

### K. The Age of Metternich (1815-1848)

1. The period known as the “Age of Metternich” is named after an Austrian aristocrat named *Klemens Wenzel Nepomuk Lothar, Fürst von Metternich-Winneburg zu Beilstein*, but who is usually known simply as “Prince Metternich.”
2. Metternich was only an advisor to the Austrian Emperor, but the period is named after him. This shows us that somehow he was the most important person in this time.
3. In essence, Metternich advised the rulers on how to try to cancel the effects of the French Revolution and Napoleon on Europe.



“Prince” Metternich was the leader of the monarchs of Europe who wished to prevent the spread of the ideas and consequences of the French Revolution.

### L. The Holy Alliance

1. The rulers of Russia, Prussia, and Austria especially wanted to insure that their countries would remain monarchies.
2. They created the “Holy Alliance” to defend the idea of the “divine right of kings.”
3. The rulers of this alliance imposed a monarchy on France, and created new monarchies in the Netherlands and Sardinia (Italy) as buffers between them and France.

### M. The Metternich System in France

1. When Louis XVIII became the king of France, he granted the “Charter of 1814”-- a constitution for France, creating a parliament, and establishing freedom of religion.
2. Louis saw the charter as a way to preserve divine right, because this charter was granted as a *gift* from the ruler, not imposed on the ruler by the people. Thus it was not quite constitutional monarchy.
3. Many French lords wished a return to full divine right monarchy. On the other hand, many commoners wished for a full republic, i.e. for some form of government without a king at all. Lastly, there were “Bonapartists,” who wished for a rebirth of the French Empire under Napoleon or one of his descendants.
4. In this situation, the best solution (and the best way to avoid too much change) was a compromise.

### N. The Metternich System in Germany

1. After the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Period Germans wanted a unified nation of Germany.
2. For Metternich, this was unacceptable. The Austrian Empire was half composed of German people, and half composed of Eastern European people. If a nation of Germans was created this would split the Austrian Empire apart, and destroy its power.
3. To prevent the unification of Germany, Metternich advised the rulers of the separate German states to impose censorship on the people with regards to German unification.
4. With the Carlsbad Decrees of 1819, it became illegal for teachers and journalists to publish their ideas on unification. Universities and printing presses were monitored by government agents to stop people from sharing ideas or organizing themselves to change the government.

### O. The July Revolution of 1830

1. In 1824, Louis XVIII died and was succeeded by his brother, Charles X.
2. Charles was a stronger believer in the divine right of kings, and throughout his reign he clashed with the new French parliament.
3. Finally, tiring of opposition to his reign, he dismissed the parliament, changed the rules for elections, and created censorship in France, via laws called the July Ordinances of 1830.
4. This sparked an instant uprising against the king, as the citizens of Paris took to the streets, arming themselves and putting up barricades all over the city.
5. For three days, Charles tried to use the army to suppress the uprising, but, fearing for his life, he soon abdicated and ran away to England.
6. This overthrow of the monarchy is sometimes known as the Second French Revolution, or, because it happened in the span of just a couple days in July of 1830, simply the July Revolution of 1830.

### P. The Beginning of the End

1. The French revolutionaries chose a new king, Louis-Philippe, and forced him to accept the “Charter of 1830” before being allowed to take the throne.
2. The new charter contained a revealing phrasing. Louis-Philippe was king of France “by the grace of God, *and by the will of the nation.*” (This phrase by itself shows the transition towards modern democratic life.)
3. As if on cue from France, the people of Belgium then rebelled against the King of the Netherlands, and declared their independence.
4. These two radical changes represent the “beginning of the end” for the Metternich system.



Louis-Philippe became the first constitutional monarch of France by accepting the Charter of 1830.

### Q. Introduction to the Industrial Revolution

1. One thing Metternich could not prevent was change underway in “industry,” i.e. in the production of the material values required to sustain human life.
2. Because this change to industry was sudden and of great historical importance, it is known as the “Industrial Revolution.”
3. In particular, starting in 1764, with the invention of the “Spinning Jenny” (a machine that could make thread from wool), and the “Power Loom” (a machine that used a steam engine to weave that thread into cloth, it became possible for people to produce literally *thousands* of times more clothing with the same amount of physical effort as before.
4. Inventions like the steam engine were also applied in other areas, especially, of course, transportation. Trains and steamships were a big part of the early Industrial Revolution.
5. Although the Industrial Revolution was a massive leap forward for mankind, it created all kinds of new challenges, as people adapted to the world of industrial technology.

6. For farmers, in particular, whose life as peasants was barely tolerable, life as an industrial worker was also very difficult.
7. Since they relied on their ability to work in order to survive, just as peasants relied on their right to stay on the land, should they not have a “**right to work**”?
8. As this idea became more popular, French workers began to expect that the government should somehow provide this “right” by controlling the world of industry.
9. This idea became the most well known form of socialism.

#### R. Socialism and the Revolution of 1848 in France

1. To try to prevent people from planning to replace his government, Louis-Philippe gradually created new censorship laws.
2. In 1848, in reaction to these laws, the workers of Paris rebelled, arming themselves and taking over the streets of Paris.
3. Louis did not understand how to give them the “right to work.” He felt he could no longer lead the nation. Rather than risk a civil war, Louis-Philippe gave up the throne and ran away to England.
4. The people feared a new round of violence, and a long period of chaos, as during the original French Revolution.
5. It was at this point that the nephew of Napoleon, a man named Louis-Napoleon, emerged to provide a new figure that the French could rally around.
6. The people believed that Louis-Napoleon could bring order, stability, and military glory back to France, so he was elected as the “president” of France.
7. Throughout Europe, dominos began to fall, and Metternich himself ran away to England. The Age of Metternich was at an end.