Revolutions of 1848

France

- Causes
  o Dissatisfaction with current political and social situation
    ▪ Bourgeois Monarch Louis Philippe
      - Failure to act to address problems
    ▪ Nobility
      - Backed by conservatives
    ▪ Catholic Church
    ▪ Wanted complete abolition of serfdom
  o 1840 Economic crisis
    ▪ Poor harvest
    ▪ Business failures
    ▪ Food shortages
    ▪ Unemployment
    ▪ Slow railroad production
    ▪ 1 out of every 200,000 Frenchmen could vote
  o Secret societies
  o Split between Moderates and Radicals
    ▪ Liberals
      - Moderates
        o Less censorship
        o Extend suffrage
          - Not everyone though
        o Unification in Germany
        o Constitutional Monarchies
        o Middle Class
    ▪ Radicals
      o UMS
      o Social reforms for the poor
      o Independence in Austria-Hungary
      o Felt like they got nothing out of the Revolution of 1830
      o Republics
  ▪ Royalists/Conservatives
    ▪ Orleanists
      o Supported Louis Philippe
    ▪ Bourbons
      o Supported heirs of Charles X

- February Revolution
  o 1848
  o Liberal reform banquet scheduled
    ▪ Cancelled by Francois Guizot
    ▪ Liberals demonstrations
      - Demand Guizot’s resignation
      - Louis Philippe had forbade demonstrations
    ▪ Barricades in the streets
      - National Guard does not want to fire on demonstrators
    ▪ Fire broke out
      - 20 killed
Results
- Luis Philippe abdicates
  - Feb 24, 1848
  - Begins process of 2nd French Republic
  - Provisional government established first
- Provisional Government
  - Republic
    - 10 men
    - All political parties
      - Republicans
      - Legitimists
      - Orleanists
      - Socialists
        - Led by Louis Blanc
        - Controlled three seats
      - Supporters of Napoleon
  - Reforms
    - Planned UMS
    - Abolished slavery in colonies...again
    - Ministry of progress
      - Manufacturing collectives
      - Government involvement
      - Not very effective
    - National Workshops
      - Unemployment bureaus
      - Not “social workshops” that everyone wanted
    - 10 hour workday
    - Luxembourg Commission to monitor working conditions
    - Elections for a permanent assembly
  - Elections of 1848
    - 84% of men voted
      - For a republic
    - National Workshops cancelled due to lack of federal money
  - June Revolution
    - May lead up
      - Workers attack Constituent Assembly
      - Call for social reform
      - National Guard restored order
        - National Workshops abolished
        - Martial law declared
  - Bloody June Days
    - June 23-26, 1848
      - Parisians cut-off from state support
      - Class war
        - Workers versus Bourgeoisie
          - Barricades, Chaos, Panic
      - 1,500 killed
        - 12,000 arrested
        - Many exiled to Algeria
Results
- Revolt put down by General Louis Cavaignac  
  - “Butcher of June”
- Repressive measures
  - Censorship
  - Closed political clubs
  - Reduced suffrage
- Beginning of class struggle in France
  - New elections
    - Legislative Assembly replaced constituent Assembly
    - Louis Napoleon won
      - Nephew of Napoleon
      - President of 2nd French Republic

Prussia
- Prussia in 1848
  - Ruled by an Absolutist
    - Frederick William IV
      - Efficient
      - High rate of literacy
      - Zollverein
- Push for Liberalism
  - Spurred on by example of French Revolution (1848)
  - Frederick William made reforms
    - Ended censorship
    - Wrote constitution
      - Even spoke of constitution for all German states
  - Revolts anyway
    - Barricades, street fighting, shooting
    - Demands increase despite Frederick Williams call for peace and promises of reform
    - Frederick William puts down revolt
      - Sent troops to Berlin
      - Reneged all liberal promises
      - Dissolved assembly
      - Martial law
      - New Constitution
        - 1850-1918
        - Fairly progressive
          - Two house legislature
            - Lower house elected by UMS
            - Electoral college
          - Votes weighted according to taxes paid
  - Freed serfs on his own lands

Frankfurt Assembly
- May 1848-May 1849
  - Group of German liberals who wanted unity
    - Middle class
    - Opposed violence
  - Weak
• Not sanctioned by government
• **No real legal power**
  o Not supported by Junkers
  o Princes unwilling to give up power
  o “It stood for an ideal. Politically it represented nothing.”
• Did not reflect needs of working class
• No pre-existing structure
• No army or civil service
  ▪ Split between Big Germans and Little Germans
    • Big Germans wanted a big state that included Austria
    • Little Germans did not want Austria included
  ▪ Wrote “Basic rights of the German People”
  ▪ Offered crown to Frederick William
    • Rejected
      o Would have limited his power
      o Did not want war with Austria
    • “Would not pick the crown from the gutter”

  o **Failed**

**Austrian Empire**
- Geographically, Politically, and Ethnically complicated
  o Geographically
    ▪ Very populous
    ▪ Core made up of Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary
      • Also contained most of Northern Italy
        o Venetia
        o Lombardy
      • Most influential member of German Confederation
        o Still Hapsburg controlled
  o Ethnically
    ▪ Germans
      • Most numerous
        o But not a majority
      • Czechs
      • Magyars
        o Dominant in Hungary
      • Slavs
      • Many other smaller groups
  o Politically
    ▪ Austria is aging empire
      • Established to protect Europe from Turks
        o Turks power is fading
        o Rest of Europe did not see use for Austria anymore
      • Hapsburgs trying to hold it all together
    ▪ Conservatives
      • Hold positions of power
        o Trying to maintain status quo
      • Metternich
        o Leading statesman still
        o Power tied to the throne
- Liberals
  - Nationalists want independence for small ethnic states
    - Hungary and Bohemia

  - Hungary
    - Louis Kossuth
      - Liberal
      - Magyar – leader of Hungarian liberals
      - Gave nationalistic speech
        - Started March Days
        - March Laws
          - Separate Hungarian Parliament
          - Declared autonomy in domestic affairs
          - Separatism but still within empire
        - Sparked revolt throughout empire
          - Prague, Venice, Sardinia, Milan, Tuscany, Vienna
    - Successful at first
      - Empire collapsed
        - Chaos
      - Moved capital to Budapest
        - Kossuth named president of Hungary
        - Changed language to Magyar
      - Civil war within Hungary by non-Magyars
        - Revolt put down with help of Russian troops
          - Nicholas I
          - June 1848
          - Conservatives regain power
            - Kossuth flees to Ottoman Empire
              - Makes his way to exile in Britain with help of the United States
    - Hapsburg authority restored
      - Conservative
      - Liberal reforms
        - Fired Metternich
        - Set up National Guard
        - National Workshops
        - Granted a constitution
        -Extended suffrage
        - Relaxed censorship
        - Abolished seigniorial obligations
      - Later reneged on ALL promises
      - Dispersed Pan-Slav Congress
        - Met in Prague in June 1848
        - Wanted to unite all Slavs
      - Forced to abdicate in favor of nephew
        - Francis Joseph
        - Last Austrian Empire
          - Goal is to keep empire alive as long as possible