In Summary: The birth of Modern Europe

As you should remember, after the Napoleonic Wars, the *Congress of Vienna* tried to ensure that nobody would conquer Europe again. The biggest powers attending the conference were **France, The Austrian Empire, Great Britain** and **Russia** most other countries in Europe were also represented. It was decided that France could remain a single, united country, but the old Royal family would be restored to office.





The hope of most of the rulers of Europe at this time was They wanted to return to something like the old order with economies mostly based on farming and with the holding power.

However, this was not possible as had changed the economies of many countries and the new class had more ideals. Also, conditions among the poor were bad, so radical ideas were becoming popular. This led to uprisings and rebellions, especially in , called *the year of Revolutions*. The revolutions of this time were mostly because the revolutionaries were , but a new Emperor, came to power in **France.**


THE GREAT SEA SERPENT OF 1848.

Following these failed revolutions, a new attitude of *realpolitik* (power politics, not founded on idealism) emerged. This was especially clear in the movements to unify the **Italian States**, led by and the **German States**, led by . By 1871, these movements resulted in new nations, **The Kingdom of Italy** and **The German Reich.** On the way, Napoleon III was defeated and France became a republic again.

So why is all this important to us? This period laid the foundations of the Western world as we know it today. Feudalism and Absolute Monarchy were challenged and eventually replaced by capitalism and elected governments. The countries of Europe gained their modern borders (more or less) and established *balance of power* that would last until World War I.

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