

The European Revolutions of 1848: socialism, nationalism, and the making of the liberal order



Nicolas Edward Gabé- *The Barricade at Porte St Denis, Paris 1848*

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Description: In the spring of 1848, a revolutionary wave swept through Europe. Commonly referred to as the 'Springtime of Nations', these months witnessed popular uprisings in locations from Paris to Vienna, and from Berlin to Palermo. Throughout the continent, an alliance of liberal reformers and working-class radicals demanded political liberties, social reforms and national unification. These revolutions transfixed observers such as Karl Marx, Victor Hugo, and Alexis de Tocqueville. Yet, by the end of the following year, many of these revolutions were reversed, as the forces of conservative reaction triumphed.

What caused the 1848 revolutions? Why did they fail? What, ultimately, was their legacy? This course examines these questions, investigating revolutions in five countries: France, Italy, Germany, Austria and Hungary. However, the course also looks at the impact of the revolutions among Polish, Czech, and Romanian nationalists. We will also briefly look at countries which were *not* affected by the revolutionary wave, such as Russia, Belgium and the United Kingdom, and will seek to explain their stability in the face of the revolutionary challenge. The course will assess the nature of the revolutionary alliances that defined 1848, between liberals and radicals, between republicans and socialists, and between nationalists of various descriptions. Crucially, it will explore how the revolutions of 1848 influenced the later evolution of ideas such as liberalism, socialism, nationalism and feminism.

Assessment: Students submit two essays, one of 2,000-2,500 words (accounting for 40% of the student's grade), and a second essay of 3,000-3,500 words (which accounts for the remaining 60%).