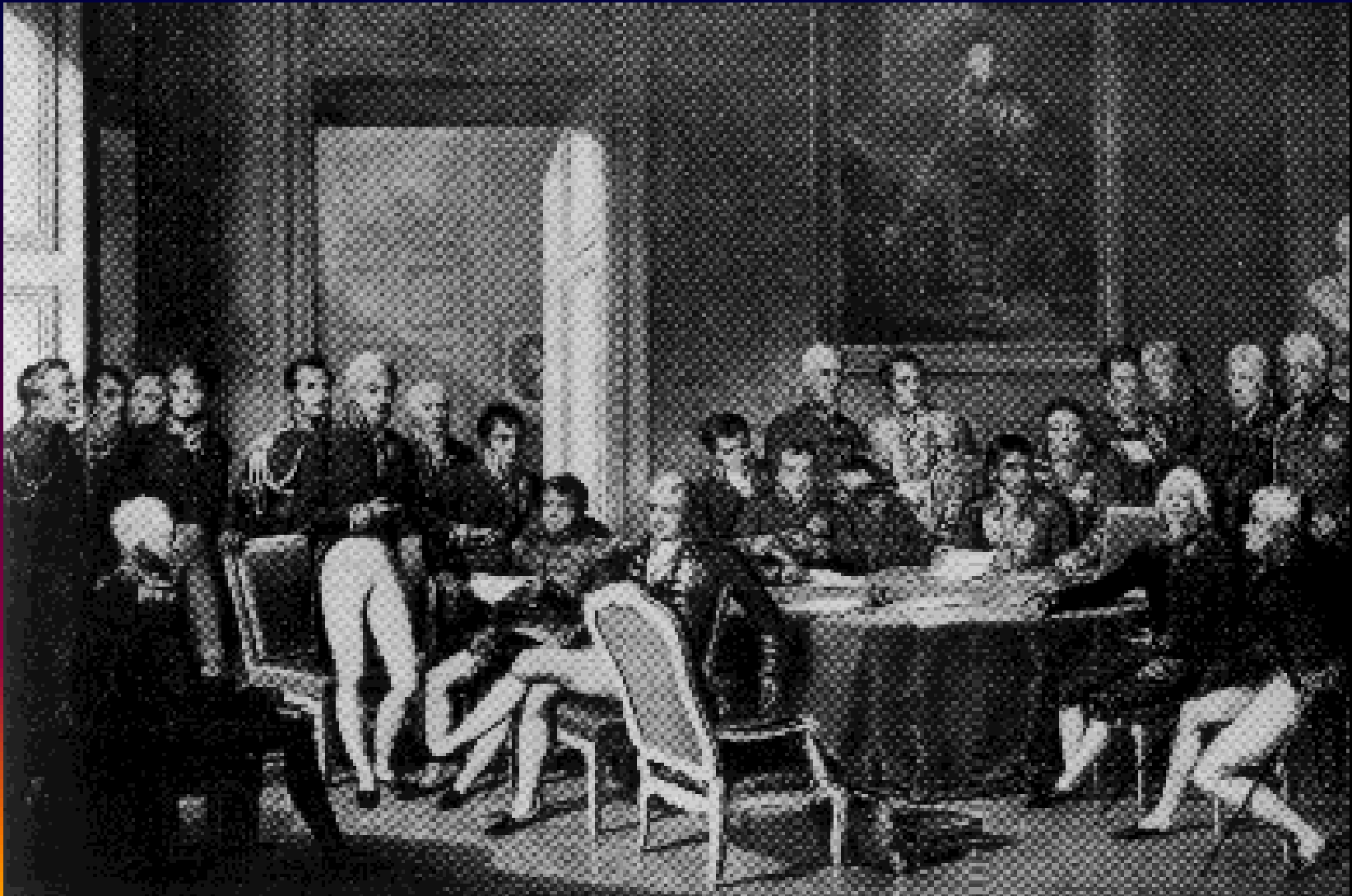# Conservatism, Liberalism, and Nationalism: Nations in Upheaval during the 19th Century

The Overthrow of Napoleon

Invasion of Russia fails

Napoleon abdicates -1814

**The Revolutionary
wars, and the
Revolution, were over.
Or so it appeared…**

FRANCE

The Source of Revolutionary Disturbances

"When Paris sneezes, Europe catches a cold. The disease must be cured, the volcano must be extinguished, the gangrene must be burned out with a hot iron."
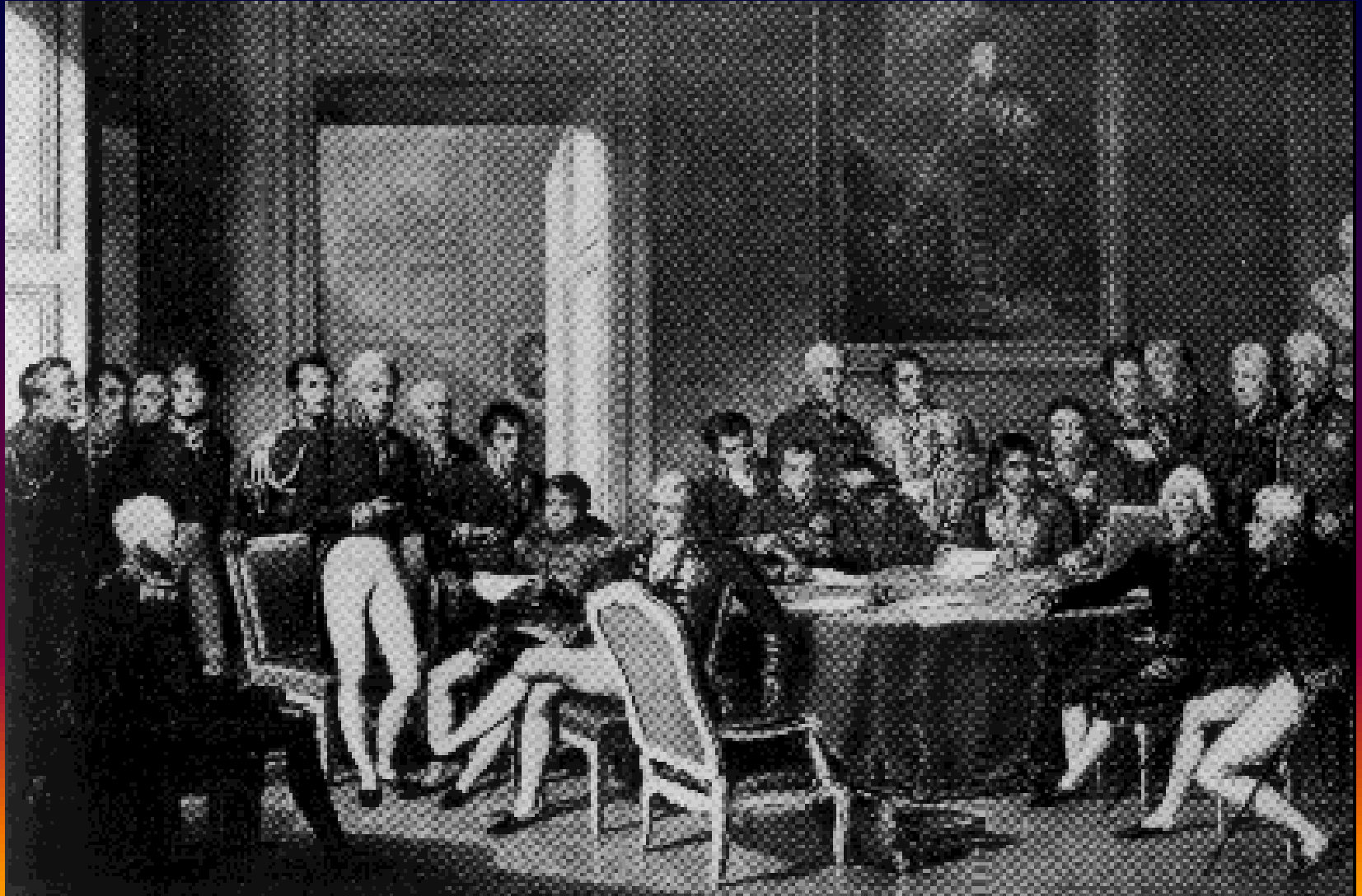
Prince Metternich of Austria

Opposed *Liberalism and Nationalism* of the French Revolution

The Congress of Vienna

Map of Europe 1815

• <u>Balance of Power</u> – a new European order in which no single power was able to dominate.

More than anything, they wanted to prevent another Napoleon figure from ever conquering Europe again. They want to replace French *hegemony* with an *equilibrium*.

Want liberalism and nationalism BLOCKED as liberal and nationalist uprising are what opened door to Napoleon.

Conservatism

- *Rejected liberalism and radical democracy*

-*desires traditional government (absolute monarchy) in order to preserve the status-quo*

Edmund Burke, the founder of modern conservative thought, wrote: "The state was a partnership, but one not only between those who are living, but between those who are living, those who are dead and those who are to be born…No one generation therefore has the right to destroy this partnership."

CONSERVATISM continued:

• **Preserve the *Status Quo*: Peace, Stability, and *Order* is achieved by a *Balance of Power*.**

Conservatives: *Edmund Burke, Prince Metternich*

Generally aristocrats of noble or royal blood

The peacemakers of 1815 (Britain, Prussia, Austria, and Russia) were men who were backward-looking and conservative, who believed that liberalism was responsible for a generation of war and untold bloodshed and suffering.

CONSERVATISM continued:

• **Belief in the *Divine Right of Kings* or *Absolutism*.**

• *Traditions* **– feudal privileges, social hierarchies and orders, nobility, traditional Catholicism.**

The nobility was one of Europe's most ancient institutions, and conservatives regarded tradition as the basic source of human institutions.

Liberalism

-desires <u>limited government</u> in order to protect <u>individual liberties</u>.

<u>It is the ideology of Freedom:</u>

Freedom of Assembly

-Challenged <u>absolute monarchy</u> but rejected <u>democracy</u>. Thought the will of the majority might overcome the will of the individual

Right to Property

Freedom of Press

Equality of opportunity

Freedom of Religion

Freedom from arbitrary arrest

-Favourable to the middle class

Free Trade *Freedom of Speech*

The origins of Liberalism:

- **The Enlightenment introduced the idea of a *social contract* based on *natural rights* and *equality* of men.**

- **French Revolution instituted a new political order based on *individual freedom***

- **Such rights and freedoms would be guaranteed in *constitutions* as Liberalism demanded *representative government* as opposed to autocratic monarchy**

- **Philosophy in Napoleonic Code which spreads to most of Europe**

NATIONALISM

-a sense of unity based upon shared characteristics: language, culture, historical experience, religion, ethnicity and geography.

-Examples of nationalities that did not rule themselves in 1815 were Germans, Italians, and Poles. They wanted it – conservatives worried about more revolution.

-Driving force behind change in 19th century

-In this time, nationalism was encouraged by leaders not the people

Roots of Nationalism

- French Revolution:
  - vs. Monarchical order
  - "Liberty, fraternity, equality"
  - Liberal ideas – freedom
  - Armed struggle vs. oppressors

*the days of multi-national empires and monarchies were numbered

Reaction against Reaction of Congress of Vienna and Metternich

Across Europe, liberals and nationalists tested Metternich system...

Revolutions of 1848

- A.k.a.:
  – "The Spring of Nations"

- Liberalism
  vs. Conservatism
- Nationalism

  -One year later, almost all monarchs were restored, but the revolutions would not be forgotten.

- Revolutions spring up in Paris, Vienna, Piedmont, Berlin, and others

Revolutions of 1848

France was changed forever, however.

Louis Napoleon Bonaparte III
(nephew of Napoleon)
(1808-1873)

**President of France
1848-1851**

**Emperor of France
1851-1871**

Second French Republic + Second Empire

- **President Louis Napoleon**: seen by voters as a symbol of stability and greatness
- Dedicated to law and order, but wanted prestige and prosperity

- **Emperor Napoleon III**, 1851: took control of gov't in coup d'etat (December 1851) and became emperor the following year
  - 1851-1860: Napoleon III's control was direct and authoritarian.
  - 1860-1870: Regime liberalized by a series of reforms.

  - France prospers enough to keep the people happy without giving them true democracy.
  - France becomes cultural capital of Europe

Italy Mid-19th Century

**A Collection of Kingdoms and Republics**

Italian Unification - 1861-1871

- Nationalists tired of being ruled by and benefiting foreign powers (Austrian Empire)

- Wanted a united Italy for Italians.

- "Young Italy" – Nationalist, revolutionary movement defeated in 1848

- Passed on to Garibaldi and his "Red Shirts" Fought and defeated king of Sicily

→ Cavour (North)

&

Garibaldi (South) →
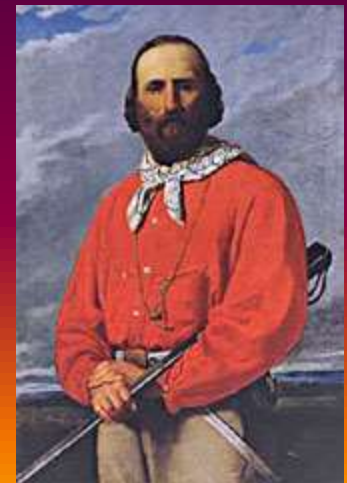
Germany Mid-19th Century

Confederation of German States

Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898)

- Most remarkable political leader of late 19th century.
- Ruled Prussia from 1862, and Germany from 1871, to 1890, as Chancellor.
- **Blood and Iron** - Speech to Parliament 1862 - Germany would only be united by blood and iron.

Three Wars

- To unite all the German speaking peoples, Prussia went to war three times in the period 1863-1870.
  - War with Denmark - 1863
  - Seven Weeks' War against Austria. 1866
  - Franco-Prussian War -1870-1871

German Empire

- Proclaimed on January 18, 1871 (most powerful nation in Europe)

- William I became Emperor of Germany (Kaiser Wilhelm)

- Bismarck became the Imperial Chancellor.

Europe 1871

THE NATIONAL STATE: 1871-1914

- Ordinary people felt increasing loyalty to their governments
- Politicians and parties in national parliaments represented the people more responsibly as increased suffrage (voting) spread
- Governments came to believe public education important to provide society with well-informed and responsible citizens.
- Governments often led by conservatives who manipulated nationalism to create a sense of unity and divert attention away from underlying class conflicts

Conclusion

- Conservatism, Liberalism and Nationalism - The birth of modern *ideologies*

- New nations changed the balance of power in Europe and set the continent on course for the events of the 20th century.