

# CRISIS OF EUROPEAN CULTURE

1871-1914

# From Boom to Bust

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- ▶ Massive urbanization (Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow, Budapest)
- ▶ Economic boom after 1871 ...
  - ▶ Followed by 15 years of a sluggish economy
- ▶ Why an economic downturn?
  - ▶ Agricultural overproduction
  - ▶ Low transportation costs
  - ▶ Imported grains from the U.S. and Argentina
  - ▶ All of this = low purchasing power for rural farmers
- ▶ The clamor for market regulation
  - ▶ Comes from banks and politicians
  - ▶ Uncertainty in the market hindered economic growth



# Regulating European Capitalism

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- ▶ Cartels = association of manufacturers who restrict competition and maintain high prices
- ▶ Horizontal Trusts = i.e. all steel producers
- ▶ Vertical Trusts = controlled every step of production
- ▶ Banking consortiums
- ▶ Protective Tariffs
  - ▶ Only Britain refused to put tariffs into place
  - ▶ A way to create a well-regulated economy
- ▶ Regulation was fairly popular and welcome ...



# (Once Again) A Moderate Great Britain

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## ▶ British Marxism and the Fabian Society

- ▶ Wanted to implement Marxist policies through Parliament
- ▶ Founded in 1884
- ▶ Worked to keep social reform issues in the public eye
  - ▶ George Bernard Shaw & H.G.Wells

## ▶ Ca. 1900 = the emergence of the Labour Party

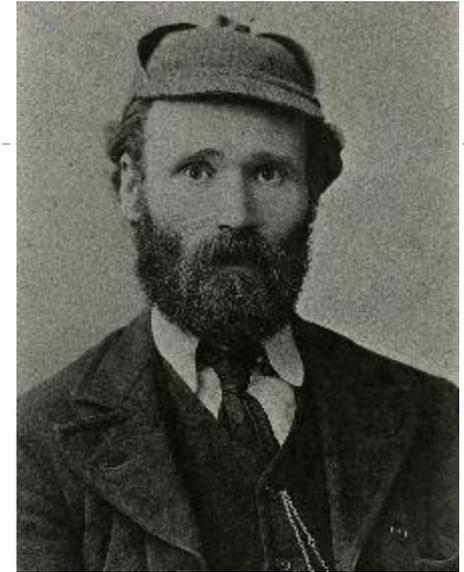
- ▶ James Kier Hardie (1856-1915)
- ▶ Upsets the political security of the Liberal/Conservative split
- ▶ Forces the Liberal government (1906-1914) to pass progressive legislation
  - ▶ National Insurance Act (1911)
  - ▶ Parliament Act (1911)



# Trade Unionism

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- ▶ **Increasingly popular in Britain**
  - ▶ And increasingly militant
  - ▶ BUT, Kier Hardie convinces most that reform is preferable to revolt
  - ▶ By 1906, Labour Party secured 29 seats in Parliament
- ▶ **But again, unionism continues to remain popular ...**
  - ▶ 1910 = 30% of workers are unionized
  - ▶ 1914 = 60% of workers are unionized
  - ▶ The use of strikes (and potential general strikes)
- ▶ **Unionism was encouraged as an antidote to all-out socialism**



# Bismarck's Germany (1871-1890)

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- ▶ Bismarck initially cooperates with liberals
- ▶ *Kulturkampf* (1872-1878) = “struggle for civilization”
  - ▶ Anti-Catholic legislation
  - ▶ Expelled Jesuits, marriage became a civil affair, required clergy to be trained and appointed by the state, etc.
  - ▶ Backfired
    - ▶ Socialists & liberals began working to undermine all religion
    - ▶ Creation and popularity of the Catholic Center Party
- ▶ 1878 = Bismarck ends *Kulturkampf* with new Pope Leo XIII
- ▶ Re-focuses on the Social Democratic Party
  - ▶ Anti-Socialist Law (1878) bans the SPD
- ▶ The end of Bismarck's Germany (1890)



# A Post-Bismarck Germany

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- ▶ 1890 = Anti-Socialist Law lapses out of existence
- ▶ Eduard Bernstein and Marxist “revisionism”
  - ▶ Emphasis on evolution, rather than revolution
  - ▶ Marxist policies can be achieved through reform
- ▶ Right-wing Conservative Party focused on aggressive foreign policy
- ▶ Germany was still ruled by an Emperor



Encarta Encyclopedia, Woodfin Camp and Associates, Inc.

# The Scandalous French

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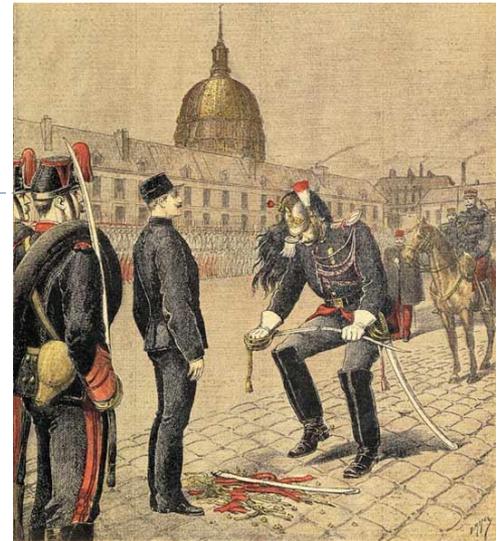
- ▶ From 1880, the French focus on building a common community
- ▶ The Boulanger Affair
  - ▶ Georges Boulanger, the War Minister and reformer
  - ▶ Boulanger, the popular politician; but many were nervous about his ultra-right wing agenda
  - ▶ 1889 = elected to Parliament; runs for President of France
    - ▶ BUT was charged with treason, fled, and committed suicide



# The Dreyfus Affair

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- ▶ Alfred Dreyfus = Jewish French army captain
  - ▶ Accused of spying for the Germans in 1894
- ▶ Controversial trial (1894)
  - ▶ Not permitted to see evidence, found guilty, sent to a penal colony
  - ▶ Later, discovered to be innocent – but new evidence was suppressed
- ▶ Created an enormous political divide ...
  - ▶ Left called for Dreyfus's release
  - ▶ Right thought he was a foreign traitor
- ▶ 1905 = Dreyfus exonerated



# Austria's Reactionary Right-wing Politics

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- ▶ The emergence of a liberal Austro-Hungarian Empire
  - ▶ The Ringstrasse (“Ring Street”) of Vienna
- ▶ In reality, Austria had lots of problems ...
- ▶ Populist politics become extremely popular
  - ▶ By 1900, liberalism is losing its appeal to ...
  - ▶ Pan-Germanism
  - ▶ Anti-capitalism
  - ▶ Antisemitism
- ▶ Karl Lueger (1844-1910)
  - ▶ 1895 = elected mayor of Vienna by mixing anti-capitalist sentiment with antisemitism

