

## **Overview of Unit 7: Reaction Versus Progress: 1815 - 1848**

### **Chapter 11**

#### **Europe at a Crossroads**

**Two separate revolutions pre 1815 (college style lecture format)**

- 1. French Revolution and Napoleon**
- 2. Economic revolution in England (Industrial Rev.)**

**These two revolutions merged together after 1815 in an antagonistic manner that led to a major clash of ideas.**

**Again, it is very crucial to keep in mind the overlapping reality of political, economic, and social issues during this time period.**

**Europe, and each nation in Europe, will have to choose a new path following the defeat of Napoleon:**

- **Path 1: Return to conservatism of “old regime” Europe**
  - **Aristocracy and powerful landed gentry**
  - **Absolute Divine Right Monarchies (ADRM)**
  - **Strict religious and social hierarchies**
  - **Concepts of “throne and altar”**
- **Path 2: A moderate / conservative Europe**
  - **Monarchy, but more of an enlightened despotism**
  - **Balance of power foreign policy**
  - **Sharp class divisions**
  - **Going back to old traditions**
  - **Not as conservative as the first path**
- **Path 3: A moderate / liberal Europe**
  - **Constitutional monarchies**
  - **Some type of representative democracy**
  - **Nationalism for existing nations**
  - **More of a focus on the middle class**
  - **Laissez-faire economics**
  - **Property rights**

- **Path 4: A more revolutionary / radical Europe**
  - Intense nationalism for groups not represented
  - Democratic / universal suffrage
  - Some socialist ideas about distribution of wealth
  - Use of romanticism
  - intense anti-royalist, anti- aristocratic, anti-church
  - Made up of students and intelligentsia

**To make sense of all of this, Europeans try to apply labels and definitions to better explain the options: the “isms”**

- 1. Romanticism**
- 2. Liberalism**
- 3. Radicalism**
- 4. Republicanism**
- 5. Socialism**
- 6. Feminism**
- 7. Nationalism**
- 8. Conservatism**

**All of these ideas exist to the detriment of the others. There will be an intense clash of “isms” as Europe attempts to choose a new path. These clashes will provide the deep foundations and issues which will eventually result in WWI 100 years after the end of Napoleon. This partly explains why WWI was so devastating.**

**Considerations when it comes time to choose a path and embrace an “ism”**

- 1. Which path / “ism” depends on your national, sovereign interests**
- 2. The chosen path / “ism” relates to level of economic development in your nation and for our social class**
- 3. All of this “nationalism” talk is very complex and dynamic**
- 4. The stakes are enormous**
- 5. There will be winners and losers**
- 6. None of this is consistent or necessarily long-term**

**7. Eventually, since this cannot be determined in any other way, the issue will be taken to the battlefields of The First World War**