**DBQ Focus: Revolutions of 1848**

Document-Based Question Format

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents (The Documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) This question is designed to test your ability to work with and understand historical documents.

Write a response that:

* Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence form the documents.
* Cites evidence from included source perspectives.
* Analyzes the documents by grouping them in, as many appropriate were as possible. Doe not simply summarize the documents individually.
* Takes into account both the sources of the documents and the author’s point of view.

*Historical Context: Around the year 1848, many revolutions across Europe and the Americas started which then led to effects around the world.*

**Question:** Consider all the effects of the revolutions all around Europe and discuss what are the key factors, which ignited the revolutions.

**Document 1**

*Source: The provisional government established in Paris after the mob had attacked the Tuileries, February 24, 1848, immediately issued the following proclamation. The Overthrow of the Orleanist Monarchy*

“In the name of the French people:

A reactionary and oligarchical government has just been overthrown by the heroism of the people of Paris. That government has fled; leaving behind it a trail of blood that forbids it ever to retrace its steps.

The blood of the people has flowed as in July; but this time this noble people shall not be deceived. It has won a national and popular government in accord with the rights, the progress, and the will of this great and generous nation.

A provisional government, the result of pressing necessity and ratified by the voice of the people and of the deputies of the departments, in the session of February 24, is for the moment invested with the task of assuring and organizing the national victory. It is composed of Messieurs Dupont (de l'Eure), Lamartine, Cremieux, Arago (of the Institute), Ledru-Rollin, Garnier-Pages, Marie, Armand Marrast, Louis Blanc, Ferdinand Flocon, and Albert (a workingman).

These citizens have not hesitated a moment to accept the patriotic commission which is imposed upon them by the pressure of necessity. With the capital of France on fire, the justification for the present provisional government must be sought in the public safety. All France will understand this and will lend it the support of its patriotism. Under **[Page 560]** the popular government, which the provisional government proclaims, every citizen is a magistrate.”

**Document 2**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“In other words, a great many people had political opinions, but could not participate directly in the parliamentary system.”

**Document 3**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“Among the ‘faction’ that threatened ‘society’ were liberals and nationalists who called for constitutions, national independence and political unity.”

**Document 4**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“Even so, a developed sense of national identity was primarily shared by the aristocratic elites and the urban, middle classes, who were of course precisely the people most frustrated that opportunities in the bureaucracy, the law and in higher education were closed off unless one spoke German.”

**Document 5**

*Source: France Proclaiming Liberty, 1848 (Bridgeman Art Library)*



**Document 6**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“Educated Lombards and Venetians grumbled that Austrians occupied some 36, 000 government posts, preventing Italians from enjoying their fair share of state patronage.”

**Document 7**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

**“**In Germany there was a wave of food riots and hunger marches, while in France the price of bread, the main staple of the bulk of the population, rocketed by close to 50 per cent, provoking angry scenes at the bakeries, and food riots.”

**Document 8**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“In Austria ten thousand workers were laid off in 1847 in Vienna alone, which, at a time when food prices were reaching all-time highs and there was no government help for the poor, was disastrous.”

**Document 9**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“These workers were driven to such extremes because the mid-1840s was a period of dire economic distress. A cyclical trade slump combined with harvest failures ensured that the bleak era would be remembered as the ‘hungry forties’.”

**Document 10**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“The killing of innocents left an indelible satin on the July Monarch, but at least the regime had the support of the well-heeled electorate, which was petrified by the prospect of another revolution.”

**Document 11**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“Yet when King Ferdinand VII returned triumphantly in 1814, he brushed aside the constitution and sent many of the liberals scurrying into exile.”

**Document 12**

*Source: 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport*

“In Germany the French example inspired liberal opponents of the conservative order to demand-or force- constitutions from their rulers.”

**Outline**

Introduction

1st Paragraph- People wanted more say in the government (docs 2, 4, 6)

2nd Paragraph- People wanted independence (docs 1, 3, 5)

3rd Paragraph- People did not have the basic needs to live (docs 7, 8, 9)

4th Paragraph- Monarchs did not take action to try to compromise with the people (docs 10, 11, 12)

Conclusion

**Written DBQ**

“In 1848 a torrent of revolutions ripped through Europe. Crowds of working-class radicals and middle-class liberals in Paris, Milan, Venice, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Krakow, Munich, and Berlin toppled the old conservative regimes and began the task of forging a new order. “This is the begging of the book 1848 Year of Revolution by Mike Rapport which paints clearly for us the image of what Europe looked like during this time period. What put Europe onto this chain of change was that the people overall wanted to play a bigger part in their government and gain independence in order to have the basic needs for survival which the government did not supply because the monarchs did not take action and appease the people.

One of the main aspects that everybody knows about is the fact that one of the main reasons that the French people first got mad was because they did not have equal representation in their government. This point can be further proven by document 2, which expresses the idea that just in general, what ignited revolutions was the fact that decisions that the majority of the population did not agree with were made. It should be noted that the author of a somewhat famous book that means that this Mike has had some serious historical studying which means that he has seen the overall picture writes this and his work can be classified as unbiased. Continuing on, document 4 also supports this idea that the people wanted more representation because it explains how to be in the government, one had to be of high class with a good education and spoke German. The only problem is that the people that wanted more representation were the ones that were poor with no education and they were the ones being wronged so to change laws somewhat is still not going to satisfy the people. To finish supporting this point, one should draw his attention to document 6 which expresses the fact that people that were under the rule which was not one of their own was to considerably make them upset. After the French Revolution, more people had courage to stand up for themselves and take part in their government.

Moving along to my second point, which is the fact that people wanted independence. Along with document 1, a written declaration made after the attack of one of the most prominent castles in France, one is able to excavate out of the document the fact that the people are not very happy with how their monarch is a handling things and want independence. It should be noted that these are the exact people that stormed the castle that wrote this document and therefore will express in a correct form what they really want which is independence. Furthermore, document 3 specifically states that the people want a ‘constitution’, which will be the first step to independence. Then in document 5, it is very visible that this painting tries to depict the sense of strong will and independence that the people find worth fighting for with Liberty ridding in the middle in her chariot.

Then as one digs deeper into the documents given, there are three documents that really stick out to combine because it summarizes the fact that the people in Europe do not have the basic needs for their survival. As document 7 clearly shows, the people both in France and Germany starved to death and just on a base, when one cannot feed his or her family then they will do anything in order to make a change which is what led to the revolutions in these cases. Moving along to document 8 expresses the fact that on top of not having food, the people did not have jobs to pay for all the rest of the basic needs that one will need. Finally, in document 9, it reinforces that the fact that people started to revolt was due to the lack of food which was not necessarily the government’s fault, its just that the government didn’t do anything to help the people.

Continuing on, document 10 easily starts of to state that the monarchs were ‘petrified’ of having another revolution but obviously didn’t do anything to improve the chances of not having one, which leads me into the next document. Document 11, expresses the fact plainly that not only did the monarch not help the circumstances but he also went against the constitution. Lastly, document 12 describes the overall motive of the people, which is to get a constitution because their monarchs won’t make compromises to help their cause.

To conclude, the people of Europe had many revolutions because people wanted more of a say in their government as well as independence because they did not have the basic needs to live all due to the fact that their monarchs did not act.