

EUROPE IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

France under Napoleon III

TASK 1: What were the major events in French history between the years 1789 and 1848? (think of a revolution, a republic and an empire)

In 1848 **Louis Napoleon Bonaparte** became **President** of the **Second Republic**.

In **1851** his presidential office was established for **ten years**.

In **1852** he proclaimed himself emperor of the **Second Empire** and he became **Napoleon III**.

TASK 2: How was Napoleon III related to Napoleon I?

Napoleon III regarded himself as a **reformer**

- he promised better life and peace
- he supported **economic growth**
- he limited unemployment by promoting **public work**
- **Paris was rebuilt** – it became a centre of culture, new buildings were built, bank of the Seine, new boulevards (e.g. Champs Elysées)
- he promoted **industrial revolution** in France – it caused economical growth at first but factories did not develop quickly enough and it caused delay in economy, so France was overtaken by Germany, Britain and USA

Despite his efforts, there were many **social tensions and uprisings** in France and workers and socialists formed **radical organizations**.



TASK 3: What was the importance of colonies to European countries?

For these reasons, Napoleon III was interested in **colonial policy and expansion**.

- France got colonies in the **French Indochina** (Vietnam), **Algeria and Morocco**.
- France also **invested in the construction of the Suez Canal**, which was opened in 1864.

TASK 4: In 1852 Napoleon III proclaimed “*Empire means peace.*” What did he mean by this phrase?

Despite what he said about peace, France got involved in **the Second Opium War** (1856-1860) together with Great Britain against China. Opium Wars were Anglo-Chinese Wars caused by a dispute over the opium trade in China. They ended in Chinese defeat and the Treaty of Nanjing. Great Britain got Hong Kong.

France also fought in **the Crimean War (1853-1856)** against Russia with Britain and Turkey as allies. (see further notes on Russia)

Napoleon III helped Camillo Cavour and the Italian nationalists during their fight for independence on Austria. He presented himself as a liberator of Italy. France also protected the Pope with their troops in Rome until the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War.

Napoleon III's **Mexican adventure** (1863-1867)

- Napoleon III declared an empire in Mexico because the Mexican government did not pay its debts. He invited the Habsburg Archduke **Maximilian** to become the Emperor of Mexico.
- Because of a rebellion which was supported by USA Napoleon III had to withdraw his troops and asked Maximilian to leave too. He refused and faced the rebellion on his own but ended up being executed in Mexico at the age of 34.
- Napoleon III was blamed for Maximilian's fate.



Maximilian's execution, by Edouard Manet

The Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

- Napoleon III wanted to weaken Prussia and, on the other hand, German chancellor Otto von Bismarck wanted a war to help unite Germany
- Bismarck provoked the war by changing **the Ems Telegram** regarding the possibility of the Hohenzollerns ascending to the Spanish throne, making it look real. Napoleon III was angry and declared war.
- France remained alone in this war.

TASK 5: Why did Austria not want to support France in this war?



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- The two most important battles of the war were the **battle of Sedan** and **battle of Metz** which were both lost by France. Napoleon was even captured and Paris was under siege.
- During this war a revolution broke out in Paris and the Second Empire was ended.
- Armistice was signed in January 1871 in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles and the German Empire was established there. The French never forgot such an insult.

The Franco-Prussian War caused a lot of suffering in France, especially in Paris. In **September 1870** there was a **revolution. Napoleon III was deposed** and had to leave for exile. On 9 September the **Third Republic** was declared. However, the new provisional government continued the war against Prussia.

The people were still dissatisfied and a **civil war** started in **March 1871**. On 28 March **the Paris Commune** was declared. It was governed by many different groups of people (socialists, anarchists, democrats etc.). They issued democratic reforms (e.g. free education, elected officials, reforms for workers, free healthcare) but many were never realized. There were also communes in Lyon, Marseille etc.

The Third Republic government attacked the commune in Paris and after a week of bloody fighting the **Commune was defeated** on 28 May. Brutal oppression, mass executions, imprisonments and deportations to the colonies followed. **The Third Republic continued.**

When the government of the Third Republic continued fighting to keep its authority, it negotiated help from Germany. On 10 May **1871 the Treaty of Frankfurt** ended the Franco-Prussian War officially.

At the **end of the 1870s** France was **stable** but remained rather **leftist**.

1884 – the Dreyfus Affair – a Jewish army officer Dreyfus was unjustly accused of spying for Germany and convicted. People protested and it took a long time before the trial was renewed in 1906 and he was rehabilitated. This showed that there was considerable **anti-Semitic** atmosphere in France.

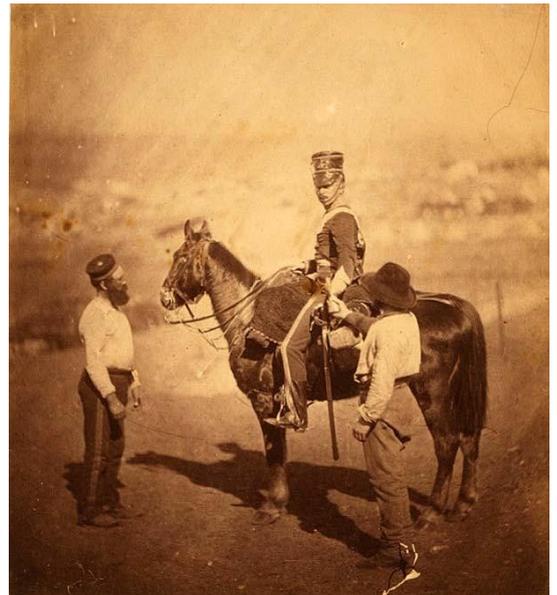
Russia

TASK 6: What happened in Russia in 1825?

These events made **Nicolas I** very sceptical and killed any initial hope of introducing some liberal reforms. As a result of that, by the half of the 19th century Russia was **a reactionary and backward absolutistic state**.

The Crimean War (1853-1856)

- the cause of the war – **Russia** attacked **the Ottoman Empire** to protect the existence of the Orthodox Church there. Britain and France did not want Russia to win the influence in the area (especially Bosphorus and Dardanelles) so they joined the war on the Turkish side.
- Russia asked its ally Austria for help but Austria refused. This was seen as a betrayal and brought the Holy Alliance to a definite end.
- Russia stood alone and **lost the war**.
- the Crimean was also unique for three new things:
 - Medical treatment of the wounded men was terrible – many amputations were performed and more men died of disease caused by the conditions in hospitals than were killed in battle. **Florence Nightingale** led a group of female nurses who joined the British troops at the front. The true nature of germs had not been discovered yet but she collected statistics on the **relation between poor sanitation and the dying men**. After she returned she talked to Queen Victoria and was given a chance to **improve the conditions in hospitals**.
 - The war was also the first one recorded by **photography**.
 - Thanks to Florence Nightingale's work and the photographs the public soon saw the need to do something about the soldiers in the wars. So, in the 1870s the **Red Cross** was founded in Geneva. The aim was to guarantee assistance for the wounded and sick. Later, this was also applied to prisoners-of-war and civilians. (The Geneva Convention has saved millions of lives since then.)



Alexander II (1855-1881)

- he inherited the country from his father, Nicolas I. who was an autocrat
- when his father died the country was involved in the Crimean War and there was danger of riots
- in 1856 Alexander II backed out of the Crimean War and admitted defeat
- his policy and actions were to save the absolutistic system but he slowly managed to put some liberating reforms into action, so he was nicknamed **Tsar Liberator**
- he supported the development of economy, e.g. industry and railway



The Emancipation Edict - 1861

- abolished serfdom
- however, the country was not ready for this and the serfs now had to learn how to take care of themselves but they did not have any land
- the edict made Alexander more popular

Just **after 1861** and between the years **1861 and 1864** the situation improved and control could be relaxed – it was **a thaw**

In spite of the reforms and good intentions, **social tensions and unrest** rose anyway

So **after 1865** there came a **backlash** because of many threats to the Tsar and the regime and the Tsar returned to censorship, arrests and the secret police

The people had different opinions on the future of Russia

- **westerners** – wanted to bring Russia closer to culture of western Europe
- **slavophiles** – thought that Russia should keep to its culture and traditions and avoid western European influence

Revolutionary opposition was something the Tsars of the 19th century had to deal with

- the most dangerous opposition were the **extremists** who wanted to reach their goals even by violence and assassinations
- one of the strongest groups was **Narodnaya volya** (a terrorist organization which finally succeeded in assassinating Alexander II)
- one of the most influential revolutionaries was **Mikhail Bakunin** (who was also in touch with the Czech revolutionaries in 1849)

In the second half of the 19th century a new social and political philosophy came to Russia – **Marxism**

- it was based on the ideas of **Karl Marx** who wrote them down in the **Communist Manifesto**, on which he collaborated with **Frederick Engels**

TASK 7: From your school studies, do you know the basic points of Marxist theory?

TASK 8: What was the “proletariat?”

- soon Marxism was adopted by Russian intellectuals and adapted to fit the Russian conditions
- **Vladimir Illych Lenin** adapted Marx’s ideas and produced a hybrid doctrine **Marxism-Leninism**
- **Iskra** was a Russian Marxist journal

The Unification of Germany

TASK 9: What arrangement concerning German states was made at the Congress of Vienna in 1815?

Factors working for the unification of Germany

- Zollverein
- German Romanticism (Goethe, Schiller, universities)
- cultural integration (German language) and historical commemorations (battle of Leipzig, Luther)
- railway and industrial bonds
- liberalism

Factors working against the unification of Germany

- Metternich and Austria
- Prussia was not interested
- *Kleinstaaterei* (many small and separate states)
- the fear that the new confederation would be weak

TASK 10: What happened in Germany during the revolutionary year 1848? Why did unification efforts fail in that year?

TASK 11: What were the two major concepts of unification based on?

a) **Grossdeutschland** -

b) **Kleindeutschland** -

1850 – Conventions of Olomouc „Olomoucké ponížení“ – Frederick William IV agreed to Austrian demands to restore the German Confederation

Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898)



- 1862 – he was appointed **Prime Minister of Prussia** to King William (1861-1888)
- he began by crushing liberal demands
- *“The great questions of the day will not be decided by speeches and resolutions of majorities...but by blood and iron”*

TASK 12: What did Bismarck mean by his “blood and iron policy?”

- against liberals, supported conservatives (Junkers)
- the army budget was increased

North German Confederation was founded by Prussia (without Austria) in 1866

Unification of Germany was aided by three wars:

- **1864 - War against Denmark over Schleswig-Holstein**
 - cooperation with Austria
 - Denmark lost, Prussia got Schleswig, Austria got Holstein
 - Prussia appeared as a leading power in German lands
- **1866 – War against Austria**
 - **battle at Sadová** (= Hradec Králové, Königgratz) on **3 July, 1866** - Austria lost
 - Austria lost chance to unite Germany
 - Prussian hegemony became apparent
 - Saxony joined the North German Confederation
- **1870 – war against France**
 - provoked by the Ems telegram
 - France defeated
 - and after the armistice was signed – on **18 January, 1871** – **the Unification of Germany was signed in Hall of Mirrors at Versailles** (see notes on France)
German Empire was declared and King William was crowned **Emperor William I**
 - the war was ended by the Treaty of Frankfurt – Germany got Alsace-Lorraine and France had to pay



After his great success Bismarck became the **chancellor** of the new German Empire

Bismarck's policies at home:

- he strengthened the economy
- he supported industrialisation and urbanisation
- **Kulturkampf** - to minimize the influence of the Catholic Church
- strongly against social democrats and working class movement
- **carrot and stick policy**
 - he outlawed the Social Democratic Party and cancelled their political clubs
 - but he also introduced many social laws and social security (health insurance, social benefits)
- he started a **strict course in foreign and imperial politics**
- he is believed to have said: „*Germans are afraid of God but no one else in the world.*“

The Unification of Italy

TASK 13: What was the political division of Italy in the first half of the nineteenth century like?

The Italian nationalist movement was called the **Risorgimento**.

It was usually supported by secret nationalist societies, e.g. **the carbonari**.

There were first attempts to have a **constitution** in 1820 but they failed.

TASK 14: What happened in Italy during the revolutionary years 1848 and 1849? Why did unification efforts fail in that year?

The different ideas on how to achieve unification

- The most widespread idea was to unite Italy in a **republic**. This idea was promoted by **Giuseppe** _____ and **Giuseppe** _____.
- Others looked to the only truly independent Italian state – **Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia** and its Savoy King Victor Emmanuel II.
- There were also people hoping for other methods of unification, e.g. a federal Italy under the leadership of a reformed papacy. However, **Pope** Pius IX himself had to be helped by France to restore his power in the Papal States in 1849. French troops were left in Rome to protect the Pope. (Even though Napoleon himself was almost killed in an assassination attempt by a Carbonari Felice Orsini in 1848.)

TASK 15: Why would Napoleon III support the Pope and the Italian unification attempts?

In 1852 **Camillo Cavour** was appointed **Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia**. Piedmont-Sardinia was not a democracy but it had a **constitution** since 1848. Since 1849 its king had been **Victor Emmanuel II**.

In 1855 **Piedmont-Sardinia** sent forces to aid the French and the British in the **Crimean War** and so they joined the victorious side at the peace-making.

In 1858 **Napoleon III and Camillo Cavour** signed a **secret pact** at Plombières.

- Among other points, France promised to provide an army to help Piedmont-Sardinia to free Lombardy and Venetia from the Austrian occupation, some lands would be added to Piedmont-Sardinia and France would receive Savoy and Nice.

In **1859 Austria invaded Piedmont** and after the bloody **battle of Solferino** – **France and Piedmont-Sardinia won**.

- Napoleon decided to pull France out of the conflict so he agreed to the peace conditions:
 - **Piedmont-Sardinia** was given **Lombardy and Milan**
 - Austria could keep Venetia

In 1860 after a wave of nationalist revolutions and plebiscites in central Italy, the **duchies of Parma, Modena and Tuscany joined Piedmont-Sardinia**.

After a peasant uprising in Sicily defeated by King of the Two Sicilies, **Garibaldi** and his army of “**red-shirted thousand**” **sailed for Sicily** and **defeated the Sicilian King** who had to flee. For some time Garibaldi ruled as a dictator but then he passed the power into the hands of the **Sardinian King**.

Plebiscites in **Naples and the Papal States** also showed that the people wanted to **unite with Piedmont-Sardinia**.

In **1861 the Kingdom of Italy was declared** in Turin with **Victor Emmanuel** as the king. Rome and Venetia were not included yet.

In 1866, after the unsuccessful **war against Prussia**, **Austria** had to give **Venetia to Italy** because Italy was a Prussian ally.

In 1870 the French troops protecting the Pope were withdrawn and **Italy** used the opportunity to **invade Rome**. The **Pope fled to the Vatican**.

In **1871 Rome became the official capital of Italy**.

TASK 16: Take a colour pencil and mark the states which were part of the united Italy in its different stages of unification:



The Kingdom of Sardinia in 1815



Territories acquired 1859-1869



Territories acquired 1870-1871

The Balkans

In the Balkans there were only a few independent countries but most nations lived under Turkish control. There were a lot of nationalist movements, e.g. Greek, Bulgarian and Serbian. Which of these three nations was the first to achieve independence?

TASK 17: Why was Turkey nicknamed *The Sick Man on the Bosphorus*?

“**The Eastern question**” – meant the need of the European countries to decide what to do with the area, as they saw that the Ottoman Empire was weakened. The countries especially interested in the area were Russia and Austria. And they expected help from Great Britain and France.

TASK 18: Why did Russia feel entitled to organize the politics in the Balkans and what was it that they wanted from Turkey so much?

After **the Crimean War** the Ottoman Empire was weakened even more and it caused another wave of nationalism and struggle for independence in the Balkans in the second half of the 19th century:

- In 1859 **Moldavia and Walachia** formed a personal union and then in 1861 this new state was recognized as **Rumania**. After a plot in 1866 a new king was introduced – Carol I of the Hohenzollern dynasty. However, it was still under the Ottoman control.
- In the 1870s there was also an unsuccessful national liberation movement in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**.
- **Bulgarian liberation movement** was organized by exiles from abroad and it often lacked unity. In 1876 there was also a strong uprising, although unsuccessful.
- **Serbia** was ruled by the Obrenović family, under the Ottoman protectorate. Milan Obrenović led an unsuccessful war against the Ottomans in 1876.

In the **Russo-Turkish War (1876-1877) the Ottoman Empire was defeated**. The war was ended by the **Treaty of San Stefano in 1878**:

- Russia proposed that “Big Bulgaria” be formed, consisting of many smaller states and having access to the Aegean Sea, under Russian protection
- Turkey had to leave its position in the Balkans
- Serbia and Montenegro were granted independence

However, the realization of the San Stefano Treaty would weaken Turkey even more and Russia would grow even stronger.

TASK 19: Which countries would not like Russia to gain so much power in the area?



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To solve the potential loss of balance in the area, Otto von Bismarck invited the countries involved to a conference – **the Congress of Berlin in 1878.**

- The goal was to **balance the situation** again.
- As a result of the congress, Russia did not succeed in its plan to create its Big Bulgaria and it did not gain so much power in the Balkans.
- Three **independent** states were created – **Serbia, Rumania and Montenegro** (Bulgaria had some autonomy but it had to wait until 1908 for its full independence, Greece was already fully independent).
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina** were placed under Austrian rule.

After the congress, rather weak states were left in the Balkans. These states were economically underdeveloped and gradually they were becoming dependent on the European powers, which cultivated their influence in the area.



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REVISION:

TASK 20:

What were Napoleon III's successes and failures?

TASK 21:

What made the Crimean War significant in history?

TASK 22:

What were the most serious problems 19th century Russia had?

TASK 23:

What new ideas appeared in Russia in the second half of the 19th century?

TASK 24:

Which factors helped the unification of Germany?

TASK 25:

Which factors helped the unification of Italy?