States and Empires after 1848

St. Peter’s Square, Vatican City [Rome]
(panoramic photo from dome of St. Peter’s)
There are in Europe two great questions; or, rather, the question of the transformation of authority—that is to say, of the Revolution—has assumed two forms; the question which all have agreed to call social, and the question of nationalities. ... I say, which all have agreed to call social, because, generally speaking, every great revolution is so far social, in that it cannot be accomplished either in the religious, political, or any other sphere without affecting social relations and the sources and the distribution of wealth.

Mazzini, “Europe, its Conditions and Prospects” (1852)
France 1848: from the February Revolution to the June Days

Febr.  King Louis Philippe’s government tries to ban reform banquet; military mainly sides with protesters and Louis Philippe flees

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  Republic (French “Second Republic”) is declared

June   Workshops closed; unemployed and radicals protest; “June Days” street fighting leave 5,000 protesters dead; another 6,000 exiled

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

Meissonier, The Barricades, souvenir of Civil War (1848)
Sites of barricade fighting and sustained popular protest, Jan.-March 1848

New sites of major uprisings and conflict, April 1848-December 1849
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Prague (Praha)
1844 textile workers protest high prices and increasing use of machines
1848 (March) liberal aristocrats demand stronger parliamentary institutions and enfranchisement of middle classes
1848 (May) split among liberal political elites over Frankfurt Parliament; Palacky calls for “Slavic Congress”
1848 (June) Austrian imperial military, commanded by Windischgraetz, fires on “Slavic” demonstrators; state of siege
1849 (May) student radicals (Czech and German speaking) plan uprising; state of siege re-imposed until 1853
Sites of barricade fighting and sustained popular protest, Jan.-March 1848

new sites of major uprisings and conflict, April 1848-December 1849

Hungary in 1848-1849
March 1848 mass popular protests in Budapest in support of Kossuth

April Austrian Empire recognizes Hungarian govt, calls for creation of Croatian National Assembly

May Imperial government driven from Vienna by protests; Empire supports Serb, Slovak, and Romanian uprisings

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

May-Aug. 1849 Russian military intervention allows Austria to re-conquer Hungary; Kossuth and government flee to England

Kossuth depicted as “the People’s Saint,” defending Liberty (New York, 1852)
1830-1848 French conquest of Algeria

1828-1864 Russian Empire extended into Caucasus (Chechnya and Dagestan)
1848-1849 in Rome

Pius IX (pope from 1846-1878) elected as a “liberal” and grudgingly grants constitution for Papal States in March 1848; refuses to support Italian nationalist uprisings in Milan or Venice

Nov. 1848—minister assassinated; crowds demand democratic government; Pius IX flees to Naples

Feb. 1849—Roman Republic declared, three-man executive headed by Mazzini; guaranteed freedom of religion, free press; nationalized lands held by Catholic Church

June 1849—French troops bombard Rome; Republic defended by Garibaldi’s “Italian Legions,” but eventually defeated and French “republican” troops restore Pius IX
Frankfurt Parliament, 1848-1849

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) without Austria

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)
Wars of Italian Unification

1858 secret treaty signed at Plombières, France agrees to support Piedmont-Sardinia in war against Austria

summer 1859 “Franco-Austrian War”; peace treaty makes Tuscany part of “United Provinces of Italy”; France gets Nice and Savoy

spring 1860 Expedition of Garibaldi’s Thousand Red Shirts from Piedmont to aid popular uprisings against Bourbon monarchy in Sicily

Sept. 1860 after victory in Sicily, Garibaldi plans march on Rome

Oct. 1860 Garibaldi (revolutionary, republican general) yields Sicily to Victor-Emmanuel II

March 1861 Victor Emmanuel proclaimed “King of Italy”

1866 Austro-Prussian War; Austria loses “German Civil War” and cedes Venetia to Italy

1870 Franco-Prussian War: French troops recalled from Rome and Italian army invades; plebiscite unites Papal States to Italy; Pope Pius IX describes himself as “prisoner”
Wars of German “Unification”

1861 William I becomes King of Prussia; liberal parliament refuses funding for military restructuring

1861-1862 popular peaceful demonstrations in support of parliament; King almost flees

Sept. 1862 Chancellor Bismarck “The great questions of the time will be decided not by speeches and majority decisions but by iron and blood”

1863-1864 Schleswig-Holstein controversy

1866 Austro-Prussian War (also known as the German Civil War) ends with Prussian victory, creation of North German Confederation (all adult males allowed to elect representatives in lower house of legislature)

1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War; Second German Empire declared at Versailles; Germany annexes Alsace and Lorraine