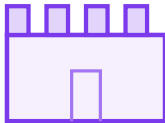


19th-Century Perspectives and Political Developments

AP European History ■ Unit 7

AP European History



What we will cover

- 1 Contextualizing 19th-Century Perspectives
- 2 Nationalism
- 3 National Unification and Diplomatic Tensions
- 4 Darwinism and Social Darwinism
- 5 The Age of Progress and Modernity
- 6 New Imperialism: Motivations and Methods



Contextualizing 19th-Century Perspectives

Unit 7 runs over the same years as Unit 6 – c. 1815 to c. 1914 – but follows politics, empire, and ideas rather than industry. Three key concepts frame it:

- European states **struggled to maintain international stability in an age of nationalism and revolutions.**
- A variety of motives and methods led to the intensification of **European global control** and **increased tensions among the Great Powers** .
- European ideas and culture expressed a **tension between objectivity and scientific realism** on one hand and **subjectivity and individual expression** on the other.

Contextualizing 19th-Century Perspectives, continued

That third tension is the unit's cultural thread, and it explains why Romanticism, realism, positivism, and modern art all belong in the same unit rather than in a separate art history.



The same force, used by the other side

- While western European Jews became more **acculturated** during the century, **Zionism** – Jewish nationalism – developed in response to continued exclusion.
- The creation of the **dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary**, which recognised the political power of the largest ethnic minority.

The same force, used by the other side, in detail

The same force, used by the opposite side

1848

Before 1848

**nationalism is
REVOLUTIONARY**

carried by liberals and
aimed against the Vienna
settlement
1848: the revolutions
largely fail

After 1848

**nationalism is a
TOOL OF
STATE-BUILDING**

taken up by conservative
Napoleon III
Cavour
Bismarck
Italy and Germany are
unified

What made it possible: the Crimean War broke the Concert of Europe, so territorial change was no longer blocked.

The creation of the **dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary**, which recognised the political power of the largest ethnic minority.

Nationalism

- While western European Jews became more socially and politically **acculturated** during the century, **Zionism** – a form of Jewish nationalism – developed in response to continued exclusion.
- The creation of the **dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary**, which recognised the political power of the largest ethnic minority, was an attempt to manage nationalism within a multi-ethnic empire rather than to suppress it.

Cavour and Bismarck, compared on method

CAVOUR — ITALY

BISMARCK — GERMANY

THE METHOD

diplomacy — bring a great power in on your side

Realpolitik — war chosen deliberately, as an instrument

THE OTHER HALF

Garibaldi's popular campaign in the south

Prussian military and administrative strength

WHAT IT COST

a kingdom assembled around Piedmont

a Europe with a new great power at its centre

Conservative leaders using **popular nationalism** to build states – the movement's romantic idealists are not the ones who finished the job

How nationalism was built, and what Darwin was used for

romantic idealism

nationalists encouraged loyalty through language, folklore, myth and a recovered past

liberal reform

in some states nationalism arrived through constitutions and civic rights

conservative *Realpolitik*

in others through war and state power – Cavour and Bismarck

and racialism

in a third strand, defining the nation by descent and excluding others

Darwin

gave a **scientific and material account of biological change** and of human development

Social Darwinism

a **misapplication**: his mechanism used to justify empire, class hierarchy and racial ranking

The same idea served liberals, conservatives and racists in turn. Saying *who used it and to what end* is what the comparison question wants.

Nationalism harnessed, and nature politicised

Napoleon III

Napoleon III showed the pattern first: plebiscites, public works, and a foreign policy performed for a domestic audience.

Cavour and Bismarck

Both **used popular nationalism to create or strengthen states** – conservative statesmen borrowing a liberal cause to build a conservative state.

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin's natural selection was rapidly misapplied to societies and races as Social Darwinism.

What that justified

Competition between nations as natural law – which is the argument imperialism and militarism then used.

Nationalism has no fixed politics. Who wields it, and for what state, is the question a good answer asks.

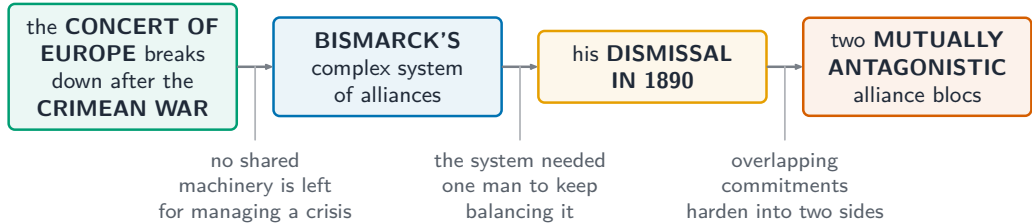


National Unification and Diplomatic Tensions

The **Crimean War** demonstrated the weakness of the Ottoman Empire and contributed to the **breakdown of the Concert of Europe** – which is what made unification possible, because the system designed to prevent territorial change no longer functioned.

- **Italy:** Cavour's diplomatic strategies, combined with **Garibaldi's** popular military campaigns, led to unification. Diplomacy plus popular movement – two mechanisms, and the CED names both.
- **Germany:** **Bismarck used Realpolitik**, employing diplomacy, industrialised warfare and weaponry, and the manipulation of democratic mechanisms to achieve unification under Prussia.
- After 1871 Bismarck attempted to maintain the balance of power through a **complex system of alliances** aimed at isolating France.
- **Bismarck's dismissal in 1890** eventually produced a system of **mutually antagonistic alliances** and heightened international tension.
- **Nationalist tensions in the Balkans** drew the Great Powers into a series of crises leading up to the First World War.

A peace system becomes two blocs



Nationalist tensions in the **Balkans** then sit on top of this. The alliances did not cause the crisis – they decided how far it would spread



Darwinism and Social Darwinism

His theory was then applied well beyond biology. **Social Darwinism** took the language of competition and selection and used it to justify **racial, national, and class hierarchies** – and, in the next topic, imperial expansion.

Keep the distinction sharp in an essay: Darwin's biology and Social Darwinism are not the same claim, and the second does not follow from the first.



The Age of Progress and Modernity

Then, in the later nineteenth century, a **new relativism in values** and a **loss of confidence in the objectivity of knowledge** led to **modernism** .

The two together are the tension named in 7.1: the same culture produced both the belief that science would explain everything and the suspicion that objectivity itself was an illusion.



New Imperialism: Motivations and Methods

European nations were driven by **economic, political, and cultural motivations** in their new imperial ventures in Asia and Africa.

- **Advanced weaponry** ensured European military advantage over colonised areas.
- **Communication and transportation technologies** made empires possible to create and administer.
- **Advances in medicine** enabled European survival in Africa and Asia – the one students forget, and often the decisive factor.

Wanting to, and being able to

WHY THEY WANTED TO

economic — raw materials and markets
political — prestige and strategic position
cultural — a claimed mission,
and Social Darwinism

WHY THEY NOW COULD

advanced weaponry
communication and
transportation technologies
advances in medicine, which
made the interior survivable

The motives are old; the **capability** is new. Only the right-hand column explains why this happens in the 1870s and not in the 1770s



Imperialism's Global Effects

Both directions matter. In Europe, empire fed nationalism, shaped popular culture, and turned colonial disputes into Great Power crises. Abroad, it produced organised resistance.

An answer that treats imperialism as something Europe did *to* other places, with no return effect and no response, is incomplete on both counts.



19th-Century Culture and Arts

The century's art tracks its intellectual tension exactly:

- **Romanticism** broke with Neoclassical forms and with rationalism, emphasising **intuition, emotion, nature, individuality**, and the supernatural; Romantic writers expressed the same themes while responding to the Industrial Revolution and to political revolution.
- **Realist and materialist** themes influenced art and literature, as painters and writers depicted **the lives of ordinary people**.
- **Modern art – Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Cubism** – moved **beyond the representational to the subjective, abstract, and expressive**.



Causation in 19th-Century Developments

The unit's reasoning skill is causation.

Worked example – nationalism as an instrument

“Explain one way in which nationalism contributed to the unification of Germany or Italy.”

- **Full marks:** *“Bismarck used popular nationalist feeling as an instrument of Prussian state-building: by presenting wars against Denmark, Austria and France as national causes, he made the smaller German states’ rulers politically unable to resist unification under Prussia.”*
- Name the **mechanism**, not the sentiment.

“Nationalism grew” explains nothing. Who used it, against whom, and to what end – that is the explanation.

Exam tips

- The reversal is the unit: before 1848 nationalism threatens the order; after 1848 conservatives use it to build states.
- The breakdown of the Concert of Europe after Crimea is what made unification possible. Name it as the enabling condition.
- Italy needed both Cavour's diplomacy and Garibaldi's campaigns. Germany needed Bismarck's Realpolitik. Different mechanisms, same outcome.
- Give three enabling technologies of imperialism – weaponry, transport and communication, and medicine.
- Keep Darwin and Social Darwinism apart. The second is a use of the first, not a consequence of it.
- Imperialism acted on Europe as well as abroad, and it produced resistance. Both are examinable.



Period 7 – key takeaways

1

Reversal

before 1848 nationalism threatens;
after, conservatives use it

2

Concert

breakdown after Crimea enabled
unification

3

Italy/Germany

Cavour+Garibaldi vs Bismarck's
Realpolitik

4

Darwin

Social Darwinism is a *use* of Darwin,
not a consequence

Check yourself

- 1 What reverses after 1848?
- 2 What made unification possible?
- 3 Name three enabling technologies of imperialism.
- 4 Keep Darwin apart from what?

Answers: who uses nationalism ▪ Concert breakdown after Crimea ▪ weapons, transport/comms, medicine ▪ Social Darwinism