

5. REVOLUTIONARY WAVES OF 1820, 1830 AND 1848



REVOLUTIONS OF 1820S

- **Spain:** In 1820, general Rafael de Riego upraised in Cabezas de San Juan (Ciudad Real) and forced the king, Fernando VII, to accept the Constitution of Cádiz (1812). However, after three years of liberal government (known as the Liberal Triennium, 1820-1823) the One Hundred Thousand Sons of Saint Louis, sent by the Holy Alliance of the Congress of Vienna, restored absolutism in Spain.
- **Portugal and Italy:** They had revolutions to implement liberal systems, but they failed because of the intervention of Austrian troops.
- In **Greece** the revolution succeeded, and they got their independence from the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) in the First National Assembly at Epidaurus (1821).
- The **Spanish and Portuguese colonies in the Americas** started to become independent in the 1820s due to the Enlightenment ideals, the Napoleonic invasion of their metropolises (in the Iberian Peninsula) and the example of the independence of the USA.
- In **Russia**, a revolution against the czar Nicholas I **failed** in December **1825** due to its inefficient organization.



Rafael de Riego



Simón Bolívar



REVOLUTIONS OF 1830S

- They were liberal and nationalist revolutions.
- The revolution began in **France** in 1830. The absolutist Bourbon king, Charles X, was replaced by **Louis Philippe I of Orleans**, who became a constitutional king (he was called the citizen king).
- In 1831 **Poland** tried to become independent from the Russian Empire. However, the revolt was effectively repressed by the tsarist army.
- **Belgium**, that had been made part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands by the Congress of Vienna in 1815, declared its independence in 1830. Leopold I was crown as a liberal king that year, but the Netherlands did not recognize Belgium's independence until 1839, after nine years of war.

Eugène Delacroix - *La liberté guidant le peuple* (Revolution of 1830)



REVOLUTIONS OF 1848

- **Liberal** and **nationalist** revolutions took place in 1848 (**Spring of the Nations**). Many nations that lived under the control of big empires tried to become independent and to create liberal governments.
- In the **Austrian Empire**, a revolt in Vienna forced chancellor Metternich to resign, and there were nationalist uprisings in Hungary, Bohemia, northern Italy and some parts of Germany.
- In **France**, a popular uprising proclaimed the Second Republic because Louis Philippe of Orleans had tried to be more conservative. They adopted more democratic measures: universal male suffrage, press freedom, abolition of the death penalty and some rights for workers.
- This year the **working class** participated and fought for their rights as a group and some democratic ideals: popular sovereignty was defended through the universal male suffrage, and workers won the right of assembly and association.
- Although these revolutions were suppressed in some places, liberalism and nationalist aspirations were eventually consolidated.

