

Major Events and Achievements of the 19th Century (1800s)

Independence Movements

The United States officially became an **independent** nation in 1783 when Great Britain agreed to the Treaty of Paris following the American Revolution (1763-1776). As the 19th century began, the United States was still unsure of its future. Strong and intelligent leadership, and a belief by all Americans in democracy, helped make the United States a powerful nation in the years to follow.



The revolutionary spirit reached Latin America as well. Latin American people wanted independence from Spain, Portugal, and France. After long and hard-fought struggles, the people of Latin America achieved independence. Great Britain and the United States supported Latin American independence. In 1823 the American President James Monroe issued the Monroe Doctrine, opposing any attempt by European powers to regain its former colonies in Latin America.

Revolutionary Activity and the Napoleonic Era

The French Revolution entered a new phase in 1799 when Napoleon Bonaparte took charge of the French government. Under Napoleon, France became the most powerful country in the world. Of major importance during the *Napoleonic Era* was that Napoleon spread the ideas of the French Revolution to other countries. In doing so, he was able to overthrow many of the monarchies around Europe.



Napoleon Bonaparte

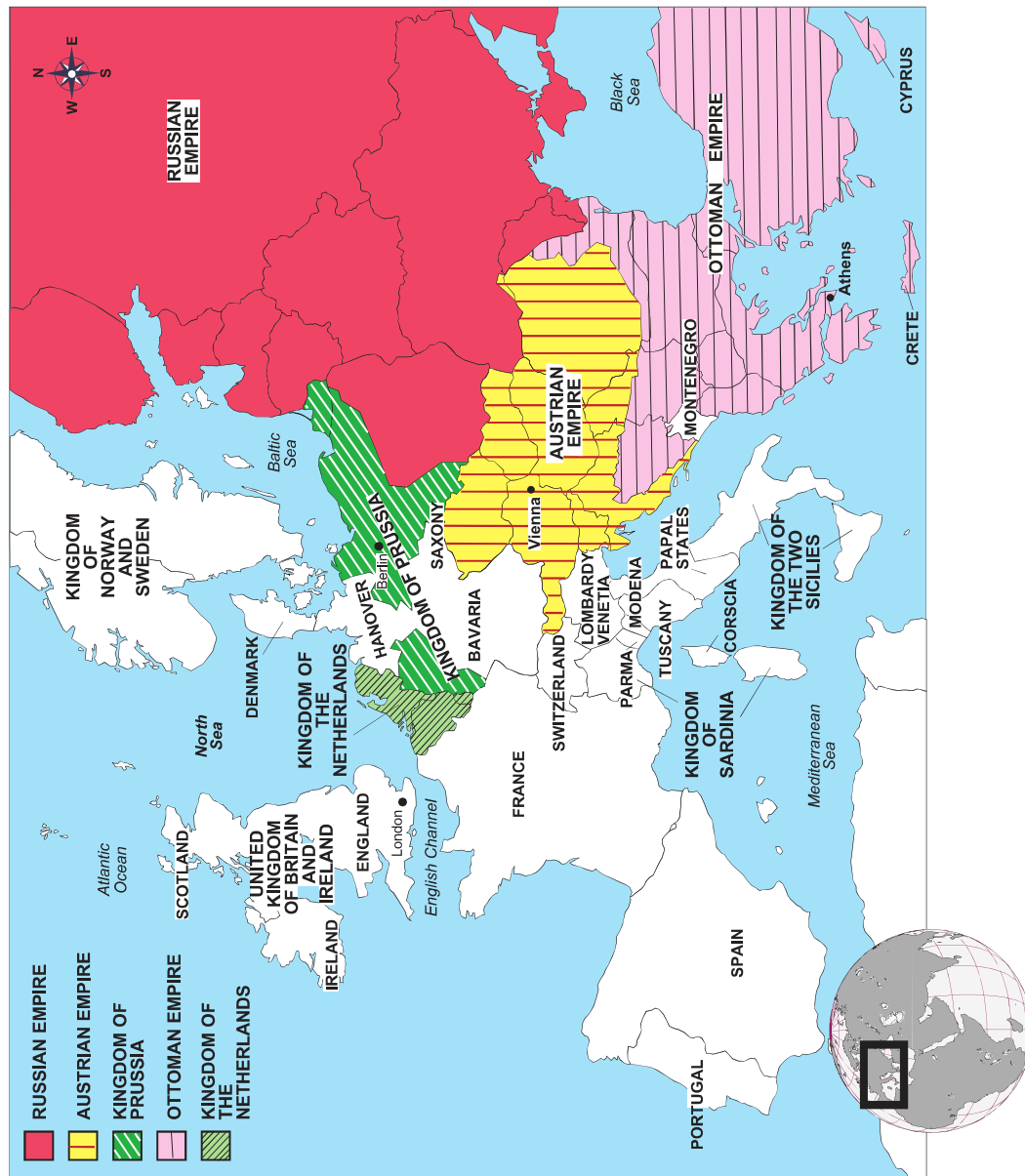
Revolutionary activity in Europe lasted until 1815. At this time, Napoleon was defeated by a group of countries called the *Quadruple Alliance*. The alliance included Great Britain, Prussia, Russia, and Austria. With the defeat of Napoleon, the French Revolution came to an end.

Metternich and the Reactionary Era

The year was 1815. The Quadruple Alliance met in Vienna to reorganize Europe after Napoleon and France were defeated. Europeans were tired of war. The Quadruple Alliance wanted to protect Europe from revolutionary movements. To accomplish this goal, the alliance returned to their thrones many of the monarchs Napoleon had overthrown. Nobles and clergy were once again placed in positions of power. Many civil rights of the people were taken away. Governments in Europe began to look as they had before the Napoleonic Era. Prince Clemens von Metternich, the foreign minister of Austria, led this reactionary movement.

The Congress of Vienna created a balance of power in Europe. This meant that no one nation would be allowed to become more powerful than any other. The *great powers* of Europe also agreed to establish order and to help stop any revolutionary activity anywhere in Europe.

The Metternich system, or the use of force and fear to control people, eventually failed. The reason why the Metternich system did not work was simple: people cannot turn back the progress of time. The sense of **nationalism** encouraged by the French Revolution could not be held back forever.



Europe in 1815

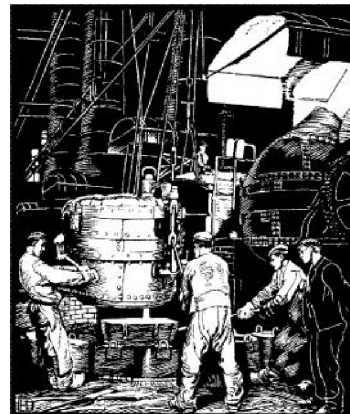
The Rise of Nationalism

People generally like to live among other people with whom they share a common culture. Culture ties people together. These ties, along with feelings of patriotism towards one's nation, can lead to feelings of nationalism. During the 19th century, forces of *nationalism* led to the independence of Egypt and Greece. The rise of nationalism also led to independence movements in Ireland, Holland, and Belgium. Most importantly, the Northern German Confederation and the Southern German states were unified into Germany, and the different *independent* states of Italy were unified into one nation-state. Finally, the Austrian and the Ottoman Empires began to fall apart. This was due to the nationalistic feelings of the various people living within those empires.

The Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries first began in Great Britain. Other nations including France, Germany, and the United States followed Great Britain in becoming industrialized (or *developed*) nations. The Industrial Revolution changed the way of life for most of the Western world. Two new groups of people, the working class and the capitalists (middle class), began to battle for control of government in their nations.

In both Europe and the United States, working-class people fought hard to organize labor unions. The labor struggle often led to bloody and violent reaction from governments. Eventually workers were given the right to organize labor unions. Labor unions did win many rights for workers. These rights included the minimum wage, eight- or nine-hour workdays, the right to collective bargaining, and the right to strike.



working-class people

Socialism

The Industrial Revolution also led to the beginning of the Socialist movement in many European countries. Revolutionary Socialists like Karl Marx believed that the Industrial Revolution had caused most of the workers' problems. The Industrial Revolution had brought an end to the

life of the traditional skilled craftsman. Workers depended on wages and could no longer control the pace of their work. Living and working conditions were poor. Low wages, long hours, the use of child labor, and unfit housing were some of the harsher results of **industrialization**.



Karl Marx

Revolutionary or radical Socialists like Karl Marx believed that both government and society had to change in order to give power to the working class, or proletariat, and end the special privileges of the rich. Marx believed that eventually workers would rise up and overthrow the capitalist system. Workers would then create a classless society in which the government would exist to improve the life of the workers.

Emigration from Europe and Asia

During the 19th century, millions of Europeans and Asians left their countries to begin a new life in the United States. They left for *economic, social, and political* reasons. These new **immigrants** to the United States hoped to begin a life in the *land of opportunity*. Many *immigrants* who came or **immigrated** to America believed that the streets were *lined with gold*. Many were promised jobs or farmland.

Immigrants came to America from all over Europe, and they came for many reasons. Many Irish people **emigrated** from Ireland due to the Great Potato Famine in Ireland during the 1840s. Russians *emigrated* from Russia during the end of the 19th century for religious and political reasons. Many **emigrants** from Germany came to seek political freedom.

The United States became the land of hope for millions of immigrants from around the world. Through **emigration**, people leaving their homelands, and **immigration**, people arriving in a new homeland, the United States grew. Many people referred to the United States as a nation of immigrants, often called a giant *melting pot*.

Major Achievements of the 19th Century

The chart on the following page will give you an idea about some great achievements during the 19th century in the fields of art, literature, science, and music. It is by no means a complete record of the achievements of that period.

Major Achievements of the 19th Century

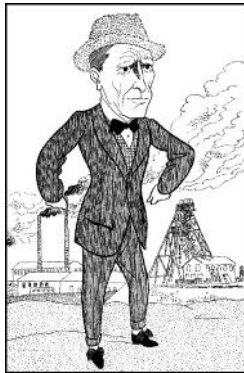
	Name	Country	Birth-Death	Achievements
Art	Edouard Manet	France	1832-1883	Impressionist painters—used light and color in new ways; looked at a scene and painted it according to how they felt at that moment.
	Edgar Degas	France	1834-1917	
	Paul Cezanne	France	1839-1906	
	Claude Monet	France	1840-1926	
	Pierre Auguste Renoir	France	1841-1919	
	Vincent van Gogh	Holland	1853-1890	
Sculpture	Auguste Rodin	France	1840-1917	Used great care in making his statues come alive; most famous sculpture is <i>The Thinker</i> .
Music	Ludwig von Beethoven	Germany	1770-1827	Great symphonies—e.g., <i>Fifth Symphony</i> . Wrote great operas—e.g., <i>Aida</i> ; <i>Rigoletto</i> . Wrote strong and powerful compositions drawing on German nationalism. Wrote lively operettas—e.g., <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> . Used Russian folk music in his compositions—e.g., <i>The Nutcracker</i> .
	Giuseppe Verdi	Italy	1813-1901	
	Richard Wagner	Germany	1813-1883	
	Gilbert and Sullivan	England	1836-1911; 1842-1900	
Literature	Peter Tschaikovsky	Russia	1840-1893	Wrote romantic poetry called <i>sonnets</i> . Wrote about social conditions in <i>Great Expectations</i> and <i>Oliver Twist</i> . Wrote about subjects which had never been openly discussed in <i>A Doll's House</i> . Wrote on themes in Russian history in <i>War and Peace</i> , which told the story of Napoleon's invasion of Russia. Wrote about social injustice in "I Accuse," which told the story of the Dreyfus case. Wrote about social morality in <i>Red Badge of Courage</i> , which told the story of a young man fighting in the Civil War. Wrote about socialism in <i>Das Kapital</i> , <i>Communist Manifesto</i> .
	Elizabeth Browning	England	1806-1861	
	Charles Dickens	England	1812-1870	
	Henrik Ibsen	Norway	1828-1906	
	Leo Tolstoy	Russia	1828-1910	
	Emile Zola	France	1840-1902	
Medicine	Stephen Crane	U.S.	1871-1900	Discovered anesthetics, which made surgery safer and less painful. Proved that microscopic organisms cause disease. Discovered a sterilization method for hands, wounds, and medical instruments. Discovered the germs of 11 diseases including cholera and tuberculosis. Discovered smallpox vaccine.
	Karl Marx	Germany	1818-1883	
	W. T. G. Morton	U.S.	1819-1868	
	Louis Pasteur	France	1822-1895	
	Joseph Lister	England	1827-1912	
Biology	Robert Koch	Germany	1843-1910	Wrote <i>Origin of Species</i> about the theory of natural selection to explain evolution. Laid foundations of the science of genetics.
	Edward Jenner	England	1749-1823	
Psychology	Charles Darwin	England	1809-1882	Proved that people respond to stimuli. Laid foundations of almost all basic concepts of psychoanalysis.
	Gregor Mendel	Austria	1822-1884	
Inventors	Ivan Pavlov	Russia	1849-1936	Made the first electric telegraph. Invented the telephone. Invented the first useful electric light. Invented the first wireless telegraph.
	Sigmund Freud	Austria	1856-1936	
	Samuel Morse	U.S.	1791-1872	
	Alexander Graham Bell	U.S.	1847-1922	
	Thomas A. Edison	U.S.	1847-1931	
	Guglielmo Marconi	Italy	1874-1937	

Review

Many nations gained their *independence* during the 19th century. Many Latin American countries fought successful revolutions to gain independence from Spain, Portugal, and France. Some of these revolutions were supported by both the United States (which had just gained its own independence in 1783) and Great Britain.

The 19th century was greatly influenced by the *Napoleonic Era*. Napoleon had spread the revolution that had begun in France to other European nations. When Napoleon was defeated in 1815, the Quadruple Alliance, led by Metternich, returned many monarchs to their thrones. Eventually, most monarchs were overthrown by their people or other nations.

The rise of *nationalism* resulted in many European and Middle Eastern countries gaining independence. Nationalism also led to the fall of the Austrian and Ottoman Empires.



cartoon portraying a capitalist

The *Industrial Revolution* led to two groups of people: the capitalists or middle class (who owned the factories and controlled industry) and the working class (who worked in the factories). These two groups battled to protect their different interests. The workers eventually formed labor unions and won many reforms. Socialism gained support in response to the Industrial Revolution. Revolutionary, or radical, Socialists like Karl Marx believed in a *classless society*. Marx believed that the proletariat would eventually overthrow the capitalist system. The 19th century also saw millions of European immigrants come to the United States for religious and political freedom, as well as economic opportunity.