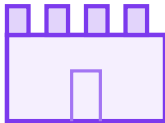


19th-Century Perspectives and Political Developments

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:

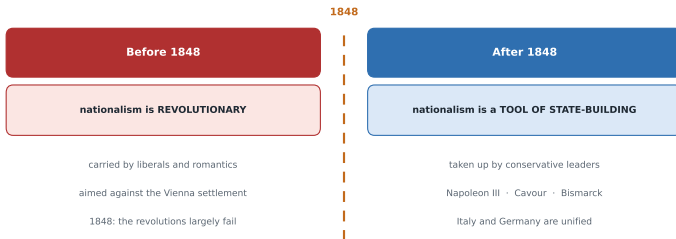
- European states **struggled to maintain international stability in an age of nationalism and revolutions.**
- A variety of motives and methods led to the intensification of **European global control** and **increased tensions among the Great Powers** 列强.
- European ideas and culture expressed a **tension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

Nationalism

The same force, used by the opposite side



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

the distinction this unit turns on

Nationalism

- While western European Jews became more socially and politically **acculturated** during the century, **Zionism** 犹太复国主义 – a form of Jewish nationalism – developed in response to continued exclusion.
- The creation of the **dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary** 奥匈二元帝国, 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.

National Unification and Diplomatic Tensions

The **Crimean War** 克里米亚战争 demonstrated the weakness of the Ottoman Empire and contributed to the **breakdown of the Concert of Europe** 欧洲协调的瓦解 – 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** 加里波第 popular military campaigns, led to unification. Diplomacy plus popular movement – two mechanisms, and the CED names both.
- **Germany**: **Bismarck used Realpolitik** 现实政治, 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** 联盟体系 aimed at isolating France.
- **Bismarck's dismissal in 1890** eventually produced a system of **mutually**

Darwinism and Social Darwinism

His theory was then applied well beyond biology. **Social Darwinism** 社会达尔文主义 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** 价值相对主义 and a **loss of confidence in the objectivity of knowledge** led to **modernism** 现代主义.

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** 经济、政治与文化动机 in their new imperial ventures in Asia and Africa.

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

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** 现实主义与唯物主义 themes influenced art and literature, as painters and writers depicted the lives of ordinary people.
- **Modern art – Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Cubism** 印象派、后印象派与立体主义 – moved beyond the representational to the subjective, abstract, and expressive.

Causation in 19th-Century Developments

The unit's reasoning skill is **causation**.

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.