**Revolutions of 1848**

The **European Revolutions of 1848**, known in some countries as the **Spring of Nations**, **Springtime of the Peoples** or the **Year of Revolution**, were a series of [**political upheavals**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_upheaval) throughout Europe in 1848. It was the only Europe-wide collapse of traditional authority to date, but within a year, [**reactionary**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reactionary) forces had won out, and the revolutions collapsed.

This [**revolutionary wave**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_wave) began in [**France in February**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution_of_1848) and immediately spread to most of Europe and parts of Latin America. Over 50 countries were affected, but there was no coordination or cooperation among the revolutionaries in different countries. Five factors were involved: the widespread dissatisfaction with the political leadership; the demand for more participation and democracy; the demands of the working classes; the upsurge of nationalism; and finally, the regrouping of the reactionary forces based in the royalty, the aristocracy, the army, and the peasants**.**

The uprisings were led by shaky ad-hoc coalitions of reformers, the middle classes and workers, but it could not hold together for long. Tens of thousands of people were killed, and many more forced into exile. The only significant lasting reforms were the abolition of [**serfdom**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serfdom) in Austria and Hungary, the end of [**absolute monarchy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) in Denmark, as well as the definitive end of the **[Capetian monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capetian_dynasty" \o "Capetian dynasty)** in France. The revolutions were most important in France, Germany, Poland, Italy, and the Austrian Empire, and did not reach Russia, Great Britain, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, or the Ottoman Empire.

**Origins**

These revolutions arose from such a wide variety of causes that it is difficult to view them as resulting from a coherent movement or social phenomenon. Numerous changes had been taking place in European society throughout the first half of the 19th century. Both [**liberal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_liberal) reformers and [**radical politicians**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radicalism_(historical)) were reshaping national governments.

Technological change was revolutionizing the life of the working classes. A popular press extended political awareness, and new values and ideas such as [**popular liberalism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism), [**nationalism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism) and [**socialism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism) began to emerge. Some historians emphasize the serious crop failures, particularly those of 1846, that produced hardship among peasants and the working urban poor.

Large swathes of the [**nobility**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobility) were discontented with [**royal absolutism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Absolute_monarchy) or near-absolutism. In 1846 there had been an [**uprising**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krak%C3%B3w_Uprising) of [**Polish**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland) nobility in Austrian [**Galicia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Galicia_and_Lodomeria), which was only countered when peasants, in turn, rose up against the nobles.[**[6]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=515845410#cite_note-6) Additionally, an [**uprising**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Poland_Uprising_(1846)) by democratic forces against [**Prussia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia) occurred in [**Greater Poland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Poland).

Next the [**middle classes**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_class) began to agitate. Working class objectives tended to fall in line with those of the middle class. Although [**Karl Marx**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Marx) and [**Friedrich Engels**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friedrich_Engels) had written at the request of the [**Communist League**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_League) in London (an organization consisting principally of German workers) [***The Communist Manifesto***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Communist_Manifesto) (published in German in London on February 21, 1848), once they began agitating in Germany following the March insurrection in Berlin, their demands were considerably reduced. They issued their “Demands of the Communist Party in Germany” from Paris in March; the pamphlet only urged unification of Germany, universal suffrage, abolition of feudal duties, and similar middle class goals.

The middle and working classes thus shared a desire for reform, and agreed on many of the specific aims. Their participations in the revolutions, however, differed. While much of the impetus came from the middle classes, much of the cannon fodder came from the lower. The revolts first erupted in the cities.

**Urban workers**

The population in French rural areas had [**rapidly risen**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_explosion), causing many peasants to seek a living in the cities. Many in the [**bourgeoisie**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgeoisie) feared and distanced themselves from the [**working poor**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_poor). Many unskilled laborers toiled from 12 to 15 hours per day when they had work, living in squalid, disease-ridden slums. Traditional artisans felt the pressure of industrialization, having lost their [**guilds**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guild). Revolutionaries such as Marx built up a following.

The situation in the German states was similar. Parts of [**Prussia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia) were beginning to industrialize. During the decade of the 1840s, mechanized production in the textile industry brought about inexpensive clothing that undercut the handmade products of German tailors.[**[9]**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=515845410#cite_note-9) Reforms ameliorated the most unpopular features of rural [**feudalism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudalism), while industrial workers remained dissatisfied with these and pressed for greater change.

Urban workers had no choice but to spend half of their income on food, which consisted of bread and potatoes. As a result of harvest failures, food prices soared and the demand for manufactured goods decreased, causing an increase in unemployment. During the revolution, to address the problem of unemployment, workshops were organized for men interested in construction work. Officials also set up workshops for women when they felt they were excluded. Artisans and unemployed workers destroyed industrialized machines when their social demands were neglected.

**Rural areas**

Rural population growth had led to food shortages, [**land**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_(economics)) pressure, and migration, both within Europe and out from Europe, especially to North America. In the years 1845 and 1846, a [**potato blight**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Potato_blight) caused a [**subsistence crisis in Northern Europe**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Potato_Famine). The effects of the blight were most severely manifested in the [**Great Irish Famine**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Irish_Famine), but also caused famine-like conditions in the [**Scottish Highlands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Highlands) and throughout [**Continental Europe**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Europe).

[**Aristocratic**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristocracy) wealth (and corresponding power) was synonymous with the ownership of farm lands and effective control over the [**peasants**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peasant). Peasant grievances exploded during the revolutionary year of 1848.

**Role of ideas**

Despite forceful and often violent efforts of established and reactionary powers to keep them down, disruptive ideas gained popularity: [***democracy***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy), [***liberalism***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism), [***nationalism***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism), and [***socialism***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism).

In the language of the 1840s, *democracy* meant universal male [**suffrage**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suffrage). *Liberalism* fundamentally meant consent of the governed and the restriction of church and [**state**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state) power, [**republican government**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republicanism), [**freedom of the press**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press) and the individual. *Nationalism* believed in uniting people bound by (some mix of) common [**languages**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language), [**culture**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture), [**religion**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion), shared [**history**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History), and of course immediate [**geography**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography); there were also [**irredentist**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irredentism) movements. At this time, what are now [**Germany**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) and [**Italy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) were collections of small states. *Socialism* in the 1840s was a term without a consensus definition, meaning different things to different people, but was typically used within a context of more power for workers in a system based on [**worker ownership**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worker_cooperative) of the [**means of production**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Means_of_production).

**Events in Italian states**

Although little noticed at the time, the first major outbreak came in Sicily, starting in January 1848. There had been several previous revolts against Bourbon rule; this one produced an independent state that lasted only 16 months before the Bourbons came back. During those months the constitution was quite advanced for its time in liberal democratic terms, as was the proposal of an Italian confederation of states. The failed revolt was reversed a dozen years later as the Bourbon kingdom of the Two Sicilies collapsed in 1860–61 with the [**Risorgimento**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Risorgimento).

**France:** The “February Revolution” in France was sparked by the suppression of the ***[campagne des banquets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Campagne_des_banquets" \o "Campagne des banquets)***. This revolution was driven by nationalist and republican ideals among the French general public, who believed that the people should rule themselves. It ended the [**constitutional monarchy**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) of [**Louis-Philippe**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-Philippe_of_France), and led to the creation of the [**French Second Republic**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Second_Republic). This government was headed by Louis-Napoleon, who, after only four years, returned France to a monarchy with the establishment of the Second French Empire in 1852.

[**Alexis de Tocqueville**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_de_Tocqueville) remarked in his Recollections of the period that “society was cut in two: those who had nothing united in common envy, and those who had anything united in common terror.”

**German states:** The “March Revolution” in the German states took place in the south and the west of Germany, with large popular assemblies and mass demonstrations. Led by well educated students and intellectuals, they demanded [**German national unity**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_national_unity), [**freedom of the press**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press), and [**freedom of assembly**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_assembly). The uprisings were not well coordinated but had in common a rejection of traditional, autocratic political structures in the thirty-nine independent states of the [**German Confederation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Confederation). The middle class and working class components of the Revolution split, and in the end the conservative aristocracy defeated it, forcing many liberals into exile.

**Denmark:** Denmark had been governed by a system of absolute monarchy since the seventeenth century. King [**Christian VIII**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_VIII_of_Denmark), a moderate reformer but still an absolutist, died in January 1848 during a period of rising opposition from farmers and liberals. The demands for constitutional monarchy, led by the [**National Liberals**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberal_Party_(Denmark)), ended with a popular march to **[Christiansborg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christiansborg" \o "Christiansborg)** on March 21. The new king, [**Frederick VII**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_VII_of_Denmark), met the liberals’ demands and installed a new Cabinet that included prominent leaders of the [**National Liberal Party**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberal_Party_(Denmark)). The national-liberal movement wanted to abolish absolutism but retain a strongly centralized state. The king accepted [**a new constitution**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Denmark) agreeing to share power with a bicameral parliament called the **[Rigsdag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigsdag" \o "Rigsdag)**. Although army officers were dissatisfied, they accepted the new arrangement which, in contrast to the rest of Europe, was not overturned by reactionaries. The liberal constitution did not extend to Schleswig, leaving the [**Schleswig-Holstein Question**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig-Holstein_Question) unanswered.

**Schleswig:** [Schleswig](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schleswig), a region containing both Danes and Germans, was a part of the Danish monarchy but remained a duchy separate from the Kingdom of Denmark. Spurred by [**pan-German**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan-Germanism) sentiment, Germans of Schleswig took up arms to protest a new policy announced by Denmark’s [**National Liberal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Liberal_Party_(Denmark)) government, which would have fully integrated the duchy into Denmark. The German population in Schleswig and Holstein revolted inspired by the Protestant clergy. The German states sent in an army but Danish victories in 1849 led to the Treaty of Berlin (1850) and the London Protocols (1852). They reaffirmed the sovereignty of the King of Denmark, while prohibiting union with Denmark. The violation of the latter provision led to renewed warfare in 1863 and the Prussian victory in 1864.

**Habsburg Empire:** From March 1848 through July 1849, the Habsburg Austrian Empire was threatened by revolutionary movements, which often had a nationalist character. The empire, ruled from Vienna, included Austrian Germans, Hungarians, Slovenes, Poles, Czechs, Croats, Slovaks, Ukrainians/**[Ruthenians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruthenians" \o "Ruthenians)**, Romanians, [**Serbs**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbs) and Italians, all of whom attempted in the course of the revolution to either achieve autonomy, independence, or even hegemony over other nationalities. The nationalist picture was further complicated by the simultaneous events in the German states, which moved toward greater German national unity.

**Hungary**: The Hungarian revolution of 1848 started on the 15 March 1848, when [**Hungarian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_people) patriots organized mass demonstrations in [**Pest**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pest,_Hungary) and [**Buda**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buda) (today Budapest) which forced the Imperial governor to accept their [**twelve points of demands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/12_points_of_the_Hungarian_Revolutionaries_of_1848). This resulted in **[Klemens von Metternich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Klemens_von_Metternich" \o "Klemens von Metternich)**, the Austrian prince and foreign minister, resigning. In turn, Emperor Ferdinand promised Hungary a constitution, an elected parliament, and the end of censorship. The revolution grew into a war for independence from the Austrian Empire when **[Josip Jelačić](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josip_Jela%C4%8Di%C4%87" \o "Josip Jelačić)**, Ban of Croatia, crossed the border, in order to restore Habsburg control. The new government, led by **[Lajos Kossuth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lajos_Kossuth" \o "Lajos Kossuth)**, was initially successful against the Habsburg forces, but eventually, after one and a half years of fighting, the revolution was crushed when Russian Tsar [**Nicholas I**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicholas_I_of_Russia) marched into Hungary with over 300,000 troops. Hungary was thus placed under brutal martial law, with the Austrian government restored. On the long run, the passive resistance following the revolution led to the [**Austro-Hungarian Compromise**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austro-Hungarian_Compromise_of_1867) (1867), which event marked the birth of the [**Austro-Hungarian Empire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary).

**Switzerland:** Switzerland, already an alliance of republics, also saw major internal struggle. The creation of the **[Sonderbund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonderbund" \o "Sonderbund)** led to a short [**Swiss civil war**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_civil_war) in November 1847. In 1848, a new constitution ended the almost-complete independence of the cantons and transformed Switzerland into a federal state.

**Western Ukraine:** The center of the Ukrainian national movement was in [**Eastern Galicia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galicia_(Eastern_Europe)). On April 19, 1848, a group of representatives lead by the Greek Catholic clergy launched a petition to the Austrian Emperor. It expressed wishes that in those regions of Galicia where Ruthenian (Ukrainian) population represented majority the [**Ukrainian language**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainian_language) should be taught at schools and used to announce official decrees for the peasantry; local officials were expected to understand it and Ruthenian clergy was to be equalized in their rights with the clergy of all other denominations.

On May 2, 1848 the [**Supreme Ruthenian (Ukrainian) Council**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Ruthenian_Council) was established. The Council (1848-1851) was headed by the Greek-Catholic Bishop Gregory Yakhimovich and consisted of 30 permanent members. Its main goal was the administrative division of Galicia into Western (Polish) and Eastern (Ruthenian/Ukrainian) parts within the borders of the Habsburg Empire, and formation of a separate region with a political self-governance.

**Greater Poland:** Polish people mounted a military insurrection in the [**Grand Duchy of Poznań**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Pozna%C5%84) (or the [**Greater Poland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Poland) region) against the occupying [**Prussian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia) forces.

A [**Romanian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanians) [**liberal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism) and [**Romantic nationalist**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_nationalism) uprising began in June in the principality of [**Wallachia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallachia). Closely connected with the 1848 unsuccessful [**revolt in Moldavia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moldavian_Revolution_of_1848), it sought to overturn the administration imposed by [**Imperial Russian**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire) authorities under the ***[Regulamentul Organic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regulamentul_Organic" \o "Regulamentul Organic)*** regime, and, through many of its leaders, demanded the abolition of [**boyar**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boyar) privilege. Led by a group of young intellectuals and officers in the Wallachian military forces, the movement succeeded in toppling the ruling [**Prince**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rulers_of_Wallachia) [**Gheorghe Bibescu**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gheorghe_Bibescu), whom it replaced with a Provisional Government and a [**Regency**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regent), and in passing a series of major liberal reforms, first announced in the [**Proclamation of Islaz**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation_of_Islaz).

**Belgium:** In [**Belgium**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Belgium), the uprisings were local and concentrated in the industrial basins of the Provinces of Liège and Hainaut. A more or less greater threat was coming from France, where among the seasonal workers Communism was spread by the small Communist clique of Belgium, basically the people were brought into a Belgian Legion, with the promise of a free ride home and money. The Belgian Legion would ‘invade’ Belgium by train and travel to Brussels where the government and monarchy had to be overthrown. Several smaller groups managed to infiltrate Belgium, but the reinforced Belgian bordertroops was successful in splitting up the larger groups of the Legion, and the invasion eventually came to nothing.

**Ireland:** The [**Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Irelander_Rebellion_of_1848) was a small, failed rebellion which broke out in **[Ballingarry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballingarry" \o "Ballingarry)**, [**Co. Tipperary**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Co._Tipperary). It was led by the [**Young Ireland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Ireland)movement, inspired by [**famine conditions in Ireland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Famine_(Ireland)) and the 1848 rebellions throughout Europe.

**Other English-speaking lands**

Elsewhere in [**Britain**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland), the middle classes had been pacified by general enfranchisement in the [**Reform Act 1832**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_Act_1832); the consequent agitations, violence, and petitions of the [**Chartist movement**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartism) came to a head with [**their peaceful petition to Parliament**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chartism#The_1848_petition) of 1848. The repeal in 1846 of the protectionist agricultural tariffs – called the “[**Corn Laws**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corn_Laws)” – had defused some proletarian fervour.

The Revolutions had little impact in British colonies, aside from a modest influx of immigration from German-speaking lands. In the United States, the main impact of Revolutions and their failure was [**substantially increased immigration**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forty-Eighters), especially from Germany. This in turn fuelled the **[nativist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nativism_(politics)" \o "Nativism (politics))** “[**Know Nothing**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Know_Nothing)” movement in the years preceding the [**American Civil War**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Civil_War). The “Know Nothings” were opposed to immigration, especially immigration of German and Irish Catholics and held the [**Pope**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope), [**Pius IX**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pius_IX) responsible for the Revolutions’ failure.

**New Grenada:** In Spanish Latin America, the Revolution of 1848 appeared in [**New Grenada**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_New_Granada), where Colombian students, liberals and intellectuals demanded the election of General [**José Hilario López**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Hilario_L%C3%B3pez). He took power in 1849 and launched major reforms, abolishing slavery and the death penalty, and providing freedom of the press and of religion. The resulting turmoil in [**Colombia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Colombia) lasted four decades; from 1851 to 1885 the country was ravaged by four general civil wars and fifty local revolutions.

**Brazil**

In [Brazil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), the “Praieira revolt” was a movement in **[Pernambuco](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pernambuco" \o "Pernambuco)** that lasted from November 1848 to 1852. Unresolved conflicts left over from the period of the Regency and local resistance to the consolidation of the [**Brazilian Empire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_of_Brazil) that had been proclaimed in 1822 helped to plant the seeds of the revolution.

**Legacy and memory:** There were multiple memories of the Revolution. Democrats looked to 1848 as a democratic revolution, which in the long run insured liberty, equality, and fraternity. Marxists denounced 1848 as a betrayal of working-class ideals by a bourgeoisie that was indifferent to the legitimate demands of the proletariat. For nationalists, 1848 was the springtime of hope when newly emerging nationalities rejected the old multinational empires. They were all bitterly disappointed in the short run. 1848, at best, was a glimmer of future hope, and at worst it was a deadweight that strengthened the reactionaries and delayed further progress.

In the post-revolutionary decade after 1848, little had visibly changed and most historians considered the revolutions a failure, given the seeming lack of permanent structural changes.

Nevertheless, there were a few immediate successes for some revolutionary movements, notably in the Habsburg lands. [**Austria**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_Empire) and [**Prussia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia) eliminated feudalism by 1850, improving the lot of the peasants. European middle classes made political and economic gains over the next twenty years; France retained universal male suffrage. Russia would later [**free the serfs on February 19, 1861**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emancipation_reform_of_1861). The Habsburgs finally had to give the Hungarians more [**self-determination**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-determination) in the ***[Ausgleich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ausgleich" \o "Ausgleich)*** of 1867. The revolutions inspired lasting reform in [**Denmark**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denmark) as well as the [**Netherlands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands).

**Exceptions:**

[**Great Britain**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain), the [**Netherlands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands), the [**Russian Empire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire) (including [**Congress Poland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_Poland)), and the [**Ottoman Empire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) were the only major European states to go without a national revolution over this period. [**Sweden**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden) and [**Norway**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norway) were little affected. [**Serbia**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principality_of_Serbia), though formally unaffected by the revolt as it was a part of the Ottoman state, actively supported the [**Serbian revolution in the Habsburg Empire**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutions_of_1848_in_the_Habsburg_areas).

Russia’s relative stability was attributed to the revolutionary groups’ inability to communicate with each other.[[***citation needed***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)] In the [**Kingdom of Poland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_Poland)and the [**Grand Duchy of Lithuania**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Lithuania), uprisings took place in 1830–31 (the [**November Uprising**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_Uprising)) and 1846 (the **[Kraków Uprising](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Krak%C3%B3w_Uprising" \o "Kraków Uprising)**). A final revolt took place in 1863–65 (the [**January Uprising**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/January_Uprising)), but none occurred in 1848.

[**Switzerland**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland) and [**Portugal**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portugal) were also spared in 1848, though both had gone through civil wars in the preceding years (the **[Sonderbund war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sonderbund_war" \o "Sonderbund war)** in Switzerland and the [**Liberal Wars**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberal_Wars) in Portugal). The introduction of the [**Swiss Federal Constitution**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swiss_Federal_Constitution) in 1848 was a revolution of sorts, laying the foundation of Swiss society as it is today. In the [**Netherlands**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netherlands) no major unrests appeared because the king [**Willem II**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_II_of_the_Netherlands) decided to alter the constitution to reform elections and effectively reduce the power of the monarchy. While there were no major political upheavals in the Ottoman Empire as such, political unrest did occur in some of its [**vassal states**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vassal_States_(Ottoman_Empire)). In Serbia, [**feudalism**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feudalism) was finally abolished in 1838 and power of the Serbian prince was reduced with the [**Turkish constitution**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_constitution_(Serbia)).