

## **Overview of Unit 8: Revolution and The Reimposition of Order:**

**1848 - 1870**

**Chapter 12**

**Unit 8 (and Unit 9) are part of the on-going story of Europe having to reinvent itself (choosing the path) following the Napoleonic Era. The battle is over whether or not Europe will revert back to more traditional, conservative trends, or will continue on in a more progressive, liberal direction. The “isms” representing the various conservative and liberal agendas will continue to “battle it out” into the mid to late 1800s. Europe is like a pendulum that swings back and forth from liberal to conservative to liberal and back yet again.**

**1815 – 1830s: The Congress System- Metternich and a conservative agenda: reflected by**

- “Throne and Alter”
- Resoration and Compensation
- Balance of Power between the great, traditional empires

**1830s – 1848: The breakthrough of liberalism and the triumph of the Bourgeoisie (middle class) reflected by**

- laissez-faire economics
- greater representation
- more voting rights
- nationalism for various ethnic minorities who don’t have their own nations yet

**1830s – 1840s: A push for even more libera; / radical reforms reflected by**

- Chartism
- Various degrees and examples of socialism
- Greater degrees of liberal political policies
- Even more desires for national expression

**1848 – forward: A re-imposition of authoritarian conservatism and traditional order reflected by**

- strict top-down leadership in the great empires
- squashing of liberal / nationalistic expressions by commoners
- priorities of national power over expressions of individual liberties

**For each of these time periods, be able to identify and explain**

1. basic characteristics and definitions
2. specific examples from each nation and specific situations
3. internal and external manifestations of these developments
4. reasons for ascendancy of the liberal or conservative agenda
5. reasons for the decline of the liberal or conservative agenda

**Overall, the liberal agenda will find itself caught between the two extremes of traditional conservatism on the right and radicalism on the left. In a sense, the liberal agenda will be attacked by**

1. Conservatives
2. Radicals
3. Liberals themselves
4. Nationalists who insist on national and political unity
5. The inability to translate nationalistic agendas to a workable map of Europe
6. Certain feudalistic traditions and legacies that just won't go away

**The other problem is the complexities of “*Nationalism*” which everyone wants, except that nationalism has very different**

**meanings depending on who you ask. Nationalism can be:**

- 1. unifying AND divisive**
- 2. conservative AND radical**
- 3. traditional AND modern**
- 4. stabilizing AND destabilizing**
- 5. Romantic AND enlightened**
- 6. Beneficial for the powerful AND the weak / downtrodden**
- 7. Practical AND idealistic**
- 8. Authoritarian AND democratic**
- 9. Focussed on the government AND the people**

**No wonder Karl Marx and Friedrich Engles come along and come up with a whole new conception of history, society, economics, and human nature.**