

6 - ALEXANDER I and the 19th Century — Part I

The ROMANOV Dynasty (continued)

CATHERINE II “The Great” (Yekaterina Alekseyevna / 1729 / r. 1762 – 1796)

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PAUL I (Pavel Petrovich / 1754 / r. 1796 – 1801)

oo Sophie Dorothea von Württemberg

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ALEXANDER I, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias
(Aleksander Pavlovich / 1777 / r. 1801 – 1825)

- more irritations with Napoleon
 - the Grand Empire (1810)
 - invasion of Russia (1812)
 - abdication of Napoleon as Emperor of the French (April 1814)
 - the 100 Days and the Battle of Waterloo (1815)

- the Congress of Vienna and the re-organization of Europe (1814 — 1815)
 - Alexander becomes King of Poland
 - Alexander becomes Grand Duke of Finland

- the Holy Alliance
 - to govern Europe by Christian principles
 - to uphold legitimate governments
 - a confederation of free states

- the “CONCERT of EUROPE”
 - the Great Powers (Great Britain, Prussia, Austria, Russia, later also France)
work together to defuse crises

 - to maintain the Balance of Power
 - to uphold legitimate governments

 - “thou shalt not humiliate another Great Power”

NICHOLAS I (1796 / r. 1825 — 1855)

The RISE of ROMANTICISM

The ideals of the ENLIGHTENMENT dominated the 1700s / the 18th Century

- the importance of REASON :
 - “Let Reason be your guide”
 - “Examine everything by the COLD CLEAR LIGHT of REASON”

- the MOTOR of the Universe is REASON :
 - the LAWS of NATURE are RATIONAL and irresistible

- Reason is also applied to the ARTS : “the Doctrine of the RULES”
 - if you follow the Natural Laws of Art, you will create great Art

- in other words, Literature, and the Arts,
are a PRODUCT of REASON, a Product of the INTELLECT

ROMANTICISM

- a rejection of these Enlightenment principles

- Edward Young (English / 1683 - 1765)
 - an emphasis on Reason STIFLES creativity and imagination
 - “The highest knowledge of mankind is the wisdom of the heart;
genius comes from heaven, knowledge comes from men.”

- Johann Georg Hamann (German / 1730 - 1788)
 - “The heart first beats, before the mind first thinks.”
 - “The senses and the passions understand only pictures.
And in pictures rests the entire treasure of human experience and happiness.”

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (Swiss-French / 1712 - 1778)
 - Reason is an UNRELIABLE guide in human affairs
 - “*Le sentiment est plus que la raison*” (Feeling is greater than Reason.)

 - IMPULSE and INTUITION are more reliable than rational thinking ;
 - spontaneous FEELING is more to be trusted than critical thought ;
 - MYSTICAL INSIGHTS are more TRUTHFUL than rational or clear ideas.

- Johann Gottfried von HERDER (German / 1744 - 1803)
 - stressed that the DIVERSITY of different peoples and cultures is a good thing
 - every nation (all people who speak the same LANGUAGE)
 - has its own SPIRIT, its own distinctive GENIUS,
 - and the true genius lies in the COMMON PEOPLE,
 - in the stories (folk tales) that they tell, the folk songs that they sing

 - TRUE CULTURE comes from the NATIVE ROOTS of the common people
 - EVERY NATION should develop its OWN DISTINCT GENIUS

 - the nations of the world are like instruments in a great orchestra playing an exquisite symphony : “Just as in an orchestra each instrument group plays its own special melody and yet together they all create a most marvelous harmony, so each nation must develop its innate individuality in order to do its part in the great forward movement of all humanity”

- > “CULTURAL NATIONALISM”

Jacob & Wilhelm GRIMM / The Grimm Brothers (German / 1785 – 1863 & 1786 – 1859)
-German grammar / German dictionary

-“Grimm’s Fairy Tales”:

*-Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White and the 7 Dwarves, Hänsel and Gretel,
Rumpelstiltschen, Cinderella, The Six Swans, The Fisherman & His Wife,
The Golden Goose, Rapunzel, Sleeping Beauty*

Alexander AFANASYEV (Russian / 1826 - 1871)

*-Vasilisa the Beautiful, the Snow Maiden, the Swan Princess, the Fire Bird, Petrushka,
Baba Yaga stories*

The rise of revolutionary ideologies

- ideology > a political belief system or political faith
(as a faith it can ignite and sustain powerful emotions, fierce loyalties,
and inspire great self-sacrifices)
- revolutionary > to create swift and major structural change in a society
(in order, for example, to create a more perfect society)

Revolutionary NATIONALISM

- from Cultural Nationalism > each ethnic group has its own identity and culture
- Nationalism undergoes an important transformation during the French Revolution
and the Napoleonic Era :
 - it came to mean: pride in one’s own country, therefore:
 - one fights for “our fatherland” rather than fighting for the interests of a king
 - the remarkable discovery was made:
 - that nationalism made armies stronger, bec. soldiers fight for “a higher cause”
 - that nationalism made civilian populations more engaged
and more willing to support ever greater sacrifices for the war
- thus, Nationalism came to mean:
 - every nation (a people speaking the same language & with a common history)
should have their own “NATION-STATE”
 - the nation-state is the culmination of freedom for a people ... and for an individual
 - the nation-state will guarantee Freedom and Power and Prosperity
- this ideology challenges the new stability of the Vienna Settlement of 1815

Revolutionary LIBERALISM

- the goal: to establish a constitutional monarchy (as in Great Britain)
or a liberal republic (as in the United States)
 - the liberal program:
 - freedom of speech, press, conscience (individual liberties)
 - freedom from arbitrary arrest
 - rule of law (the law is superior to the king or government)
 - limited manhood suffrage (only adult males of property can vote or be elected)
 - no government interference in economics:
 - free markets, free trade, no regulation
 - not* the same as Democracy (equal suffrage: one person = one vote)
 - this ideology also challenges the new stability of the Vienna Settlement of 1815
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The ROMANOV Dynasty (continued)

Death of Alexander I (1825)

NICHOLAS I (1796 / r. 1825 — 1855), brother of Alexander I

- the Decembrist Movement
- “Official Nationality”
 - orthodoxy in religion, autocracy in government, and Russian nationalism

Louis Napoleon (nephew of Napoleon I, Bonaparte)

- overthrows the government of France and proclaims himself :

> Emperor **Napoleon III** (1808 – 1873 / r. 1852 – 1870)

The Crimean War (1853 — 1856) : Russia vs. Britain, France, Austria, the Ottomans

- the beginning of Austrian and Russian rivalry for control of the Balkans (SE Europe)
due to the continued disintegration of the Ottoman Empire
 - Florence Nightingale
 - the Charge of the Light Brigade
 - the destruction of the Concert of Europe
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If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at nhohmann@sfc.edu