Reading Essentials and Study Guide
Industrialization and Nationalism

Lesson 2 Nationalism and Political Revolutions

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How can innovation affect ways of life?
How does revolution bring about political and economic change?

Reading HELPDESK

Content Vocabulary
universal male suffrage the right of all males to vote in elections
multinational empire an empire in which people of many nationalities live

Academic Vocabulary
radical relating to a political group associated with views, practices, and policies of extreme change
temporary lasting for a limited time; not permanent

TAKING NOTES: Comparing and Contrasting
1. ACTIVITY Use this graphic organizer to compare and contrast the revolutions of 1830 and 1848.

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<th>1830</th>
<th>1848</th>
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<td>Governments/countries in power</td>
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<td>Groups revolting</td>
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European rulers wanted a return to stability, or order, after the Napoleonic wars. They wanted to do this by bringing back much of the old order, or old way of ruling. They also wanted to keep a balance of power among nations. However, new forces for change had become too powerful to stop. These new forces included liberalism and nationalism. Revolts and revolutions soon occurred in Europe.

The Revolutions of the 1830s

GUIDING QUESTION How did liberalism and nationalism present a challenge to conservatism in Europe during the 1830s and 1840s?

Governments in Europe attempted to maintain the old order during the nineteenth century. Beginning in 1830, however, the forces of change began to break through the conservative domination of Europe. These forces were liberalism and nationalism.

In France the Bourbon monarch, Charles X, was strongly against changes and reforms. He attempted to censor the press, and he took away the right to vote from much of the middle class. In response, liberals removed Charles X from power in 1830, and they established a constitutional monarchy. The new monarch was Louis Philippe, a cousin of Charles X. Political support for the new monarch came from the upper-middle class.

In the same year, three more revolutions occurred in Europe. Nationalism was the main force in all three revolutions. Belgium had been annexed to the former Dutch Republic in 1815. Belgium rebelled and created an independent state. Poland and Italy were also ruled by foreign powers, but their efforts to break free were less successful. Russian troops crushed the Polish attempt to establish an independent Polish nation. Meanwhile, Austrian troops marched south and stopped revolts in a number of Italian states.

PROGRESS CHECK

2. Evaluating In what ways were liberalism and nationalism causes for the revolutions of the 1830s in Europe?

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The Revolutions of 1848

GUIDING QUESTIONS How did liberalism and nationalism present a challenge to conservatism in Europe during the 1830s and 1840s? What were the results of the revolutionary uprisings that occurred throughout Europe in 1848?

Liberalism and nationalism were successful in France and Belgium, but the conservative order still dominated much of Europe in the mid-nineteenth century. However, the forces of liberalism and nationalism continued to grow, and these forces of change resulted in the revolutions of 1848.

Another French Revolution

Revolution in France was again the spark, or cause, for revolution in other countries. France had serious economic problems beginning in 1846. These problems brought great hardship, or suffering,
to the lower-middle class, workers, and peasants. At the same time, members of the middle class wanted the right to vote. The government of Louis Philippe refused to make changes, and opposition grew.

The monarchy was finally overthrown in 1848. A group of moderate and radical republicans set up a provisional, or temporary, government. The republicans were people who wanted France to be a republic. A republic is a government in which leaders are elected.

The provisional government called for the election of representatives to a Constituent Assembly. These representatives would write a new constitution for France. They were to be elected by universal male suffrage. This meant all adult men could vote, not just those who owned property.

The provisional government also established national workshops that provided work for the unemployed. The number of unemployed in the national workshops increased from about 66,000 to almost 120,000 from March to June. This emptied the treasury, and it also frightened the moderates. The moderates reacted by closing the workshops on June 21.

The workers refused to accept this decision and poured into the streets in protest. Government forces crushed the working-class revolt in four days of bitter and bloody fighting. Thousands were killed, and thousands more were sent to the French prison colony of Algeria in northern Africa.

The new constitution was ratified, or approved, on November 4, 1848. The constitution established a republic called the Second Republic. The Second Republic had one legislature, which was elected by universal male suffrage. It also had a president, who was also chosen by universal male suffrage. The president would serve four years. The elections for the president were held in December 1848, and Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (called Louis-Napoleon), the nephew of the famous French ruler Napoleon Bonaparte, won a huge victory.

**Revolt in the German States**

News of the 1848 revolution in France led to upheaval in other parts of Europe. The Congress of Vienna, which was held from 1814 to 1815, had recognized the existence of 38 independent German states. These states were called the German Confederation. Austria and Prussia were the two great powers among these German states. The other German states varied in size.

In 1848 people called for change. The demands led many German rulers to promise constitutions, a free press, jury trials, and other liberal reforms. In May 1848, the Frankfurt Assembly was held. It was an all-German parliament, and its purpose was to prepare a constitution for a new united Germany. These were liberal and nationalist goals. The assembly’s ideas for a new constitution included a parliamentary government. It also called for a hereditary emperor who would rule under a limited monarchy. The constitution also allowed election of deputies to the parliament by universal male suffrage.

In the end, the Frankfurt Assembly failed to gain the support needed to achieve its goals. Frederick William IV of Prussia was offered the throne, but he refused to accept the crown from a popularly elected assembly. This showed that the assembly members had no real way of forcing the German rulers to accept their drafted constitution. As a result, German unification was not achieved.

**Revolutions in Central Europe**

The Austrian Empire also had its problems because it was a multinational empire. It was a collection of different peoples including Germans, Czechs, Magyars (Hungarians), Slovaks, Romanians, Slovenes, Poles, Croats, Serbs, Ruthenians (Ukrainians), and Italians. Only the German-speaking Hapsburg dynasty held the empire together. The Germans were only a quarter of the population, but they played a leading role in governing the Austrian Empire.
In March 1848, demonstrations began in the major cities of the empire. To calm the demonstrators, the Hapsburg court replaced the Austrian foreign minister Metternich, who then fled to England. In Vienna, revolutionary forces took control of the capital, and they demanded a liberal constitution. The government gave Hungary its own legislature. In Bohemia, the Czechs wanted their own government.

Austrian officials had tried to satisfy the revolutionaries, but they also wanted to reestablish their control over the empire. Austrian military forces crushed the Czech rebels in Prague in June 1848. The rebels in Vienna had been defeated by the end of October. The Hungarian revolutionaries were finally defeated in 1849 with the help of a Russian army of 140,000 men. The revolutions in the Austrian Empire had failed.

Revolts in the Italian States
The Congress of Vienna had set up nine states in Italy, which were divided among the European powers. These states included the Kingdom of Piedmont in the north; the Two Sicilies (Naples and Sicily); the Papal States; a handful of small states; and the northern provinces of Lombardy and Venetia, which were now part of the Austrian Empire.

In 1848, a revolt began against the Austrians in Lombardy and Venetia. Revolutionaries in other Italian states also took up arms. They tried to reestablish complete control over Lombardy and Venetia. The old order also remained in control in the rest of Italy.

The Failures of 1848
In 1848 popular revolts started changes throughout Europe. These changes led to the creation of liberal constitutions and liberal governments. But how could so many successes in 1848 soon be followed by so many failures? There are two main reasons for this.

The revolutionaries were united at first, and this unity made the revolutions possible. However, moderate liberals and more radical revolutionaries were soon divided over their goals, and as a result, conservative rule was reestablished.

In 1848 nationalities everywhere had also revolted to gain self-government. However, little was achieved because of the divisions among nationalities. For example, the Hungarians wanted their freedom from the Austrians. However, they refused to give freedom to minorities in their lands. Their minorities included the Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs. These groups fought each other instead of joining together to fight the old empire. As a result, the old order won. However, the forces of nationalism and liberalism continued to influence political events even after the reestablishment of conservative governments.

PROGRESS CHECK
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Why did the revolutions of 1848 fail?

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Answer Key


2. People wanted a government run by native powers and more natural rights.

3. Moderate and radical revolutionaries were divided over their goals, and nationalities fought one another.