



The Revolutions Of 1848

“The Springtime of Peoples”

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*The turning point at
which history failed to
turn.*

--- George Macaulay Trevelyn
[1937]

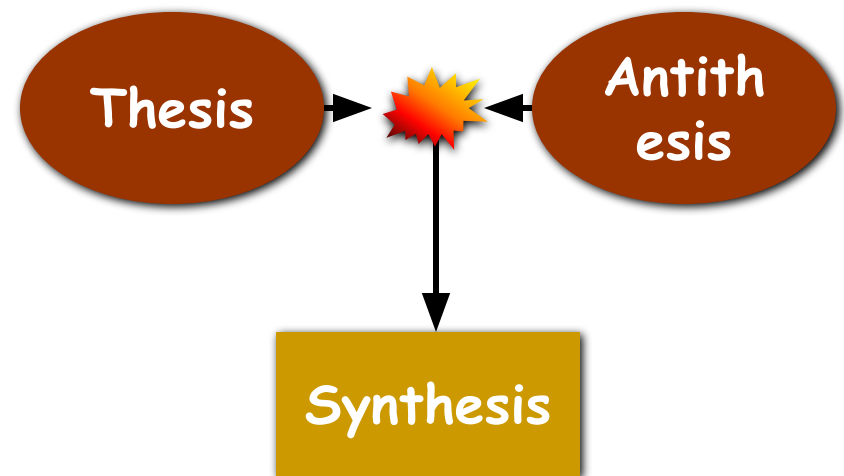
Historicism



George Wilhelm
Friedrich Hegel
[1744-1803]

G The "Hegelian Dialectic"

- History advances through conflict.
- One phase of history creates its opposite [ex: absolutism to democracy].



Pre-1848 Tensions: Long-Term

G Industrialization

- Economic challenges to rulers.
- Rapid urbanization.
- Challenges to the artisan class.

G Population doubled in the 18^c

- Food supply problems □ **Malthus**

G Ideological Challenges

- Liberalism, nationalism, democracy, socialism.

G Romanticism

G Repressive Measures

- **Carlsbad Decrees** [Prus.]
- **Six Acts** [Eng.]
- Secret police created in many European states.



Pre-1848 Tensions: Short-Term

G Agricultural Crises

- Poor cereal harvests
 - prices rose 60% in one year.
- Potato blight □ Ireland
 - Prices rose 135% for food in one year!

G Financial Crises

- Investment bubbles burst □ railways, iron, coal.
- Unemployment increased rapidly [esp. among the artisan class].



Working & middle classes are now joined in misery as are the urban and agricultural peasantry!



Prince Metternich



1815: *We have redrawn Europe's map for eternity.*



Not Really: Centers of Revolution in 1848



No Coherent Organized Revolutions

- G Many different reasons for revolutionary activities.
 - Reactions to long- and short-term causes.
- G Competing ideologies in different countries.
- G Different revolutionary leaders, aims, and goals in different countries.
- G Some countries had no revolutions:
 - England.
 - Russia.



FRANCE: The Giant Sea Snake?

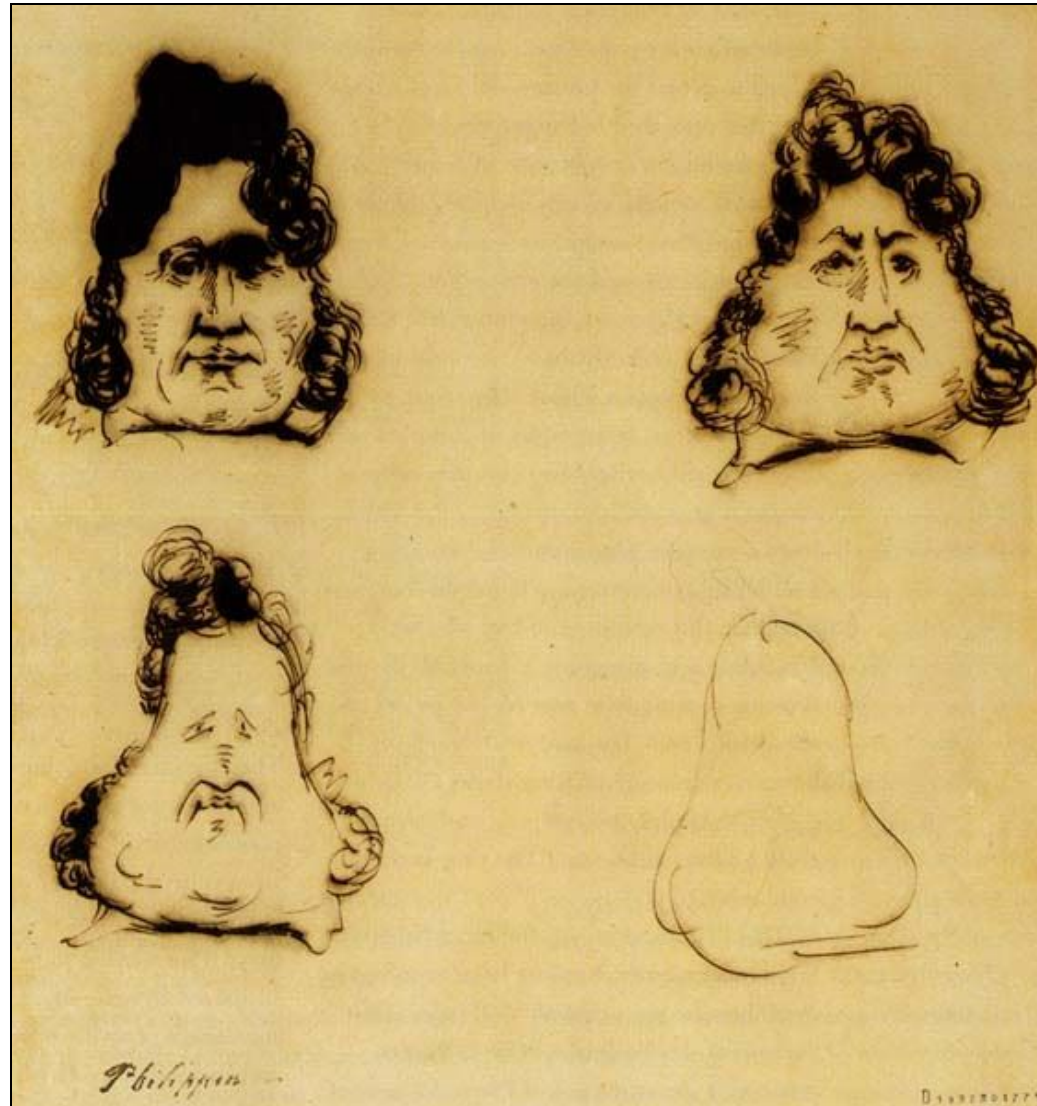


*The giant sea-snake, like many that have appeared in 1848
(Illustrirte Zeitung, Leipzig, no. 287, 30 December 1848, 436)*

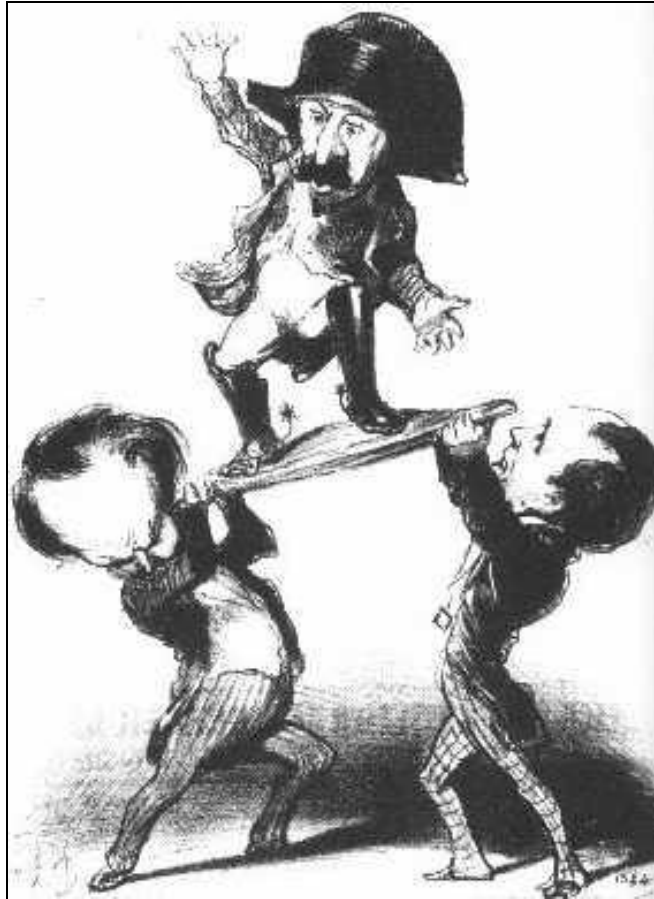


FRANCE

Louis Philippe, "The Pear," 1848



Prince Louis: *Not Too Steady!*



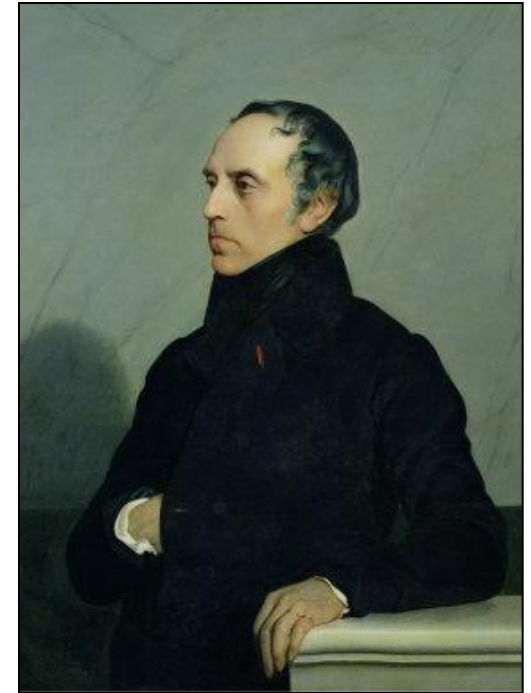
Victor Hugo & Miguel de Girardin try to raise Prince Louis upon a shield. [Honoré Damier's lithograph published in *Charavari*, December 11, 1848].

The February Revolution

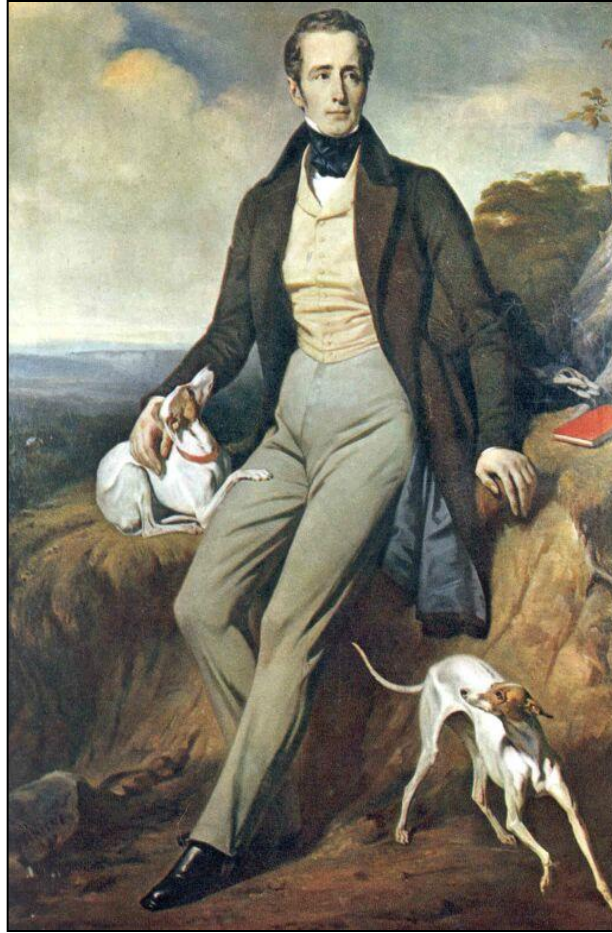
G Working class & liberals unhappy with King Louis Philippe, esp. with his minister, **Francois Guizot** [who opposed electoral reform].

G Reform Banquets used to protest against the King.

- **Paris Banquet** banned.
- Troops open fire on peaceful protestors.
- Barricades erected; looting.
- National Guard [politically disenfranchised] defects to the radicals.
- King Louis Philippe loses control of Paris and abdicates on February 24.



Alphonse Lamartine



- G A poet & liberal, he believed in the "Rights of Man."
 - To vote, to free speech, to property, & to a secular education.
- G Declared a new **Provisional Government**.
 - Conservatives & liberals are suspicious of republicanism
 - Reminiscent of the Reign of Terror.

Louis Blanc

- G A Social Democrat.
- G He believed in the "Right to Work."
 - National Workshops.
 - Provide work for the unemployed.
- G Financial Crisis
 - Flight of capital.
 - Stock market crashes [55% decline].
 - New 45% increase of taxes on the peasants.



The Coalition Splits: Mar.-May

G The conflicts between liberals & socialists over:

- The timing of elections to the Constituent Assembly.
- The costs of government social programs.
 - Did they violate *laissez-faire*?
- The question of whether you could have liberty for all men and still have a system based on private property.

G Growing social tensions between the working class & the bourgeois middle class regarding:

- The nature of work.
- The right to unionize.
- Pay levels.



April Elections

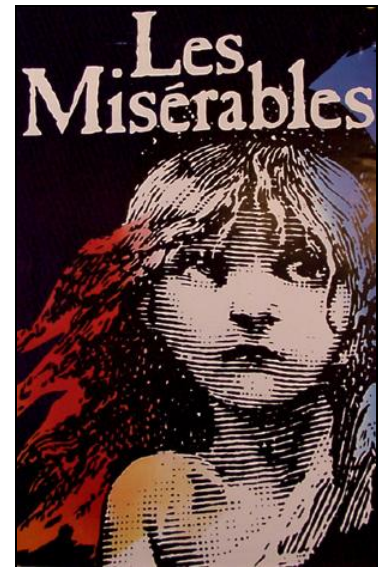
- G Resulted in a conservative majority in the National Assembly.
 - They began debating the fate of social programs [like the National Workshops].
- G The conservative majority wanted the removal of radicals like Blanc from the government.
 - In early June, the National Workshops were shut down.
 - This heightened class tensions!



The “June Days”

G Worker groups in Paris rose up in insurrection.

- They said that the government had betrayed the revolution.
 - Workers wanted a redistribution of wealth.
- Barricades in the streets.
 - Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* was based on this event.



G A new liberal-conservative coalition formed to oppose this lower class radicalism.



Paris: To the Barricades Again!



The 2nd French Republic (1848-1852)



The Republic
by
Jean-Leon Gerome

G General Louis Cavaignac assumed dictatorial powers & crushed the revolt.

- 10,000 dead.
- A victory for conservatives.

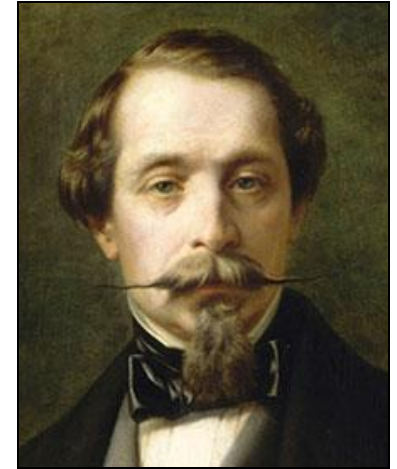
G Nov., 1848 □ a new constitution provided for:

- An elected President.
- A one-house legislature.

President Louis Napoleon

G The December election:

- The "law and order" candidate, **Louis Napoleon Bonaparte**, defeated Cavaignac.
- This was a big shift in middle class opinion to the right!



G The New President:

- Purged the govt. of all radical officials.
 - Replaced them with ultra-conservative and monarchists.
- Disbanded the National Assembly and held new elections.
 - Represented himself as a "Man of the People."
- His government regularly used force against dissenters.



1851 Coup d'Etat



- G President Louis Napoleon declared a hereditary 2nd French Empire.
- G A national plebiscite confirmed this.



The HAPSBUR G EMPIRE

The Austrian Empire: 1830



Ferdinand I (1793-1875)

- G The nature of the Austrian Empire:
 - Very conservative monarchy [liberal institutions didn't exist].
- G Culturally and racially heterogeneous.
- G Social reliance on serfdom dooms masses of people to a life without hope.
- G Corrupt and inefficient.
- G Competition with an increasingly powerful Prussia.



Therefore, the Empire was vulnerable to revolutionary challenges.

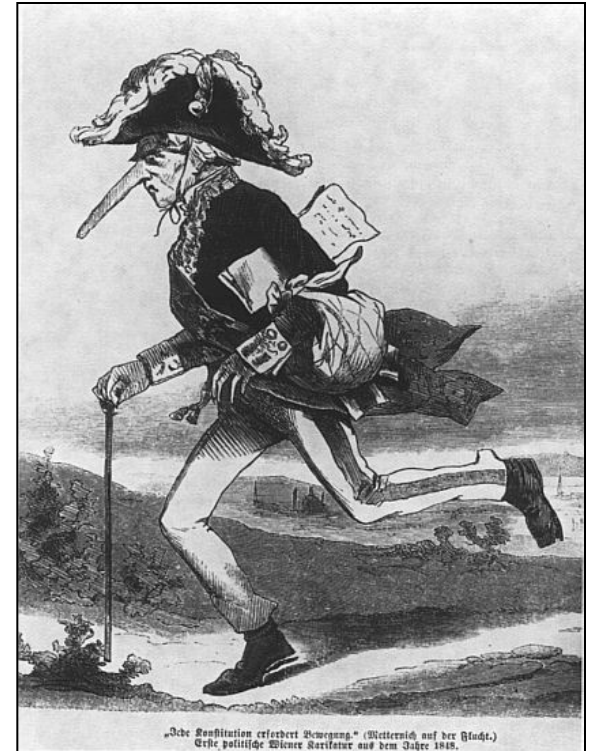


Austrian Students Form a Militia



Vienna, 1848: The Liberal Revolution

- G The "February Revolution" in France triggered a rebellion for liberal reforms.
- G March 13 □ rioting broke out in Vienna.
 - The Austrian Empire collapsed.
 - Metternich fled.
 - Constituent Assembly met.
 - Serfdom [robot] abolished.
 - The revolution began to wane.
 - The revolutionary government failed to govern effectively.



The New Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph I [r. 1848-1916]



The Hungarian Revolution



Lajos Kossuth (1802-1894)

- G Hungarian revolutionary leader.
- G March laws provided for Hungarian independence.
- G Austrians invade.
 - Hungarian armies drove within sight of Vienna!
- G Slavic minorities resisted Magyar invasion & the Hungarian army withdrew.
- G Austrian & Russian armies defeated the Hungarian army.
- G Hungary would have to wait until 1866 for autonomy.



Tsar Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855)



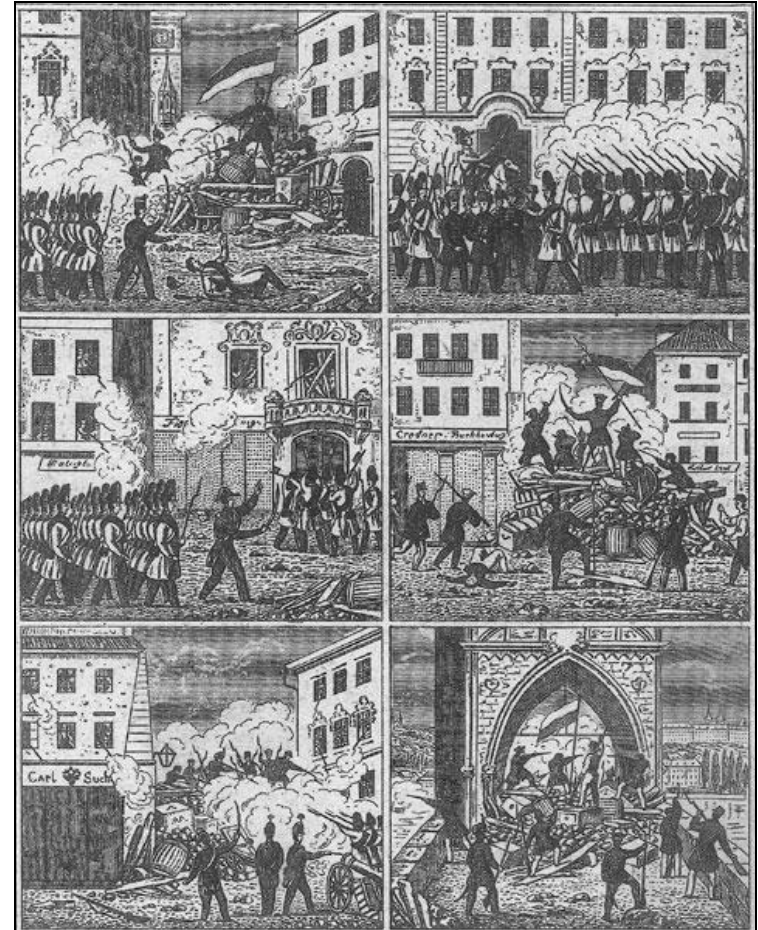
G He raised an army of 400,000 in response to a request from Franz Joseph.

- 140,000 put down the Hungarian revolt.



Bohemia, 1848

- G Bohemia was split between **Pan-Slavs** & **Pan-Germans**.
- G Prague Conference:
 - Developed the idea of **Austro-Slavism**.
 - A constitution & autonomy within the Habsburg Empire.
- G The Austrian military ultimately attacked Prague, occupied Bohemia & crushed the rebellion.



The Prague
Barricades

Revolution in Romania





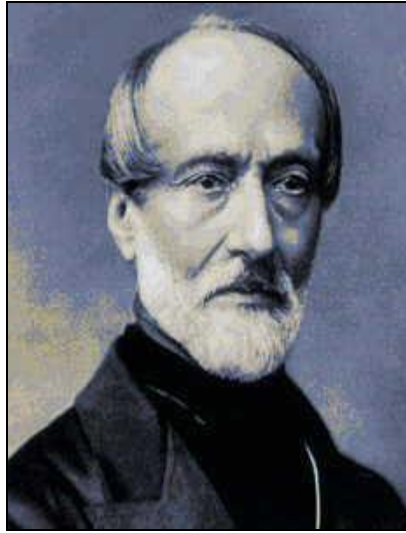
Italy

Upheaval in Italy, 1848

- G Italian nationalists and liberals sought to end foreign domination of Italy.
- G Milan, Lombardy & Venetia wanted to expel their Austrian rulers.
- G Bourbon rulers in Kingdom of Two Sicilies.
- G House of Savoy in Sardinia-Piedmont grant liberal constitutions.
 - Sardinia-Piedmont declared war on Austria.
- G Beginning in May, revolutions suppressed.



Italy, 1848



- G **Giuseppe Mazzini** established a Roman Republic in 1849 protected by **Giuseppe Garibaldi**.
- G **Pope Pius IX** forced to flee.
- G Austrian General Radetsky crushed Sardinia-Piedmont.
- G French troops take back the Papal States.
- G **Victor Emmanuel II** takes the throne in Sardinia-Piedmont.



Reasons for Failure in Italy

- G Rural people did not support the revolutions.
 - Revolutionaries focused mainly on urban middle classes.
- G The revolutionaries were not united.
 - Fear of radicals among moderates lead to the collapse of the revolutions.
- G Lack of leadership and administrative experience among the revolutionaries.



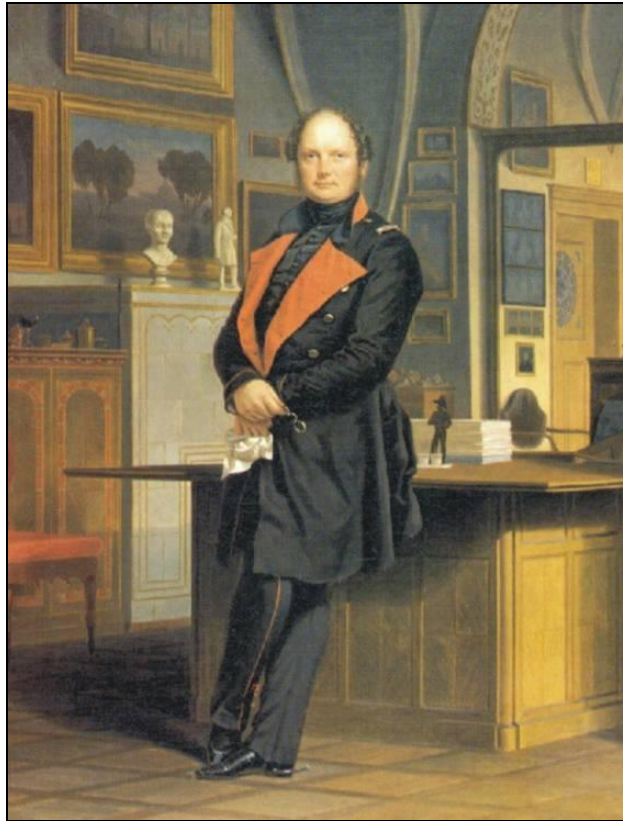


The German States

Germania - 1848



Frederick William IV of Prussia (1840-1861)



- G Mad as a hatter!
- G Anti-liberal, but an 'Arthurian' medieval romantic.
 - Agricultural romantic.
- G Relied on *Junker* support.
- G Prussia in the mid-19^c:
 - Efficient.
 - Good economy.
 - Strong military.



The Germans Follow the French

- G After the February French revolutions, there were many riots in minor German states.
- G Austria and Prussia expected to intervene to crush these revolts, BUT:
 - Vienna Revolution □ led to the fall of Metternich.
 - Berlin riots
 - Prussian army efficiently suppressed the revolutionaries.
 - King Frederick William IV withdraws the troops and hand the Prussia liberals a big victory!
 - Other Princedoms collapse when Prussia's nerve fails.



Funeral for Berlin Freedom Fighters



The Frankfurt Assembly

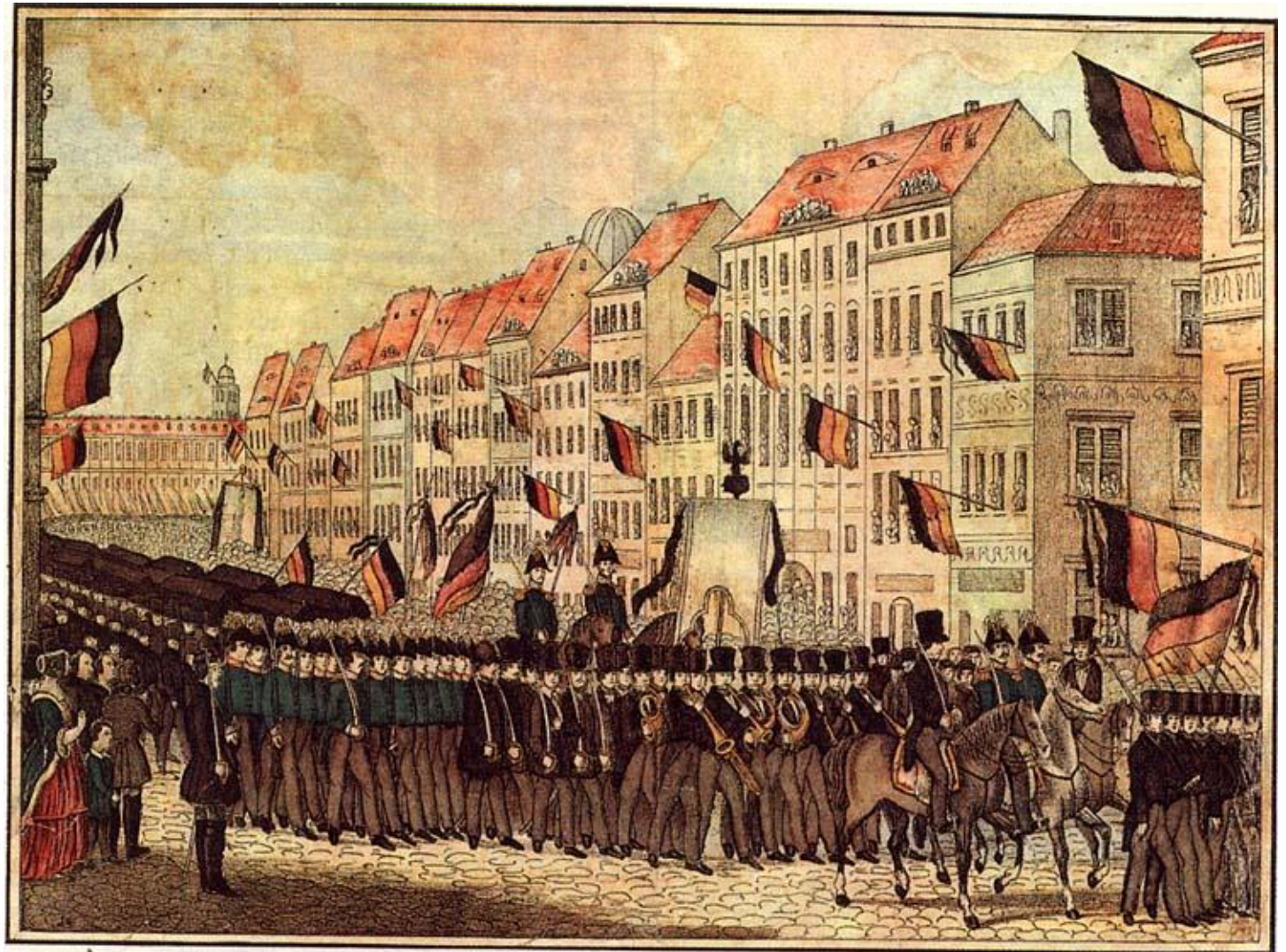
- G German liberals are overjoyed!
- G German National Assembly established in Frankfurt:
 - Universal suffrage.
 - Delegates mostly from the middle class.
 - Debate over the nature of the state □ monarchy of Habsburgs or Hohenzollerns?
 - They chose the Austrian Habsburg Archduke John rather than the King of Prussia.
 - He was a well-known liberal sympathizer.
 - But they couldn't guarantee the loyalty of the Prussian Army.



Frankfurt Assembly Meets



A Citizen Militia on Parade in Berlin



The “Three Germanies”



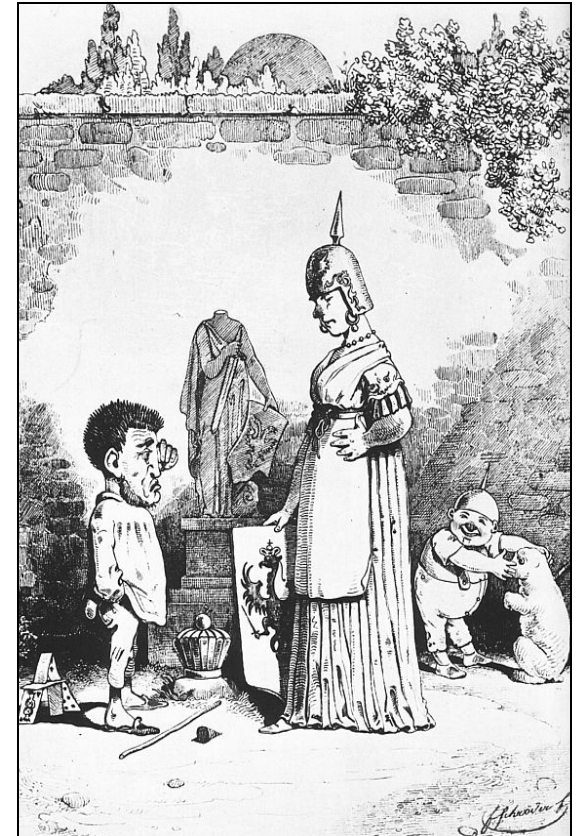
Prussian Resurgence

- G The Prussian army moved to crush the new Polish Grand Duchy.
- G The Prussian parliament disagreed with the Frankfurt Parliament.
- G The Prussian army invaded Schleswig-Holstein (at Frankfurt's request).
 - Horrified international liberal opinion.
 - Britain & Russia threatened war with Prussia.
 - Prussia agreed to its own peace with Denmark.
 - The Prussian army abandoned the Frankfurt government.

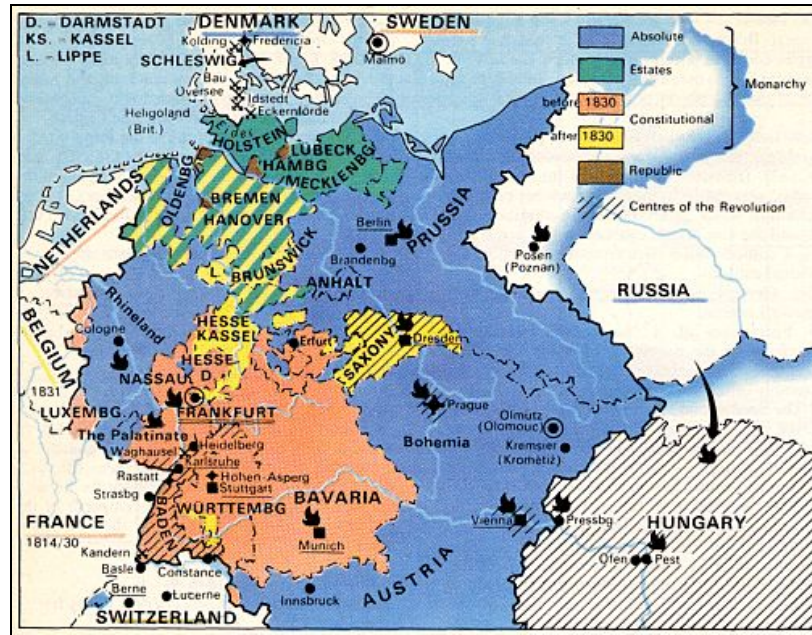


Austria & Prussia Reassert Control

- G Austria re-gained control of Vienna.
- G Frederick William deposed the Berlin parliament.
- G The Frankfurt Assembly offered the emperorsip to Frederick William.
 - He declined.
 - Radicals took to the barricades again.
 - The Prussian army crushed all resistance.
 - April, 1849 □ the Assembly collapsed.



A New German Confederation



- G Frederick William IV of Prussia was still interested in ruling a united Germany.
- G 1850 □ the German Confederation was re-established at Olmutz.
- G But, Frederick was forced to accept Austrian leadership of Central Europe.

Liberalism Discredited in Germany

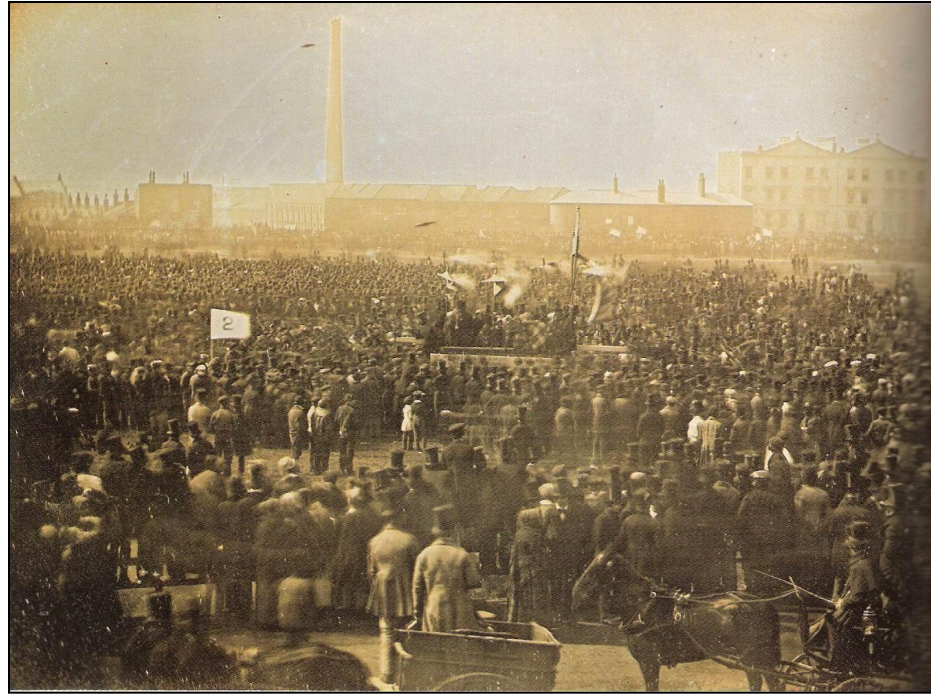
- G Little popular support.
- G The union of liberals and democrats didn't last.
- G Rule of force was the only winner!
- G There was a massive exodus of liberal intelligentsia.
 - Militarism, hierarchy, and statism were triumphant!
 - Capitalists followed suit.





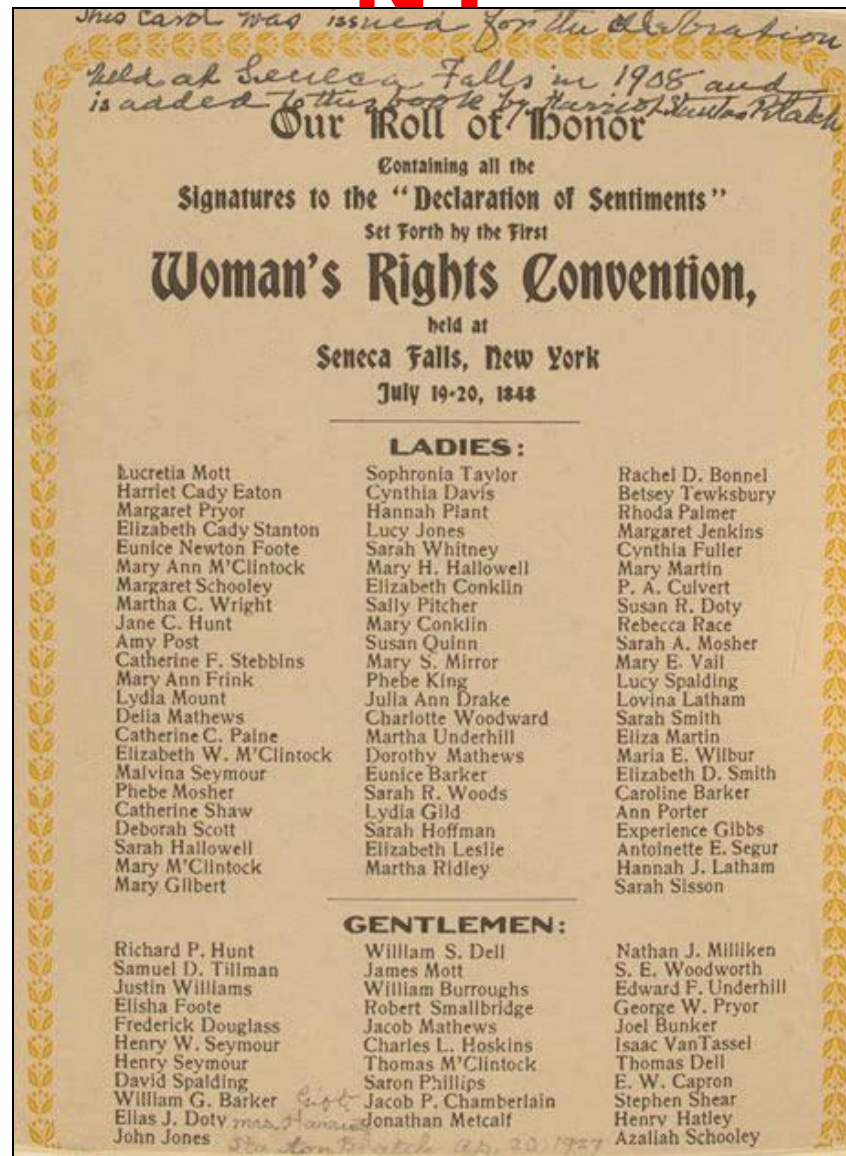
1848: Outside the Continent

Chartist Meeting, 1848



- G The Movement reached its height with the Kennington Common demonstration on April 10, 1848.
- G This could have been the prelude to revolution in Britain, but the meeting was peaceful.
- G The Chartist leaders did not follow up on the meeting, and the movement died.

Seneca Falls Convention, NY



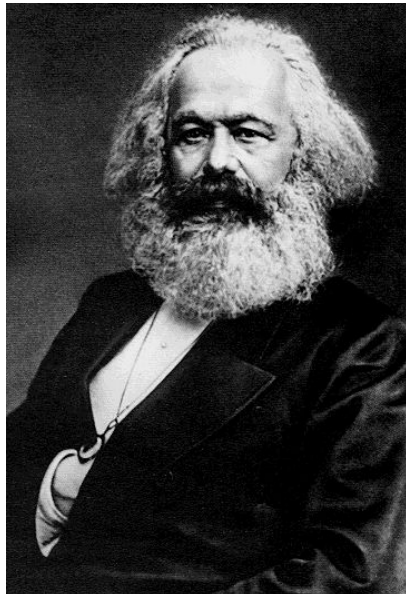


THE AFTERMATH

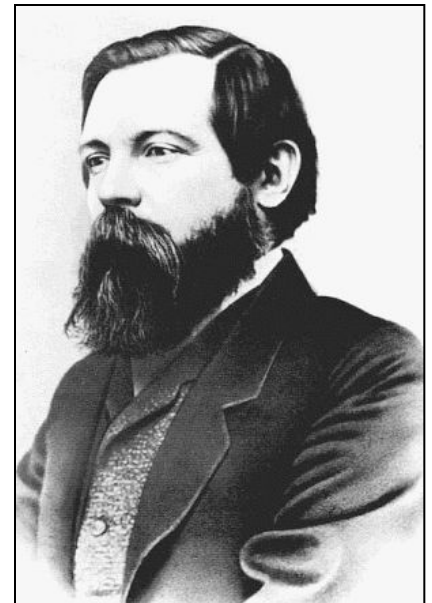
Democrats Swept Out of Europe



The Communist Manifesto



Karl Marx



Friedrich
Engels

Why did the 1848 Revolutions Fail?

- G They failed to attract popular support from the working classes.
- G The middle classes led these revolutions, but as they turned radical, the middle class held back.
- G Nationalism divided more than united.
- G Where revolutions were successful, the Old Guard was left in place and they turned against the revolutionaries.
- G Some gains lasted [abolition of serfdom, etc.]
- G BUT, in the long term, most liberal gains would be solidified by the end of the 19^c:
 - The unification of Germany and Italy.
 - The collapse of the Hapsburg Empire at the end of World War I.



The Bottom Line

G It looked like the Conservative forces had triumphed.

G BUT...

- Things had changed forever.
- Economic/social problems continued to be constant challenges to the ruling order.
- Conservatives would have to make concessions in order to stay in power.
- Many of the limited Liberal achievements remained permanent.



Some Bibliographic Sources

- G "The Revolutions of 1848" by R. Folmer. St. Joseph's H. S. (PPT).
- G "The Revolutions of 1848" by Stephen Luscombe. (PPT).

