revolution ... overthrow of absolute monarchy (Nicholas II) → Provisional Gov't. under Kerensky
 - Oct/Nov – communist revolution ... Bolshevik Revolution (Lenin)

1989 – E. Europe

(Mostly) peaceful fall of communism in E. Europe

- Causes:
 - Gorbachev's reforms: perestroika, glasnost, democratization, more peaceful foreign policy
 - continuing economic problems + discontent w/ communist gov'ts.
- Consequences:

- E. Europe rejoined European life
- USSR broke apart (1991)
- German reunification (1990)
- End of Cold War
- Poland 1st!
 - Poles never accepted full Soviet communism
 - 1970s – economic crash → mass discontent / Pope John Paul II supports the masses
 - 1980 – **Gdansk shipyard strike** → **Gdansk Agreement** (right to form free trade unions, freedom of speech, release of pol. Prisoners, economic reforms)
 - 1980-81 – **Solidarity** forms under **Lech Walensa**
 - 1981 – Jaruzelski's crackdown: martial law → Solidarity goes underground
 - 1988 – near economic collapse → Solidarity gains bargaining power
 - 1989 – Solidarity pressures gov't. to accept change: free elections! Solidarity wins a majority & Walensa becomes president (1990-1995)
- Hungary
 - communists kept allowing incremental reforms in response to opposition pressure, thinking it wouldn't spell their end ... but reforms added up and they lost power peacefully
 - 1988 – replacement of hardline János Kádár w/ reform communist
 - 1990 – free elections granted, W. investment allowed, borders opened
- E. Germany
 - flight of E. Germans to W. Germany via Hungary, when Hungary opened its borders
 - Nov. 1989 – **fall of Berlin Wall** spelled the end
 - 1990 – **German reunification**
- Czechoslovakia
 - **Velvet Revolution** – 10 day peaceful overthrow
 - **Vaclav Havel** = leader, new president
- Romania
 - bloody (the only one)
 - **Nicola Ceausescu** refused to relinquish power ... brutal slaughter of protesters → protesters won and Ceausescu executed