# **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
  - Secret societies
  - o Split between Moderates and Radicals
    - Liberals
      - Moderates
        - Less censorship
        - Extend suffrage
          - Not everyone though
        - Unification in Germany
        - Constitutional Monarchies
        - Middle Class
        - Radicals
          - o UMS
          - Social reforms for the poor
          - Independence in Austria-Hungary
          - Felt like they got nothing out of the Revolution of 1830
        - Republics
    - Royalists/Conservatives
      - Orleanists
        - Supported Louis Philippe
      - Bourbons
        - Supported heirs of Charles X

### February Revolution

- o **1848**
- 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





- o Results
  - Louis Philippe abdicates
    - Feb 24, 1848
  - Begins process of 2<sup>nd</sup> French Republic
    - Provisional government established first
- Provisional Government
  - o 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
  - o 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 2<sup>nd</sup> French Republic

#### Prussia

- Prussia in 1848
  - Ruled by an Absolutist

## Frederick William IV

- o Efficient
- High rate of literacy
- o 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
      - <u>New Constitution</u>
        - o **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
  - o May 1848-May 1849
    - Group of German liberals who wanted unity
      - Middle class
      - Opposed violence
    - Weak





- Not sanctioned by government
- No real legal power
  - Not supported by Junkers
  - 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
    - Would have limited his power
    - o Did not want war with Austria
  - "Would not pick the crown from the gutter"
- o <u>Failed</u>

# **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
      - Lombardy
    - Most influential member of German Confederation
      - Still Hapsburg controlled
- o Ethnically
  - Germans
    - Most numerous
      - But not a majority
    - Czechs
    - Magyars
      - Dominant in Hungary
    - Slavs
    - Many other smaller groups
- o Politically

- Austria is aging empire
  - Established to protect Europe from Turks
    - Turks power is fading
    - $\circ$   $\;$  Rest of Europe did not see use for Austria anymore  $\;$
  - Hapsburgs trying to hold it all together
- Conservatives
  - Hold positions of power
    - Trying to maintain status quo
  - Metternich
    - o Leading statesman still
    - $\circ$  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
        - o Separate Hungarian Parliament
        - o 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
      - o June 1848
      - Conservatives regain power
        - Kossuth flees to Ottoman Empire
          - Makes his way to exile in Britain with help of the United States
- o <u>Hapsburg authority restored</u>

# - Emperor Ferdinand

- o 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
- o Dispersed Pan-Slav Congress
  - Met in Prague in June 1848
  - Wanted to unite all Slavs
- o Forced to abdicate in favor of nephew
  - Francis Joseph
  - Last Austrian Empire
    - Goal is to keep empire alive as long as possible



