The Conservative Reaction to the Radicalism of Liberalism and Nationalism
The Congress of Vienna *Revisited*

- **Who?**
  - Quadruple Alliance
- **When?**
  - 1814-1815
- **Where?**
  - Vienna, DUH!
- **What?**
  - A series of peacekeeping meetings to rebuild a legitimate Europe and construct a new balance of power, focused on collective security, after the Napoleonic Era
- **SO WHAT?**
  - Created the Concert of Europe and prevented major war until WWI
European Conservatism

• First great conservative treatise was written by...Edmund Burke!
• After 1815, Metternich became the symbol of conservatism
• Basic beliefs:
  – Obedience to a hereditary monarch and an official state religion
  – Existence of a privileged landowning class
  – Community above individual
  – Tradition brings order!
• Reactionary philosophy
  – Emerges as a means to suppress liberalism and nationalism!
The Growth of *Political* Liberalism

• Has its roots in the Enlightenment and 18th century revolutions

• Voice of Liberalism: John Stuart Mill of Britain
  – Representative and constitutional government
  – Equality before the law
  – Individual liberties
  – Protection from both the gov’t and the tyranny of the majority

• Britain and France were liberalized to an extent!
  – After 1815, we will see a growth in democrats and republicans, who feel that the *middle-class* liberal movement has not done enough to destroy the old order!
The Growth of Nationalism

- Has its roots in the FR and the Napoleonic Wars
- Two main concepts:
  - Shared bond based upon common **language**, history, territory, or culture
  - Belief in self-determination
- Nationalism and Liberalism worked together!
  - Self-government was only possible if the people were united!
- However, it sparked beliefs in national superiority and national mission!
  - Causes of imperialism and WWI
The “Hinge Upon Which the Fate of Europe” rests
Conservative Domination of the 1820s

- **Congress of Troppau 1820**
  - Called in response to liberal revolutions in Spain and Italy
  - Officially adopted the policy of intervention
  - Crushed the liberals and restored the LEGITIMATE rulers to their thrones
- **However, British refused to accept the policy of intervention**
  - It’s truly a Central and Eastern European movement to crush liberalism and nationalism
More Conservative Victories

- **Great Britain**
  - Rule of the Tories (ex. 1819 Peterloo Massacre)

- **France**
  - Succession of the Ultraroyalist Charles X

- **Germany**
  - Carlsbad Decrees limit the Burschenschaften

- **Russia**
  - Failure of the Decembrist Revolt in 1825 to overthrow the new Tsar Nicholas I
Conservative Failure in Latin America

• Napoleon’s conquest of Spain allowed the creoles to form independent gov’ts
  – Bolivar and San Martin were heavily educated in Enlightenment and revolutionary philosophy

• Continental powers wanted to regain this land for Spain, but the British said “NO”
  – US issues the Monroe Doctrine, but really, British ships protected the new nations in Latin America
The Dual Revolution

- Though the conservative backlash takes place after 1815, peace also allows the economic revolution to join forces with the effects of the political revolution!
  - This Dual Revolution allows the “ISMs” of liberalism and nationalism to grow into a destructive *middle-class* force that brings about further revolutions in 1830 and 1848!