

Lecture Outline 1848 Revolutions

- Roots of Revolution
 - Repression by the Concert of Europe
 - The Hungry Forties and the Revolutions of 1848
 - The poor harvests of the early 1840s
 - Food prices doubled
 - Bread riots
 - Cyclical industrial slowdowns and unemployment
 - Rise of Nationalism
- The French Revolution of 1848
 - July Monarchy under Charles X seemed little different from that of Louis XVIII
 - Political crises
 - Republican disillusionment
 - Republican societies proliferate
 - Rebellions in Lyons and Paris
 - The banquet of February 22, 1848
 - The French government banned the meeting
 - The revolution began
 - Louis Philippe abdicates
 - Provisional government
 - A combination of liberals, republicans, and socialists
 - A new constitution based on universal male suffrage
 - Tensions between middle-class republicans and socialists
 - The National Workshops
 - A program of public works in and around Paris
 - Planned to support twelve thousand workers

- Unemployment reached 65 percent
- Workers streamed in to join the Workshop
 - Sixty-six thousand (April), one hundred twenty thousand (June)
- Popular politics
 - Provisional government lifted restrictions on freedom of speech and political activity
 - Women’s clubs and newspapers appeared
- The end of the National Workshops
 - French assembly decided the Workshops were a financial drain
 - May—closed the Workshops to future enrollment
 - June 21—the government ended the program
- The June Days (June 23–26): Parisian workers barricade the streets
- Repression
 - three thousand killed, twelve thousand arrested
- The government of Louis Napoléon Bonaparte (1808–1873)
 - Spent most of his life in exile
 - Used his position to consolidate his power
- What makes a nation? Germany in 1848
 - The German Confederation
 - Created at the Congress of Vienna
 - Loose organization of thirty-eight states, including Austria and Prussia
 - Intended to provide common defense but no executive power
 - Reforms
 - Imposed from above
 - The reconstitution of the army
 - Officer recruitment based on merit (still drawn from the elites)

- The abolition of serfdom and the estate system (1807)
- Expanded facilities for primary and secondary education
- University of Berlin founded
- Prussia
 - Tried to establish itself as the leading independent national power
 - *Zollverein* (1834)
 - Established as a customs union
 - Established free trade among German states
 - Uniform tariffs
 - By the 1840s, it included all German states except Austria
 - A potential market of 34 million people
 - Political clubs
 - Students and other radicals joined with middle-class reform groups
 - New demands for representative government
 - Attacked autocracy and bureaucratic authority
 - Frederick Wilhelm IV (1795–1861, r. 1840–1861)
 - Made gestures toward the liberal cause
 - His regime reverted to authoritarianism
 - Crushed revolt of Silesian weavers
 - Openly opposed constitutionalism
 - Shaken by violence, the Kaiser yields
- The Frankfurt Assembly and German nationhood
 - Most delegates represented the professional classes
 - Most were moderate liberals
 - Desired a constitution for a liberal, unified Germany

- Problems
 - No resources, no sovereign power, and no single legal code
- The nationalist question
 - The “Great German” position and “Small Germany”
 - The Assembly accepted the “Small Germany” solution
 - Left out all lands of the Habsburgs
 - In April 1849 offered the crown to Frederick Wilhelm IV, who refused it
 - Kaiser wanted the crown and larger state on his terms alone
 - The delegates left the Assembly disillusioned
 - Perhaps liberal and nationalist goals were incompatible
 - Many delegates fled to the United States
 - Popular revolution
 - Peasants ransacked tax offices and burned castles
 - Workers smashed machines
 - Formation of citizen militias
 - Newspapers and political clubs

Italy? Hungary? Habsburg Lands?

Three places that revolution did not break out in 1848: Great Britain, Russia and Spain. Why?