**Chapter 12 Review –Some important concepts and events that I want you to have concrete knowledge on.**

1. **Compare and contrast political liberalism with political conservatism in the first half of the nineteenth century in Europe.**

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| Liberalism | Conservatism |
| Representative government (with greater suffrage over time)  Equality before the law  Individual freedoms  Laissez Faire  Nationalist aspirations  Best example is Britain – Reform Bill of 1832 | Rule by monarchy and strong nobility  Legally separate classes  Government bureaucracy  Respectful commoners  Against Nationalism  Best example is Austria (Metternich) |

During the 19th century, effects of Nationalism and Liberalism led to demand in reforming the existing laws. Reforms in voting rights, to fair taxation and sharing of power are few to name. The increasing educated middleclass (bourgeoisie) all across Europe were demanding a fair share in the government. One example location in Europe that was unique was Britain. They did not have a revolution but change happened. As a student, you should be able to analyze why Britain was able to bring about change without a revolt.

Britain’s Reform of 1832 or Great Reform Bill of 1832

The Reform Act of 1832 is also called the Reform Bill of 1832. Another name for it is the Great Reform Act because it was the first of several reforms concerning the same topic.

**What Was the Reform Act of 1832 all about?**

The right to vote and the fair number of representatives in the House of Commons in the British Parliament.

**What Was the Background of the Reform Act of 1832?**

Back in the days, not many people had the right to vote. By the 18th century, many people thought this was completely outdated, that all men should be given the right to vote, and that it was time for parliamentary reforms.

Another point was that industrial developments brought about a change of the distribution of the population. Before, people lived all over the places, more or less evenly spread. Now, the cities grew like mad.

But the laws didn't grow with the cities. So it happened that some large cities like Leeds, Birmingham, or Manchester didn't have a single representative. Whereas other deserted places, also called rotten boroughs, had representatives but almost zero population. Such was the case with Dunwich in Suffolk, who had two representatives and a population of 32.

Governmental officials dragged their feet but had to take the French Revolution as an example of what could happen to a stubborn administration. The Reform Act became official law on June 4, 1832.

**Who Governed Britain at the Time?**

Lord Charles Grey, aka Earl Grey, the leader of the Whig party, was Britain's prime minister from 1830 to 1834. He was the main man behind the Reform Act of 1832.

William IV was king of Great Britain and Ireland from 1830 to 1837. He was against parliamentary reform because it meant more power for the people and less power for the crown.

1. **Comparing Western Europe and Eastern Europe**

In the post-Napoleonic period, Europe went through decades of conflict between the forces of conservatism, or reaction, and those who sought political, economic, and social change. There were several social and economic differences between Russia and the West that account for the differing degrees of political liberalization that had been achieved by each.

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| West Europe | East Europe |
| **Economic reasons for the West’s greater political liberalization:**  • Earlier Agricultural Revolution decreased the number of people needed in agrarian production.  • Industrialization and urbanization: populations shifted from countryside to cities with greater  concentrations of people.  • Economic power shifted from the landed aristocracy to the new capitalists (or middle classes).  This new group demanded political power reflective of its economic power.  • Increased prosperity enhanced educational possibilities.  • Less restrictive trade practices increased the wealth of western European nations and their  industrialists. | **Economic reasons for Russia’s limited political liberalization:**  **•** Lack of industrialization; genuine industrialization was delayed until the very late portion of the period in question.  • The economy was more feudal than capitalistic.  • As Russia began to industrialize late in the nineteenth century, much of the capital was provided either by the state or foreigners (French, British, and German).  • Russia was an exporter of grain but lacked the resources to purchase capital goods from the West; thus there was limited commercial interaction between the regions.  • Poverty and famine were prevalent at various times during the nineteenth century. |
| **Social reasons for the West’s greater political liberalization:**  • Creation of capitalist class (or middle class) and an urban working class, disgruntled and easily  organized.  • Increased literacy and rapid spread of liberal ideas among groups; daily newspapers proliferated in  Western cities in the second half of the nineteenth century.  • Creation of unions and labor parties with greater demands for liberal programs.  • Greater social fluidity or mobility as opportunity increased. | **Social reasons for Russia’s limited political liberalization:**  With very limited industrialization, no real middle class developed that would agitate for greater  voice in policy.  • There was no large urban working class that might organize and rally to demand rights and  protections.  • Oppressive serfdom continued to exist during the first portion of the period in question; their  “liberation” brought little real change in their condition as they remained a poor peasant class with limited opportunity.  • The great mass of Russian people remained illiterate; educational opportunities of the West were mostly unavailable.  • The Russian Intelligentsia was a small class with little identity beyond an interest in ideas; they  subscribed to a wide range of ideologies from liberalism to socialism, anarchism, and nihilism**.** |
| **Historical developments that helped West to advance:**  July revolution of 1830 in France: liberals, supported by bankers, industrialists, and the urban  middle class replaced the reactionary Charles X with the “Bourgeois King,” Louis Philippe;  revolutionary workers were instrumental in the revolt. This influenced revolutions in Belgium  (successful) and Poland (unsuccessful).  • Reform Bills in England (1832, 1867, 1884) all of which expanded the franchise and contributed to  political liberalization; students may emphasize the role of Parliament.  • Poor Laws of 1834, and the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846, represented the supremacy of the  English bourgeoisie, an expression of political liberalization.  • | **Historical developments that led to Russia’s limitations in political liberalization:**  **•** Russia’s role in Congress Europe (1820’s) as Alexander I shifted from liberal to reactionary under  Metternich’s tutelage.  • The Decembrist revolt of 1825 and the ultrareactionary Nicholas I. |

Answer the following questions.

What is nationalism? How was language important in Nationalism? What was nationhood? What areas saw significant nationalist movements?

2-What were liberalisms’ political goals? What were liberalisms’ economic goals? What is the relationship between nationalism and liberalism?

3-How did conservatism unite the monarchy, aristocracy, and church? What problems did conservatives face after the Napoleonic wars? Why was nationalism and liberalism dangerous to Austria? How did von Metternich resist nationalist and liberalist reforms?

4-How did Liverpool’s ministry in Great Britain and the restored Bourbon monarchy in France mark a high tide of conservative influence?

5-Why was Nicholas I a symbol of the most extreme form of 19th century autocracy? How did Nicholas I suppress nationalist and liberalist reforms in Russia and abroad?

6-How were Charles X policies reactionary? Why did revolution breakout in France in 1830? Who took control of the power vacuum that Charles X’s abdication and the Paris uprising had created? Why? How was the July Monarchy more liberal politically than socially?

7-Why did conservatism in Britain compromise with liberalism? What was the purpose of the Great Reform Bill? What did it achieve? Would you call it a “revolutionary” document?