6 February 2008

Revolutions of 1848

Paulskirche (St. Paul’s Lutheran Church)
Frankfurt, Germany
1848, Springtime of the Peoples

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

- Paris
- Palermo
- Naples
- Milan
- Venice
- Munich
- Buda Pest
- Cracow
- Berlin
- Warsaw
- Bucharest
- Limoges
- Marseille
- Prague
- Warsaw
- Cracow
- Buda Pest
- Bucharest

New sites of major uprisings and conflict, April 1848-December 1849
Barricades and Revolution

Ziegler, *Barricades on Michaeler Square* (Vienna, 1848)

Street Fighting in Frankfurt (anonymous lithograph, *L’Illustration*)
June Days in Paris

Meissonier, *The Barricades*, souvenir of Civil War (1848)
Agricultural Crisis and Famine in Europe: the “Hungry Forties”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population of Ireland in 1840</th>
<th>10,500,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>1845-1846 potato crop destroyed by fungus</td>
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<tr>
<td>deaths from hunger</td>
<td>750,000-1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>emigration (to USA and England)</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Population of Ireland in 1851</td>
<td>7,500,000</td>
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In situations of real famine, people die, or emigrate; they don’t, usually, stage a revolution. There was NO 1848 Revolution in Ireland. But the agricultural crisis provoked a general economic downturn across Europe, with high food prices and growing unemployment.

“The Irish Widow Prays for her Dying Child”
*Illustrated London News, 1850*
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<td>Febr.</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Provisional Government organizes elections and sets up “workshops” in Paris to provide work for unemployed; funded by emergency tax on property (mainly agricultural)</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>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</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Workshops closed; unemployed and radicals protest; three days of street fighting leave over 5,000 dead; another 6,000 exiled to Algeria</td>
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<td>Dec.</td>
<td>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)</td>
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</table>
March  street protests in Berlin, Vienna, etc. demand “liberal” reforms (free press, written constitution, end of guilds and serfdom); Prussian King Frederick William promises reform; Austrian chancellor Metternich flees to London.

May  German Constituent National Assembly (“Frankfurt Parliament”) begins meeting; republican delegates were purged at an earlier “Pre-parliament”

Meanwhile in Austrian Empire, protests over whether Austria should be represented at Frankfurt Parliament; street fighting in Prague;

June  Prague Slavic Congress, led by historian Palacky, meets in Prague; public marches, meetings, etc., clash with local “Germans”; city bombarded by “Austrian” commander Windischgraetz.

Oct.  Students in Vienna march in support of Hungarian nationalists led by Kossuth; march bloodily suppressed by Windischgraetz.
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, but eventually defeated and French “republican” troops restore Pius IX