

Revolution Spreads, Conservatives Respond

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



- By 1789 when King Louis XVI called upon the Estates General Saint Domingue (Haiti) was one of the richest colonies in the Americas (it was responsible for nearly 1/3 of French foreign trade).
- As the French Revolution boiled over in Europe colonial authority weakened. The wealthy white planters and the free mixed race “gens de couleur” struggled to fill the power vacuum.



- However, Haiti's wealth depended upon its large slave class. Conflict between the colony's higher classes allowed slaves to rise up and destroy plantations, as well as kill their masters and overseers.



- Throughout the 1790s the slaves were led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, (a former slave himself) who was able to fight off French masters, a British expeditionary force, and also carry out an invasion into Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) to free the slaves on the other side of the island (Hispaniola).



- Although the National Convention abolished slavery in all French possessions in 1794, when the chaos of the French Revolution subsided and Napoleon took over - the French government attempted to reestablish slavery and its authority in Haiti.
- Despite the capture of Toussaint (who was imprisoned in France where he would later die) the resistance continued.
- A combination of resistance fighters, yellow fever, and small numbers of armed women fought off the French forces.

- In 1804, the Haitian revolutionaries declared independence. However, the economy was destroyed, tens of thousands laid dead, and political corruption ran rampant.



The 18th century revolutions: Similarities & Differences:

- Both France & U.S. had written declarations (Declaration of Independence & Declaration of the Rights of Man). Haiti none.
- In the U.S. & in Haiti it was a war between colonies and the motherland; in France revolution was within France.
- Taxation and representation were issues in France & the U.S., not so in Haiti.
- All were influenced by the Enlightenment.

- No dramatic spectacle of murder in U.S., but violence of beheadings in France and slave masters being killed in Haiti did take place.
- The Haitian Revolution had a racial element to it, not so in U.S. or France.
- Women played roles in all 3 (U.S.- organized boycotts; France- broke into Versailles; Haiti- armed resistance fighters).
- All were successful short term, however the U.S. was also a long term success because it established an effective government.

The Conservative Response

- Europe was rocked by the French Revolution and Napoleon's conquests. European monarchs did not want such disorder to rise again.
- Therefore, from 1814 – 1815 representatives from Britain, Russia, France, Austria, & Prussia met at the Congress of Vienna to reestablish a system of order in Europe.



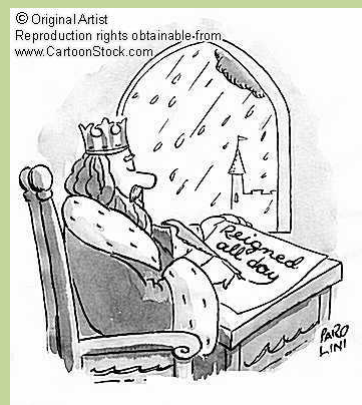
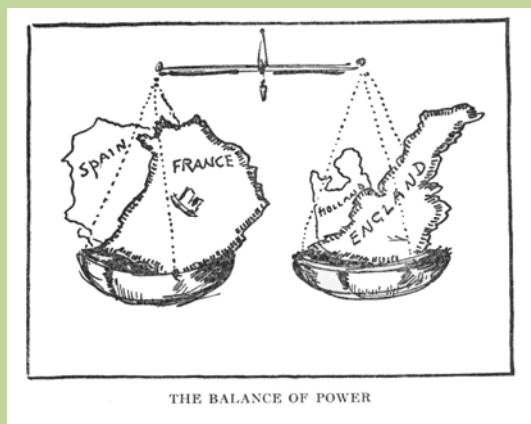
- The most influential foreign minister in attendance was Klemens von Metternich of Austria.
- He distrusted the democratic ideals of the Enlightenment and thought war and revolution were the natural outcome of experimenting with democracy.



- Metternich's ideas, which ultimately became the goals of the Congress of Vienna were to . . .
 - Prevent French aggression by surrounding it with strong countries. The Netherlands & Switzerland were formed, and German states were loosely joined together.



- Restore a balance of power, so no country could threaten others. (France wasn't broken up because then it would be too weak and taken over piece by piece).



- Restore Europe's royal families to their thrones out of stability.
- The meetings were considered a success, for the first time an entire continent had cooperated to control political affairs. (War would not occur amongst the 5 great powers for another 40 years).

Nationalism & Revolutions

- The Congress of Vienna was able to prevent major disorder, but the ideals of the Enlightenment continued to fester.
- Nationalism: the belief that a people's greatest loyalty should not be to a king or an empire, but to a nation of people who share a common culture and history.

- Often a country's boundaries do not encompass one nation alone, and thus some may wish to revolt and break free.
- Other times more than one country share similar histories, cultures, languages, etc. and wish to join together.



- By 1750, the Ottoman Empire was in decline. Greece had been under Ottoman control for hundreds of years, but by the early 1800s it was exerting nationalist pride (The Greeks did not see themselves as Ottomans, they had a different culture than that of the Turks).
- As a result in 1830 (with the help of some other nations) they broke free and became independent.



- In 1830, Belgium broke free from Dutch control.



- In 1848 a wave of smaller revolutions swept through Europe.
 - People in Hungary, Italy, and Bohemia attempted to acquire greater national self-determination.
 - The German middle class sought to unify Germany.
 - In France members of the middle class and workers united to overthrow the French king and create the “Second French Republic.” (Adult men were given voting rights, slavery was abolished). Ultimately Napoleon III (nephew of Napoleon) overturned the Constitution and became emperor.
 - The urban working classes of Europe began to challenge the wealthier land owners. (The Communist Manifesto is also published in 1848).



- Despite the revolutionary objectives of 1848, conservative forces were able to overwhelm these new nationalist and republican attempts.
- The exceptions were in U.S. & Britain where small changes were made thus preventing a revolution. (In the U.S. suffrage was extended to free males; in Britain the power of the House of Commons increased).