

Europe - Part 2: Life After Napoleon

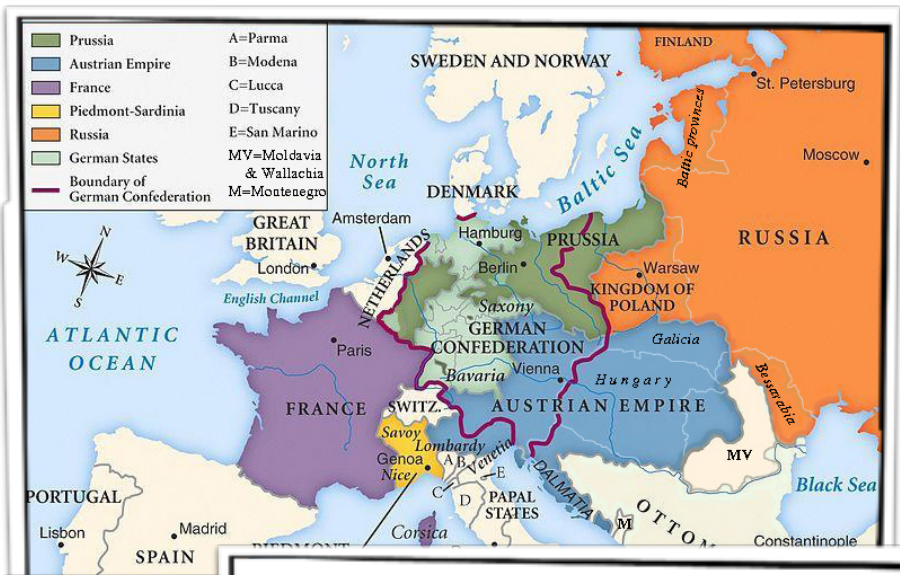
The Rise of Nationalism... As the Industrial and Romantic Revolutions were sweeping Europe, the continent was attempting to piece itself back together after Napoleon's conquest. His twenty year military campaign across Europe, along with his implementation of the Napoleonic code had erased the political and social boundaries of Europe's multi-cultural kingdoms. These countries were financially strapped due to the expenses of being at war for twenty years and struggled to keep their colonies. There was no clear path forward.

In 1815, European leaders met in Austria for the Congress of Vienna. At Vienna, they redrew the boundaries of Europe and attempted to reestablish/strengthen the remaining monarchies that had not been killed. The leaders largely ignored the nationalist demands of the serfs and the minority ethnic groups who were fed up with being ruled over. Instead, the leaders focused on creating a "balance of power" across Europe. To keep a balance of power, European leaders did not harshly punish France, even though they were guilty of having tried to conquer Europe. European leaders believed that a strong France was important for peace on the continent.

Another change made by the Congress of Vienna was the creation of the German Confederation. The German city-states had been kept separate for centuries, as people believed that if the Germans ever united, no one in the world could stop them. However, the strength of France and Great Britain made leaders believe that the German peoples needed to work together to help keep the balance of power.

In 1870, a wave of Nationalism swept across Europe. The Italian city-states joined together to become Italy - being united for the first time since the Roman Empire. Otto Von Bismarck led a campaign to unify all of Germans to create Germany. The French were petrified of the idea of a totally unified German state. In 1870, France attacked the Germans, beginning the Franco-Prussian War. France hoped to easily defeat the German people and divide them as they had under Napoleon. Besides, Napoleon's grandson Napoleon III was the leader of France... what could go wrong? This attack had the opposite reaction from what the French had hoped for. Fueled by the hatred of Napoleon, ALL the German states unified together, with their industrial might proceeded to crush France in less than a year.

The swift crushing of France sparked a wave of Militarism: a rapid increase in the production of military weapons. Each European country used its factories to create large numbers of advanced weapons... just in case.



The great questions of the day will not be settled by means of speeches and majority decisions ... but by iron and blood. ~ Bismarck



Russia

Russia's role in stopping Napoleon brought a surge of prestige and notoriety to Russia. During this time Russia made many positive changes. They saw the flourishing of the arts, with great musicians like Tchaikovsky (Swan Lake & The Nutcracker). The Russians also freed the serfs (Russian version of slaves). Russia's power continued to spread, as they expanded their borders across the Pacific Ocean into Alaska, and as far south as the Middle East.

On a opposite side, Russia made a number of darker choices. First, the Russians were also involved in heavily persecuting the Jewish people - committing frequent massacres and beatings of Jewish communities. Second, Russia violence further extended to squashing rebellions in Eastern Europe. As a multi-national country, Russia feared the idea of Nationalism as it would mean

the death of the Russian Empire. Third, the Russian serfs were "freed" but not really free. They could not own land and had limits on other rights such as marriage.

By 1900, these darker choices were causing a growing tension amongst the Russian people, who grew bitter towards their Tsar. Many Russians fled Russia for the USA and a chance at a new beginning. Those who stayed dreamed of creating a new chapter in Russian history.



S. America: Freedom and its Costs

When Napoleon had been busy in Europe, tension rose in the South American colonies. As in North America, the colonists in South America were tired of their European Kings and empowered by Enlightenment ideals. The culture of South America was distinctly different - being a unique blending of Spanish European descendants, millions of African slaves, and the remaining Natives who hadn't died from disease. The relationships between races were tense, because the Spanish and Portuguese had put in a social structure based on race, not by merit.

In the 1815s-1820s, a series of revolutions swept Latin America. Napoleon had forced his Napoleonic Code onto Latin America, which angered the ruling elite while empowering the powerless mixed-race peasants. In 1815, the peasants successfully led a series of wars known as the Mexican War of Independence. In 1820, Brazil declared independence for Portugal. The King and Prince of Portugal had fled to Brazil to escape Napoleon's conquest. After the war, Prince Pedro stayed back in Brazil, and declared independence from his father and Portugal.

Many waves of revolution rippled across Latin America, with the continent finally earning full independence in 1824. Simon Bolivar, who had led the revolution (think Latin American George Washington), had tried to create a United South America, but failed to do so. Similar to the American Revolution, the names and title of the government changed in Latin America, but the social structures and daily life did not. This led to further civil wars and infighting the consumed and weakened the countries in South America throughout the 1800 and early 1900s.





ASSIGNMENT

1) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
Europe		
Russia		
South America		

2) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.

- Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1800 AD () and at 1918 AD ().
- Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
- If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart

Example

