History 104

Europe from Napoleon to the PRESENT

When you hand in answers to the Reading Questions, they should:

- be word-processed (typed), not handwritten
- be stapled
- have your discussion time/day on the front page
- indicate if this is a required submission or extra credit

Remember: constructive discussion participation is an important part of your grade. Dominating a conversation is not constructive.

If you find it difficult to contribute because you do not understand your fellow students or discussion leader, you should ask questions!
Revolutions of 1848

Paulskirche (St. Paul’s Lutheran Church)
Frankfurt, Germany
Questions about the revolutions of 1848

**WHAT are they?**
(historians largely agree on this)

**WHO participated and why?**
(this is more complicated)

**WHY does 1848 matter to us?**
  * significance for questions about class
  * significance for nationalism

**HOW have historians interpreted 1848?**

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On your feet, Magyar, the homeland calls!
The time is here, now or never!
Shall we be slaves or free?
This is the question, choose your answer!
  “The National Song” (1848)

Mihály Zichy, Sándor Petőfi recites the National Song in Budapest, March 15, 1848 (1850s?).
1848, Springtime of the Peoples

Sites of barricade fighting and sustained popular protest, Jan.-March 1848

New sites of major uprisings and conflict, April 1848-December 1849
The French Revolutionary Tradition: 1789, 1830, 1848, 1871

Eugène Delacroix, Liberty Leading the People (1830)

French Republics
- First Republic: 1792-1804
- Second Republic: 1848-1851
- Third Republic: 1876-1940
- Fourth Republic: 1946-1958
- Fifth Republic: 1958-present

poster announcing the February Revolution ("the people of Paris’ struggle") and declaration of French Republic (the “Second Republic”), 1848

WHAT is 1848: part of establishing a “revolutionary tradition” in France...
How to have a Revolution: Flags, Slogans, Songs

Berlin (Prussia) in March 1848 (illustration undated)

Wallachians (today=southern Romania) protest Russian rule, 1848

WHAT is 1848: establishing a “revolutionary tradition” across Europe…
How to have a Revolution: Barricades

“Street Fighting in Frankfurt”
(anonymous lithograph), L’Illustration

Ziegler, Barricades on Michaeler Square
(Vienna, 1848)

WHAT is 1848: establishing a “revolutionary tradition” across Europe…
Journalist-Lawyers and Poets, Students and Artisans

Berlin: dead, wounded, jailed > 50% journeymen artisans
Vienna: medical and law students; literary-society members
Budapest: Hungarian nobles, poets

Daniele Manin, 1804-1857
lawyer in Venice
president of Venitian Republic, March-August 1848

Alphonse de Lamartine, 1790-1869
Romantic poet
Foreign Affairs Minister, France, 1848

A.A. Ledru-Rollin, 1807-1874
editor of *La Réforme*
Interior Minister, France, 1848

WHO participates in 1848?
France 1848: from the February Revolution to the June Days

Febr. King Louis Philippe’s government tries to prohibit reform banquet; reformers (Ledru-Rollin, Lamartine) lead street protests; military mainly sides with protesters and Louis Philippe flees to England

March Provisional Government organizes elections and sets up “workshops” in Paris to provide work for unemployed; funded by emergency tax on property (mainly agricultural)

April Elections produce monarchist majority, but are split between two different branches of the French royal family (Bourbon “legitimists” and Orléanists); Republic (French “Second Republic”) is declared

May Radicals, led by Blanqui and Barbès, demand social and economic (as well as political) equality; claim solidarity with Polish rebels; attempt to take over legislature—radicals arrested; legislature shuts radical clubs

June Workshops closed; unemployed and radicals protest; three days of street fighting leave over 5,000 dead; another 6,000 exiled to Algeria

Dec. Presidential elections won in a landslide by Louis Napoleon Bonaparte (nephew of Napoleon); three years later, he stages a military coup and becomes Napoleon III (French Second Empire)
June Days

Paris; June 22-26, 1848

“I am writing to you, my dear friend, to the sound of cannon and rifle fire after the most terrible day and cruelest night one can imagine. This is not a riot; it is the most dreadful of all civil wars, the war of class against class, of those who have nothing against those who have. I hope that we shall prove stronger; the national guard from surrounding areas are arriving in force, along with line regiments. Yet only God knows what the outcome of this great battle will be. … What is at stake here is not a political form but property, family, civilization—everything, that is, that attaches us to life.”

Tocqueville, June 24, 1848.

Significance of 1848: from February to June, from words to deeds
March 1848 “Pre-Parliament” of liberal German nationalists (journalists, lawyers, professors) meets in Frankfurt, calls for elections to a German National Constituent Assembly; marginalized radicals try to found republic in Grand Duchy of Baden (militarily repressed)

May 1848- March 1849 Frankfurt Parliament (also sometimes called the “German National Assembly” or the “Professors’ Parliament”) meets and writes a constitution for a united Germany (constitutional monarchy) that does not include Austria

May 1848 Liberal intellectual elites in Prague (Bohemia—part of Austrian Empire) split over whether they should send delegates to Frankfurt [Prague’s population at that point was approximately 50% German speaking]

April 1849 German constitution approved by 28 of the smaller states but rejected by Prussia; King Frederick William IV says he does not need “a crown from the gutter”

May-July 1849 popular uprisings in support of Frankfurt Parliament and its constitution repressed militarily (mainly by Prussian army)

Overview of main events in 1848 Revolution (German territories)
The Professors’ Parliament and a “crown from the gutter”

Heinrich von Gagern as member of the German “national assembly” (Frankfort Parliament), 1848-1849

meeting of the Frankfort Parliament in the Paulskirche, 1848-1849

Significance of 1848: failure of liberal-professional nation-state building in German context
1848 (March) liberals in Prague demand stronger parliamentary institutions and enfranchisement of middle classes

1848 (May) split among liberal Prague elites over Frankfurt Parliament; Palacky calls for “Slavic Congress” --Imperial government driven from Vienna by protests; Empire supports Serb, Slovak, and Romanian uprisings

1848 (June) Austrian imperial military fires on “Slavic” demonstrators; state of siege

1848- war between Austria and Hungary; April 1849 Hungary declares independence

May-Aug. 1849 Russian military intervention allows Austria to re-conquer Hungary;

Significance of 1848: nationalities used against each other
Lofty Ideals and Harsh Realities?

1848 comparable to 1968?

“1848 is the turning point where Germany failed to turn.” (A.J.P. Taylor)

June Days are the first instance of modern class warfare. (Marx)

How have historians interpreted 1848?