

Government/Political Developments (1450-1900)

15th and 16th Centuries (1400s-1500s)

- New Monarchs
 - Monarchs gained power vis-à-vis the corporate groups and institutions that had thrived during the medieval period, most notably the landed nobility and the clergy.
 - Commercial and professional groups, such as merchants, lawyers, and other educated and talented persons, acquired increasing power in the state (often in alliance with the monarchs) alongside or in place of these traditional corporate groups.
 - New monarchs laid the foundation for the centralized modern state by establishing:
 - A monopoly on tax collection
 - Military force/permanent standing armies
 - Methods to control the judicial system
 - Determining the religion of their subjects
 - Beginning to control nobles
 - Creating more efficient bureaucracies
 - Secular political theories such as those found in Machiavelli's *The Prince* provided a new concept of the state
 - Examples:
 - King Henry VII of England (Star Chamber)
 - Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain (completed the Reconquista)

17th Century and Early 18th Century (1600s-1715)

- Absolutism
 - This was established over much of Europe
 - Must know information per the CollegeBoard:
 - Absolute monarchies limited the nobility's participation in government, but preserved the aristocracy's social position and legal privileges
 - Louis XIV and his finance minister, Jean-Baptiste Colbert, extended the administrative, financial, military, and religious control of the central state over the French population.
 - Peter the Great "westernized" the Russian state and society, transforming political, religious, and cultural institutions
 - Key Features:
 - Monarch is all powerful (L'état c'est moi)
 - Monarch is not subordinate to national assemblies
 - The nobility was brought under control
 - Bureaucracies were appointed by and solely accountable to the king
 - Religion was used to help maintain rule (divine right of kings)
 - Large standing armies for expansion
 - Monarchs used the arts to glorify rule and state (Palace of Versailles)

- Philosophers of Absolutism:
 - Jean Bodin
 - Bishop Bossuet
 - Thomas Hobbes
- Examples:
 - France: Louis XIV
 - Russia: Peter the Great
 - Spain: Philip II
 - Prussia: Frederick William I
- Constitutionalism
 - Key Features:
 - Alternative to absolutism
 - Monarch's rule is limited by law, a constitution, or other written document
 - Rights of the people are protected
 - Key Examples:
 - England
 - The outcome of the English Civil War and Glorious Revolution protected the rights of gentry and aristocracy from absolutism through assertions of the rights of Parliament
 - English Bill of Rights
 - Dutch Republic
 - The Dutch Republic developed an oligarchy of urban gentry and rural landholders to promote trade and protect traditional rights
 - Key Philosophers:
 - John Locke
- States were often very competitive, which led to new patterns of diplomacy and warfare
 - Balance of power politics were the focus after the Treaty of Westphalia
 - Gustavus Adolphus helped lead a military revolution
- 1648 was a major turning point
 - Prussia rose to power and the Habsburgs, centered in Austria, shifted their empire eastward
 - Balance of power politics approach after Treaty of Westphalia
 - France grew more powerful
- After the Austrian defeat of the Turks in 1683 at the Battle of Vienna, the Ottomans ceased their westward expansion
- Louis XIV's nearly continuous wars, pursuing both dynastic and state interests, provoked a coalition of European powers opposing him (remember the War of Spanish Succession).
- Monarchs competed for power with other groups
 - Parliament vs. English monarchs
 - Nobles challenging absolute monarchs (The Fronde revolt against Louis XIV)

18th Century (1700s)

- Continuation of absolute states and constitutional states
- Enlightened Despotism
 - Key Features
 - Developed in a number of states in eastern and central Europe
 - Influenced by Voltaire
 - Inspired by figures like Voltaire
 - Supposed to allow for the arts, sciences, and education
 - Reforms of Enlightened Despots were modest at best
 - Religious toleration
 - Streamlined legal codes
 - Increased access to education
 - Reduction or elimination of torture and the death penalty
 - Key Examples:
 - Frederick the Great of Prussia
 - Joseph II of Austria
 - Catherine the Great of Russia (continued Peter the Great's actions)
 - Napoleon Bonaparte?
- The inability of the Polish monarchy to consolidate its authority over the nobility led to Poland's partition by Prussia, Russia, and Austria, and its disappearance from the map of Europe.
- The rivalry between Britain and France during this time resulted in wars fought both in Europe and in the colonies, with Britain supplanting France as the greatest European power
- French Revolution government progression:
 - Start of revolution: Absolute Monarchy
 - 1789-1792: Constitutional Monarchy
 - 1792-1795: First French Republic
 - 1795-1799: Directory (oligarchy type system)
 - 1799-1804: Consulate under Napoleon
 - 1804-1815: First French Empire
 - 1815-1848: Constitutional Monarchy

19th Century (1800s)

- Government types during this century:
 - Conservative Empires/Regimes
 - Some are more controlling than others (Russia for example)
 - Tsarist Russia (Alexander I, Nicholas I, Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas II)
 - Austrian Empire to Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - Prussia to Germany
 - Napoleon III's France
 - Constitutional Monarchies
 - France under some rulers (Louis XVIII, Charles X, Louis Philippe)
 - Britain
 - Republics
 - Dutch Republic
 - France under Louis Napoleon (1848-1852), France after Napoleon III
 - Creation of welfare states toward the end of the century (Germany first welfare state; Britain soon followed)
- Age of Metternich (1815-1848)
 - Britain
 - Conservatives (Tories) in power until 1830
 - Whigs (liberals) and Tories (conservatives) fought for power back and forth after
 - Reform Bill of 1832 (see British reform notes)
 - Factory reforms
 - Chartist movement
 - Repeal of Corn Laws
 - France
 - Louis XVIII (1815-1824)
 - Charles X (1824-1830)
 - Louis Philippe (1830-1848)
 - Revolution in 1830 to have more liberal reforms
 - Austro-Hungary
 - Dominated by foreign minister Klemens von Metternich during this period
 - Prussia
 - Frederick William III (1797-1840)
 - Frederick William IV (1840-1861)
 - Conservative during this period
 - Russia
 - Tsar Alexander I (1801-1825)
 - Tsar Nicholas I (1825-1855)
 - Extremely conservative
 - Remember Nicholas I's policies of Autocracy, Nationalism, and Orthodoxy
 - Crushed Decembrist Revolt of 1825

- New ideologies developed as a response to industrial and political revolutions
 - Liberals emphasized popular sovereignty, individual rights, and enlightened self-interest, but debated the extent to which all groups in society should actively participate in its governance
 - Radicals in Britain and republicans on the continent demanded universal male suffrage and full citizenship without regard to wealth and property ownership; some argued that such rights should be extended to women
 - Conservatives developed a new ideology in support of traditional political and religious authorities, which was based on the idea that human nature was not perfect
 - Socialists called for a fair distribution of society's resources and wealth and evolved from a utopian to a Marxist scientific critique of capitalism
 - Anarchists asserted that all forms of governmental authority were unnecessary and should be overthrown and replaced with a society based on voluntary cooperation
 - Nationalists encouraged loyalty to the nation in a variety of ways, including romantic idealism, liberal reform, political unification, racialism with a concomitant anti-Semitism, and chauvinism justifying national aggrandizement
- Governments responded to the problems created by industrialization by expanding their functions and creating modern bureaucratic states
 - Liberalism shifted from laissez-faire to interventionist economic and social policies on behalf of the less privileged; the policies were based on a rational approach to reform that addressed the impact of the Industrial Revolution on the individual
- The Concert of Europe sought to maintain the status quo through collective action and adherence to conservatism
 - Metternich, architect of the Concert of Europe, used it to suppress nationalist and liberal revolutions
 - Conservatives reestablished control in many European states and attempted to suppress movements for change and, in some areas, to strengthen adherence to religious authorities
 - In the first half of the 19th century, revolutionaries attempted to destroy the status quo
 - The revolutions of 1848 challenged the conservative order and led to the breakdown of the Concert of Europe

- Age of Realpolitik (1848-1871)
 - Britain
 - Irish Potato Famine issues
 - Tories (conservatives) vs. Whigs (liberals)
 - Disraeli (changes Tories to conservatives) and Gladstone (changes Whigs to liberals)
 - Also carries over into Mass Politics
 - Reform Bill of 1867 further expands male suffrage and further reforms rotten boroughs
 - Gladstone implemented education, worker, and voting reform (secret ballot, more suffrage expansion) in the 1870s and 1880s (again, this also carries into Mass Politics)
 - Gladstone dealt with the “Irish Question”
 - France
 - Louis Napoleon/Napoleon III in control
 - Prussia becomes Germany in 1871
 - Austria becomes Austro-Hungary in 1866 (Ausgleich or Compromise)
 - Russia
 - Tsar Nicholas I (see above)
 - Tsar Alexander II (1855-1881)
 - Reforms Russia
 - Serfdom abolished in 1861
 - The breakdown of the Concert of Europe opened the door for movements of national unification in Italy and Germany as well as liberal reforms elsewhere
 - The Crimean War demonstrated the weakness of the Ottoman Empire and contributed to the breakdown of the Concert of Europe, thereby creating the conditions in which Italy and Germany could be unified after centuries of fragmentation
 - A new breed of conservative leaders, including Napoleon III, Cavour, and Bismarck, co-opted the agenda of nationalists for the purposes of creating or strengthening the state
 - The creation of the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, which recognized the political power of the largest ethnic minority; was an attempt to stabilize the state by reconfiguring national unity
 - In Russia, autocratic leaders pushed through a program of reform and modernization, which gave rise to revolutionary movements and eventually, the Revolution of 1905 (also connects into the Age of Mass Politics)
 - The unifications of Italy and Germany transformed the European balance of power and led to efforts to construct a new diplomatic order
 - Cavour’s *Realpolitik* strategies, combined with the popular Garibaldi’s military campaigns led to the unification of Italy
 - Bismarck employed diplomacy and industrialized warfare and weaponry, and the manipulation of democratic mechanisms to unify Germany

- Age of Mass Politics (1871-1914)
 - Britain
 - Disraeli and Gladstone Reforms (see above)
 - Irish Question/Problem
 - Parliament Act of 1911 makes House of Commons more powerful (can override House of Lord's veto)
 - Move toward social welfare state with various insurance programs for the people
 - Labor Party created in 1900
 - Feminist movement increased with demands for women's suffrage
 - Pankhurst Family with militant suffrage (Women's Social and Political Union)
 - Millicent Garrett Fawcett with the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (advocated for reform through parliament)
 - Josephine Butler against prostitution laws
 - France
 - Paris Commune Incident of 1871
 - Third Republic (1871-1940)
 - Weak executive; strong parliament
 - Civil liberties extended
 - Anticlerical laws put into practice
 - Expelled Jesuits to limit Catholic Church influence
 - Education reform occurred (Ferry Laws)
 - Compulsory education (have to go to school)
 - Dreyfus Affair
 - Emile Zola: J'accuse
 - Socialist Parties increased
 - Germany
 - Bismarck's Germany
 - Kulturkampf against Catholics
 - Welfare state policies enacted to combat socialists
 - New type of conservatism taking advantage of nationalists groups and other parties
 - Embarked on series of alliances to isolate France
 - Wilhelm II tried to ensure Germany was a powerful nation in Europe
 - Austro-Hungary
 - Dealt with nationalist problems across their empire, especially Slavic groups and Serbs in the Balkan region

- Russia
 - Alexander II's reforms
 - Alexander II assassinated in 1881 by People's Will terrorist group
 - Alexander III (1881-1894)
 - Restored Autocracy, Orthodoxy, and Russification (nationalism) of Nicholas I
 - Extremely conservative
 - Nicholas II (1894-1917)
 - Industrialization and railroads increased under the direction of Sergei Witte
 - Socialist and radicals increased, such as the Bolsheviks under Lenin
 - Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905)
 - Revolution in 1905 led to the creation of a Duma, but only delayed the inevitable overthrow of the government in 1917
- A form of Jewish nationalism, Zionism, developed in the late 19th century as a response to growing anti-Semitism in both western and eastern Europe
- Government reforms transformed unhealthy and overcrowded cities by modernizing infrastructure, regulating public health, reforming prisons, and establishing modern police forces
- Governments promoted compulsory public education to advance the goals of public order, nationalism, and economic growth
- Political movements and social organizations responded to the problems of industrialization during this era
 - Mass-based political parties emerged as sophisticated vehicles for social, economic, and political reform
 - Workers established labor unions and movements promoting social and economic reforms that also developed into political parties
 - Feminists pressed for legal, economic, and political rights for women as well as improved working conditions
 - Various private, nongovernmental reform movements sought to lift up the "deserving" poor and end serfdom and slavery
- After 1871, Bismarck attempted to maintain the balance of power through a complex series of alliances directed at isolating France
- Bismarck's dismissal in 1890 eventually led to a system of mutually antagonistic alliances and heightened international tensions
- Nationalist tensions in the Balkans drew the Great powers into a series of crises, leading up to WWI.

20th Century (1900s)

- Big Picture:
 - WWI ended empires of Germany, Austro-Hungary, Russia, and Ottoman Empire
 - Communism
 - USSR established after Russian Revolution
 - Eastern European countries were communist after WWII
 - Warsaw Pact and influenced by Soviet Union
 - Fascist States came to power in Italy and Germany after WWI
 - Authoritarian dictatorships rose to power in a lot of central and eastern European countries, especially the successor states from the Treaty of Versailles, during the inter-war period
 - After WWII, western European countries moved increasingly toward the idea of a welfare state
 - NATO in Western Europe
 - Creation of the EU (1991)
 - Labor Party and Conservative Party the major groups in Britain
 - Nationalism still an issue in Eastern Europe
 - Chechnya and Yugoslavia Civil War (genocide/ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Kosovo)
 - Anti-immigration sentiment has increased with parties such as Le Pen's National Front in France
 - Green Parties have emerged to go against increased consumerism, globalization, and environmental damage
 - Some areas, such as France, have been concerned about U.S. influence and involvement after WWII
 - Others have welcomed it
 - Big picture: U.S. grew increasingly involved in Europe after WWII (things such as the Marshall Plan)
 - Counterculture movement in 1960s
 - Second Wave Feminism (1960s-1990)