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# The European Revolutions, 1848–1851

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## *The European Revolutions, 1848–1851*

Reaching from the Atlantic to Ukraine, from the Baltic to the Mediterranean, the revolutions of 1848 brought millions of people across the European continent into political life. Nationalist aspirations, social issues, and feminist demands coming to the fore in the mid-century revolutions would reverberate in continental Europe until 1914 and beyond. Yet the new regimes established then proved ephemeral, succumbing to counter-revolution.

In this second edition, Jonathan Sperber has updated and expanded his study of the European Revolutions between 1848 and 1851. Emphasizing the socioeconomic background to the revolutions, and the diversity of political opinions and experiences of participants, the book offers an inclusive narrative of the revolutionary events and a structural analysis of the reasons for the revolutions' ultimate failure. A wide-reaching conclusion and a detailed bibliography make the book ideal both for classroom use and for a general reader wishing to acquire a better knowledge of this major historical event.

JONATHAN SPERBER is Professor of History at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His previous publications include award-winning books such as *Rhineland Radicals: The Democratic Movement and the Revolutions of 1848–1849* (1991) and *The Kaiser's Voters: Electors and Elections in Imperial Germany* (1997).

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# *The European Revolutions, 1848–1851*

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Second Edition

JONATHAN SPERBER

*University of Missouri-Columbia*



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## Preface to the second edition

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The one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the revolution of 1848, that produced a small flood of exhibitions, conferences, lecture series, commemorations, and scholarly publications in the years around 1998, also provided the impetus for a second edition of this work. As part of the relevant revisions, the bibliography has been completely rewritten and brought up to date with the latest literature, much of it appearing in conjunction with the revolutionary sesquicentennial. The account of the 1848 revolutions has been modified as well, to take into consideration the latest scholarly findings. As a result of them, the discussion of the 1848 revolution has been expanded, both topically and geographically, including new material on events in the Low Countries, Scandinavia, and the very interesting developments in the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. I have added new examples for some of the assertions in the book, introduced new themes, particularly a section on the memory and commemoration of the 1848 revolutions. A number of smaller mistakes present in the first edition have been corrected.

More generally, though, most of these newer scholarly investigations have offered further evidence to support the general approach to and interpretation of the mid-nineteenth-century revolutions put forth in this book. Indeed, the first edition of *The European Revolutions, 1848–1851* found frequent and favorable mention in bibliographies and commemorative essays, to say nothing of Internet web sites, appearing in conjunction with the revolutionary anniversary. It is to be hoped that a revised and updated second edition will continue to improve upon this favorable track record.



## Chronology of events

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### 1845

Failure of the potato crop produces famine or near-famine conditions in much of Europe.

### 1846

The potato harvest improved over the previous year, but the wretched grain harvest worsens the food supply situation.

The Bishop of Imola elected Pope Pius IX; widespread expectations that he will introduce liberal reforms in the church and the Papal States and take the lead towards Italian national unity.

Defeat of the opposition in the elections to the legislature in France.

Polish uprising in the Austrian province of Galicia defeated when serfs turn on the noble insurgents and massacre them.

### 1847

A good harvest ends the danger of famine (except in Ireland) but business conditions worsen and the industrial and commercial economy in Europe enters into recession.

Civil war in Switzerland; the predominantly Protestant and left-wing cantons defeat the predominantly Catholic and right-wing ones.

Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia calls a United Diet to approve new loans.

A majority of deputies demand a constitution and liberal reforms, which the king refuses to grant.

Constitutional-monarchist and radical parliamentary deputies from the smaller states of central and southwestern Germany hold separate meetings to discuss plans for national unification, and social and political reform.

The French opposition mounts a banquet campaign to demand a more democratic franchise.

Victory of the opposition in elections to the Hungarian Diet.

Pius IX calls a Consultative Assembly to discuss reforms in the Papal States; liberal deputies to it demand greater concessions than he is willing to make.

## 1848

### *January*

Italy: Insurrection in Palermo, Sicily, spreads to the mainland and the King of the Two Sicilies is forced to grant a constitution.

France: Intensification of the banquet campaign in Paris.

### *February*

Italy: King of Piedmont-Savoy and the Grand Duke of Tuscany grant constitutions.

France: Parisian banquets end in street demonstrations; crowds clash with soldiers and police; barricades are built. The army refuses to fight, the National Guard goes over to the insurgents, King Louis-Philippe flees and the republic is proclaimed. Provisional Government is an uneasy coalition of radicals, socialists, and moderate "pure republicans."

### *March*

The revolutionary events of this month lead to riots and demonstrations of the urban and rural lower classes throughout the continent, including strikes, land occupations, boycotts of feudal and seignorial obligations, and assaults on employers, creditors, nobles, and government officials. These continue into the summer.

Italy: Risings in the Habsburg provinces of Lombardy and Venetia, particularly in their respective capitals, Venice and Milan; revolutionary provisional governments created. Austrian General Radetzky retreats with his defeated forces to the fortresses of the Quadrilateral. Carlo Alberto of Piedmont-Savoy declares war on Austria and sends his army to occupy Lombardy and Venetia. Pius IX grants a constitution for the Papal States.

France: Creation of Luxembourg Commission in Paris to investigate and reform conditions of the working class. National Workshops set up to

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offer jobs to the unemployed. Formation of numerous political clubs and workers' trade associations in the capital.

Germany: Street fighting in Berlin. Insurgents are victorious: the army withdraws from the city; the king of Prussia promises a constitution, appoints liberal ministers, and announces his support for German national unification. Liberal government ministers appointed in most of the smaller German states, sometimes after menacing street demonstrations. German nationalist uprising in Schleswig-Holstein against Danish rule. "Pre-Parliament" meets in Frankfurt and issues call for elections to a German National Assembly.

Austrian Empire: Street fighting in Vienna; Metternich flees the country. A new government ministry is appointed, containing both conservatives and liberals. It names Colonel Jelačić Ban of Croatia and commander of the border troops. National mass meeting of Croats in Zagreb. Demonstrations in Prague and formation of a National Committee. Riots in Cracow and formation of Polish National Committee. Mass demonstrations in Budapest; the Hungarian Diet moves there from Pressburg and names members of a Hungarian government ministry.

Low Countries: Mass meetings in the Netherlands, particularly in Amsterdam and The Hague; large street demonstrations in Amsterdam on 27 March. The king appoints a commission, chaired by liberal opposition leader Johan Thorbecke, to draft a new constitution. Formation of a "Belgian Legion" in Paris, primarily from unemployed Belgian workers there. Moving to the north of France, it sets up an armed camp and crosses the Belgian border on 25 and 29 March, hoping for promised support from Belgian radicals. These invasions are defeated by Belgian troops. Belgian government introduces a reform packet, including a considerable expansion of the franchise.

Scandinavia: Mass meetings and street demonstrations in Copenhagen lead King Friedrich VII to appoint liberal government ministers who announce elections for a constituent assembly, but also plans for the incorporation of the Duchy of Schleswig with the Danish kingdom, leading to war with the German states. Mass meetings in Stockholm; street demonstrations on 15 March are suppressed by the army, leaving thirty demonstrators dead.

*April*

England: Great Chartist reform demonstration in London overawed by the police.

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France: Radical demonstrations in Paris demanding a postponement of elections to a Constituent Assembly suppressed by the National Guard. The elections, held under universal manhood suffrage, produce a monarchist majority.

Italy: Elections in the Papal States. Pius IX refuses to join the war against Austria. Elections for a parliament held on the mainland of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Sicilian provisional government declares secession from the Neapolitan kingdom; Neapolitan army withdraws from almost the entire island.

Germany: Republican uprising in the Grand Duchy of Baden, which is easily suppressed. Clashes between Polish and German nationalists in the Prussian province of Posen (Polish: Poznań). Prussian soldiers sent to support insurgents in Schleswig-Holstein; war between Prussia and Denmark.

Austrian Empire: The Emperor recognizes the Hungarian government, but also sanctions the call for elections to a Croatian National Assembly. Hungarian Diet introduces reforms, including the abolition of serfdom. Count Stadion, Provincial Governor of Galicia, declares serfdom abolished; Austrian troops bombard the city of Cracow. Czech nationalists announce that they will boycott elections called in the province of Bohemia to the German National Assembly; instead they call for a Slavic Congress to meet in Prague. Growing nationalist hostilities between Germans and Czechs in Bohemia, especially in the capital city, Prague.

Low Countries: Draft of a new, more liberal constitution for the Netherlands completed. Belgian government abolishes the stamp tax.

Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia: Romanian students and other intellectuals arrive in their homelands, after having taken part in the Parisian February revolution of 1848. They immediately launch political agitation, in conjunction with both liberals and radicals in their home countries. The Prince of Moldavia has a private army of Albanians arrest the revolutionary leaders in the capital city of Iași. A few escape and create a "Moldavian Revolutionary Committee" in Austrian Czernowitz, that attempts to coordinate the Romanian nationalist movement throughout eastern Europe.

## *May*

France: Radical demonstrators attempt to storm and overthrow the Constituent National Assembly but are turned back by the National Guard. Leftist and labor leaders arrested; Luxembourg Commission is

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dissolved. Government is reshuffled in a more conservative direction; General Cavaignac becomes Minister of War.

Italy: Clash between King of the Two Sicilies and parliament in Naples; barricades built, but royal forces are quickly victorious. Disturbances and demonstrations in the provinces; insurrection and revolutionary government in Calabria. The kingdom withdraws from the war with Austria. Plebiscite in Lombardy and Venetia produces large majority for the constitutional monarchist program of union with Piedmont-Savoy.

Germany: Elections to the Frankfurt National Assembly won by conservatives and constitutional monarchists; elections held at the same time for a Prussian Constituent Assembly fall out similarly, if a bit more to the left. Both assemblies begin their work. Polish nationalist forces in the Prussian province of Posen defeated.

Austrian Empire: Elections called for an Austrian Constituent Assembly under a restricted property franchise. Mass demonstrations against this decision organized by Viennese democrats. Conservative ministers resign and are replaced with more liberal ones; the court flees to Innsbruck; a Committee of Public Safety rules the capital. Formation of a "Supreme Ukrainian Council" in Lemberg (Ukrainian: Lviv), with support of Habsburg authorities in the province of Galicia. National mass meetings of the Slovaks, the Serbs, and the Romanians; conservative Habsburg officials and soldiers, seeking to counter the Hungarian government, support them.

Low Countries: Belgian government completes its reform measures by passing a law prohibiting government officials from serving as parliamentary representatives.

Moldavia and Wallachia: Growing political agitation by radicals, especially in the countryside, in Wallachia. Russian consul general in Bucharest presses prince for political repression; his British counterpart, supported by a special French emissary, calls on him to create a liberal regime.

*June*

England: In this month and throughout the summer, demonstrations and conspiratorial meetings of Chartists and Irish nationalists in industrial cities of northern England, none of which pose any major threat to public order.

France: Government abolishes the National Workshops. Hostile demonstrations follow; barricades are built and three days of fierce street fighting ensue. Forces of order are victorious; their commander,

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General Cavaignac, is named prime minister. The last radical government ministers are forced to resign. Many political clubs and trade associations closed.

Italy: Insurrection in Calabria suppressed. Negotiations between Austrian and Piedmontese government over future of Lombardy and Venetia produce no results. Austrian forces recapture much of Venetia. Elections in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

Germany: The Frankfurt National Assembly creates a provisional central German government and elects Archduke Johann of Austria imperial regent. First congress of German democratic clubs.

Austrian Empire: Elections held for an Austrian Constituent Assembly, a Croatian National Assembly and a Hungarian National Assembly. Croatian National Assembly meets briefly and hands over all power to Ban Jelačić. The emperor deposes Jelačić from his position as Ban, but he refuses to go and members of the imperial court and the Viennese government secretly support him. Prague Slav Congress meets and debates reorganization of the Austrian Empire. Clashes between the people and General Windischgrätz's soldiers in Prague lead to barricade building and street fighting. The army is victorious and Windischgrätz, to the applause of German nationalists, dissolves the Slav Congress and arrests radical Czech nationalists.

Low Countries: Liberals victorious in parliamentary elections held in Belgium under the new franchise.

Moldavia and Wallachia: Mass meeting in the Danube River town of Islaz proclaims a provisional revolutionary government for Wallachia. The prince flees and a revolutionary regime is created in Bucharest, that institutes political and socioeconomic reforms, calling for an end to serfdom and for elections to a constituent national assembly.

*July*

Italy: Piedmontese and other Italian troops routed by the Austrians at Custoza. French government considers and rejects military intervention.

Germany: First congress of constitutional monarchist political clubs. Artisans' congress meets in Frankfurt. Masters refuse to let journeymen participate so they call their own workers' congress.

Austrian Empire: Hungarian National Assembly and Austrian National Assembly both convene. Clashes between Hungarian and Serbian forces (each including regular Austrian army units) in the Banat.

Moldavia and Wallachia: Attempted counter-revolution in Bucharest foiled by the people of the capital city. Russian troops enter Moldavia

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and are stationed, menacingly, on the Wallachian border. Following heavy Russian diplomatic pressure, a Turkish army of intervention enters Wallachia at the very end of the month.

*August*

Italy: Armistice between Piedmont-Savoy and Austria. General Radetzky's troops reoccupy the rest of Lombardy and Venetia, with the exception of the island city of Venice. Pro-war demonstrations in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany; insurgents briefly seize control of the port city of Livorno.

Germany: Under pressure from England and Russia, Prussia signs the Malmö armistice with Denmark, dropping its support for the German nationalist insurgents in Schleswig-Holstein and not consulting the provisional German central government.

Austrian Empire: Imperial family returns in triumph to Vienna. Negotiations between Hungarian government and Ban Jelačić produce no result. Hungarian government orders the arrest of Romanian nationalist leaders in Transylvania.

Moldavia and Wallachia: As a result of Turkish intervention, the Wallachian government is reorganized, taking on more liberal members; a second attempt at counter-revolution is defeated by the people of Bucharest.

*September*

France: Government prepares military intervention in northern Italy, and then calls off the expedition at the last minute. Reorganization of the left. Radicals and socialists unite around former Interior Minister Ledru-Rollin; parliamentary caucus calls itself the "Mountain" after radical parliamentarians of 1793.

Italy: Army of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies invades the island of Sicily.

Germany: National Assembly votes to condemn the Malmö armistice and then reverses itself. Mass meetings in Frankfurt and vicinity; insurgents try to overthrow the assembly but are defeated by Prussian soldiers after barricade fighting. Second republican uprising in the Grand Duchy of Baden is quickly defeated. Founding congress of Workers' Fraternization in Berlin. Second rival congress of constitutional monarchist political clubs.

Austrian Empire: Austrian National Assembly votes to abolish serfdom but offer compensation to noble landlords. Jelačić officially

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reinstated by emperor as Ban of Croatia; he leads his troops across the river Drava into interior Hungary. Mass meetings and demonstrations in Budapest; the Hungarian National Assembly votes to offer armed resistance. Field Marshal Lamberg, sent from Vienna to command all armed forces in Hungary is lynched by an angry mob. War between the imperial and Hungarian governments. Lajos Kossuth, head of the Hungarian National Defense Committee begins his great agitation tour to gain support among the peasantry. Meeting of Romanian nationalists in Transylvania with the support of Austrian general Puchner prepares for armed resistance to Hungarian authority.

Moldavia and Wallachia: Largely non-violent confrontations between Turkish army of intervention and the people of Wallachia, mobilized by the revolutionary government. At the end of the month, the Russian army of intervention, previously stationed in Moldavia, crosses into Wallachia and overthrows the revolutionary regime.

*October*

Italy: Mass demonstrations in Florence; the Grand Duke names a moderate democrat as prime minister. National congress of the constitutional monarchists, the "Society for an Italian Confederation." Truce between Sicilian separatists and regular army of the southern Italian kingdom.

Germany: Second national congress of democratic clubs. First national congress of Roman Catholic political and religious associations.

Austrian Empire: Civil war between Hungarian and Romanian nationalists in Transylvania. Hungarians defeat Jelačić's troops and drive them back towards Vienna. Troops ordered from the Viennese garrison to reinforce Jelačić mutiny. Street fighting breaks out; the minister of war is lynched; imperial court, most government ministers, and members of the constituent assembly flee to Olmouc in Moravia. The imperial capital is in the hands of the radicals, who try, mostly unsuccessfully, to gain support in the provinces and countryside. Attempts at mediation by the German National Assembly are rebuffed by the imperial court.

Low Countries: Dutch parliament approves the new, liberal constitution.

*November*

France: Constituent national assembly finishes writing a constitution for the French Republic; it calls presidential elections for the following



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month. Formation of Republican Solidarity, national federation of left-wing political clubs.

Italy: The constitutional-monarchist prime minister of the Papal States is assassinated and the Papal government overthrown, in an insurrection led by the city's democratic clubs. The Pope flees to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Vincenzo Gioberti named prime minister of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Savoy; government policy moves towards reopening the war with Austria and vigorous pursuit of national unity. Democrats meet in Florence and call for a national constituent assembly.

Germany: The King of Prussia appoints the conservative Count Brandenburg as prime minister, who brings the army back to Berlin and declares it in a state of seige. The Prussian Constituent Assembly calls for a tax boycott in response. While the capital is quiet, there are riots, demonstrations and uprisings in the provinces, all ultimately suppressed by the army. Elections in Bavaria produce a majority for the left.

Austrian Empire: Soldiers of Generals Jelačić and Windischgrätz assault Vienna (beginning on 31 October) and defeat the insurgents in several days of barricade fighting. Commissioner of the German National Assembly, Robert Blum, is captured, brought before a court-martial, and shot. Imperial soldiers and Romanian nationalists drive most Hungarian troops from Transylvania. Habsburg troops bombard Lemberg and march into the city, dissolving the national guard and Polish nationalist organizations, and placing Lemberg in a state of siege. The Austrian Constituent Assembly reconvenes in Kremsier; Prince Schwarzenberg named Austrian prime minister with the program of the vigorous reassertion of central imperial authority.

*December*

France: Presidential elections lead to the unexpected victory of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte.

Italy: Congresses of democratic clubs in Tuscany and the Papal States; formation of a central committee of Italian democratic clubs in Rome. The revolutionary government in Rome repudiates Papal authority and calls for a constituent national assembly.

Germany: Prussian government dissolves the Constituent Assembly and decrees a constitution that guarantees supremacy of the monarch and the executive.

Austrian Empire: Mentally retarded emperor Ferdinand is forced to abdicate by the court and his ministers in favor of his nephew Franz

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Joseph. Imperial troops under General Windischgrätz begin a new offensive against Hungary, reaching Budapest at the end of the month and forcing the Hungarian government to flee to Debrecen. A new Hungarian army, under the command of Polish revolutionary Józef Bem, marches into Transylvania.

## 1849

### *January*

France: Louis-Napoleon appoints conservative government ministers who prohibit Republican Solidarity.

Italy: Elections in Piedmont-Savoy produce a victory for the democrats. Elections held in the Papal States for a constituent assembly are boycotted by conservatives and most constitutional monarchists, thus producing mainly left-wing deputies. Mass demonstrations organized by Tuscan radicals in favor of a more left-wing government.

Germany: The Frankfurt National Assembly proclaims a Declaration of Basic Rights. New elections in Prussia show strong polarization between conservatives and democrats. Left and extreme left victorious in elections in the Kingdom of Saxony.

Austrian Empire: Beginning of winter campaign in northeastern Hungary by Magyar general Arthur Görgey. Czech and German radicals plot a revolutionary conspiracy.

### *February*

Italy: Roman Constituent Assembly meets and proclaims a republic. Grand Duke and his ministers flee Florence; a revolutionary provisional government takes power in Tuscany.

### *March*

Italy: Piedmont-Savoy resumes the war against Austria and is defeated at Novara. King Carlo Alberto abdicates. On news of these defeats, riots and demonstrations in Tuscany against the revolutionary government. Mazzini becomes member of a three-man executive committee of the Roman Republic with emergency powers. Parliament of Kingdom of the Two Sicilies dissolved by the king.

Germany: The Frankfurt National Assembly finishes writing a constitution for a united German state, without the Germans of Austria. It votes to offer the imperial crown to King Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia.

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Austria: The Austrian Constituent Assembly is dissolved; the government decrees a constitution that is immediately suspended. It demands the dissolution of the German National Assembly and the restoration of the pre-1848 German Confederation. Conscription riots in various provinces of the empire. General Bem's forces conquer almost all of Transylvania.

*April*

France: Louis-Napoleon sends an expeditionary force to Rome; it marches on the city and is driven back by the Roman Republic's forces, commanded by Giuseppe Garibaldi. Inconclusive negotiations follow.

Italy: Revolutionary government in Tuscany collapses and authority of the Grand Duke is restored. Revolutionaries remain in control of port city of Livorno. At end of the month, Austrian troops enter the Grand Duchy. Beginning of Austrian siege and blockade of Venice. Fighting resumes on the island of Sicily.

Germany: Twenty-eight of the smaller states accept the constitution written by the Frankfurt National Assembly but Friedrich Wilhelm IV of Prussia rejects it and threatens to use armed force against its supporters.

Austria: General Görgey's soldiers rendezvous with other Hungarian forces, and defeat the Habsburg armies, recapturing Budapest and marching along the Danube towards Vienna. Hungarian National Assembly declares independence from Austria, names Kossuth interim president. Negotiations between Hungarian government and remaining Romanian insurgents in Transylvania reach no result. Austrian government asks tsar to intervene in Hungary.

*May*

France: Elections to the legislative assembly. The "Mountain" is the caucus with the most deputies, but the three monarchist factions together have a majority. Louis-Napoleon orders expeditionary force in Italy to break off negotiations, attack Rome, and restore Papal authority.

Italy: Austrian soldiers conquer Livorno and bombard Venice. Troops of the Neapolitan kingdom defeat secessionists and reconquer Sicily.

Germany: Mass meetings, and demonstrations in support of the Frankfurt National Assembly, typically organized by democrats. In a number of cases these go over to armed insurrection and barricade fighting. A revolutionary government proclaimed in Dresden; the King of Saxony flees, but is quickly restored by Prussian troops. Insurgent

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regimes seize power in the southwestern Palatinate and the Grand Duchy of Baden.

Austria: Agreement reached on Russian intervention against the Hungarian government.

Norway: Founding of the “Workers’ Union” by the Christian and socialist schoolteacher Marcus Thrane.

## *June*

France: Left in National Assembly demands impeachment of Louis-Napoleon for his intervention against the Roman Republic. Street demonstrations in Paris easily suppressed by the army and parliamentary leaders of the left are arrested or flee the country. Similar demonstrations in Lyon lead to the building of barricades and street fighting, in which the insurgents are defeated by the army.

Italy: Conflict between French troops and forces of the Roman Republic.

Germany: Prussian troops overthrow the revolutionary regime in the Palatinate. Frankfurt National Assembly flees to Stuttgart, where it is dissolved by soldiers of the Kingdom of Württemberg.

Austria: Russian troops enter Hungary; Habsburg forces launch a new offensive against the Hungarians.

## *July*

Germany: Prussian troops overthrow the revolutionary regime in the Grand Duchy of Baden, defeating last insurgent forces in Germany.

Austria: Further, inconclusive, negotiations between the Hungarian government and the Romanian insurgents in Transylvania.

## *August*

Italy: French troops conquer Roman Republic, restoring Papal authority. Besieged Venice capitulates to the Austrians.

Austria: Russian and Habsburg forces conquer all of Hungary; Kossuth and government must flee the country.

## **Fall 1849–December 1851**

The combats of the summer of 1849 marked the end of open revolutionary engagements. In all of Europe, over the following two years radical forces are increasingly persecuted, their leaders imprisoned or forced into exile. Giuseppe Mazzini founds the “European Democratic

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## xx Chronology of events

Committee for the Solidarity of Parties, without Distinction of Nationality,” known for short as the European Democratic Central Committee in London, gathering major exiled democratic leaders in most of Europe. Any activity requires underground conspiracy. Constitutional monarchists attempt to maintain their positions but are increasingly pushed back by conservatives. A few major developments:

France: Growth of radical secret societies, particularly in small towns and countryside of central and southeastern portions of the country. Louis-Napoleon attempts to expand his authority, but his plans to change the constitution so he could be re-elected president defeated by monarchists in the legislature. He launches a coup on 2 December 1851. Paris is quiet, but secret societies rise in the provinces and must be suppressed by the army.

Germany: Constitutional conflict pitting Prince and government ministers in Hessen-Kassel against the principality’s legislature, its civil servants, and even its army officers. The Prussian government attempts to create a “little German” national state by diplomatic negotiation (the Erfurt Union). Linkage of the question of German reunification and the conflict in Hessen-Kassel, with Austria supporting the prince and Prussia the constitution. Prussia and Austria are on the brink of war by November 1850, but Prussia accedes to Austria, which has the support of the tsar (the “humiliation of Olmütz”). Restoration of the pre-1848 German Confederation under Austrian leadership.

Austria: December 1851, abolition of the constitution decreed in March 1849 that had never actually been in effect. Attempted creation of a centralized, absolutist regime.

Norway: The “Workers’ Union” reaches its high point in 1851, with over 30,000 members. The government arrests its leaders in June of that year and the group quickly vanishes.