Unit VI LEQ 4 (Arman) -

Q: Compare the reactions to liberalism in Russia, France and Great Britain in the 1820s and 1830s. **Comparison:** Describes similarities and differences AND explains the reasons for these similarities and differences.

**Contextualization:** In the 1820's and 1830's, Europe went through many different political movements that shook the conservative order. Following The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era, the forces of Nationalism and Liberalism were spread throughout the continent. Nationalism was the identification of a group of people within the same border with the same history and culture while liberalism involved political change for the betterment of society. **Thesis:** The conservative governments of Russia, Britain, and France experienced new forms of political discontent as a result. **Argument:** Russia and France both chose to use violent repression to maintain conservatism while Britain decided to accommodate liberal policies.

**BP1:** Russia and France attempted to maintain conservative order by brutally suppressing liberal and nationalistic opposition.

- **E:** The Decembrist revolt occurred on December 26, 1825 where members of the Moscow regiment refused to take oath to Nicholas in favor of Constantine and a constitution.
- **A:** Nicholas was neither ignorant nor a strong reactionary, he even recognized that Russia required reform. However he feared change and its consequence. For this reason he brutally crushed the Decembrist revolt leaving 60 dead and continued to epitomize 19 cen. autocracy.
- **E:** After Polignac had secured French victory in Algeria, Charles X released the Four ordinance sparking the July Revolution leaving 1800 dead.
- **A:** Similar to Nicholas, Charles was a strong conservative that feared liberal policies. However, his suppression led to abdication and the institution of Louis Philippe by a strong middle class. France implemented liberalism at a much more moderate level than the radical 1789 Revolution.

**BP2:** In contrast, Britain accommodated liberal ideals rather than attempting to suppress them.

- **E:** The 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act passed by Wellington allowed Roman Catholics to become member of Parliament ending Anglican monopoly.
- **A:** The British government gave into the pressure of Irish Nationalists that had begun at the turn of the century. They feared a rebellion and passed further reform following the Act of Union for the Irish. Britain avoided conflict choosing instead to allow legislative changes.
- **E:** After mass rioting and several attempts, the Great Reform Bill was passed in 1832. This increased the number of voters by 50% but keeping property qualifications for franchise.
- **A:** The Great Reform Bill did not create a major liberal victory but instead allowed a wider variety of property to be represented in the House of Commons. This reconciled previously unrepresented property owners/ economic interests making revolution unnecessary. Similar to France, Britain now had moderate liberal policies but did not need bloody revolution.

**Conclusion:** In summation, Russia, Britain, and France were forced to respond to the growing pressures of nationalism and liberalism. While Russia succeeded in suppressing the political pressure, France was forced into revolution leading to liberal reform. Britain reluctantly accommodated reform allowing them to maintain traditional institutions. Even though Britain and France, were forced to embrace Liberalism, the relatively minimal changes reflect how the movement was still developing. **Synthesis:** Russia's response to liberalism was similar to Austria's response to nationalistic uprisings. Austria had multiple ethnic groups making nationalism much more destructive. Both these countries used violent military suppression to maintain order. Because of this Russia and Austria remained as strong conservative nations in the middle of the 19th century.