

# Ch. 21 - Reaction, Revolution, and Romanticism



**Focus Question:** What were the main tenets of conservatism, liberalism, nationalism, and utopian socialism, and what role did each ideology play in Europe in the first half of the nineteenth century?

# Liberalism

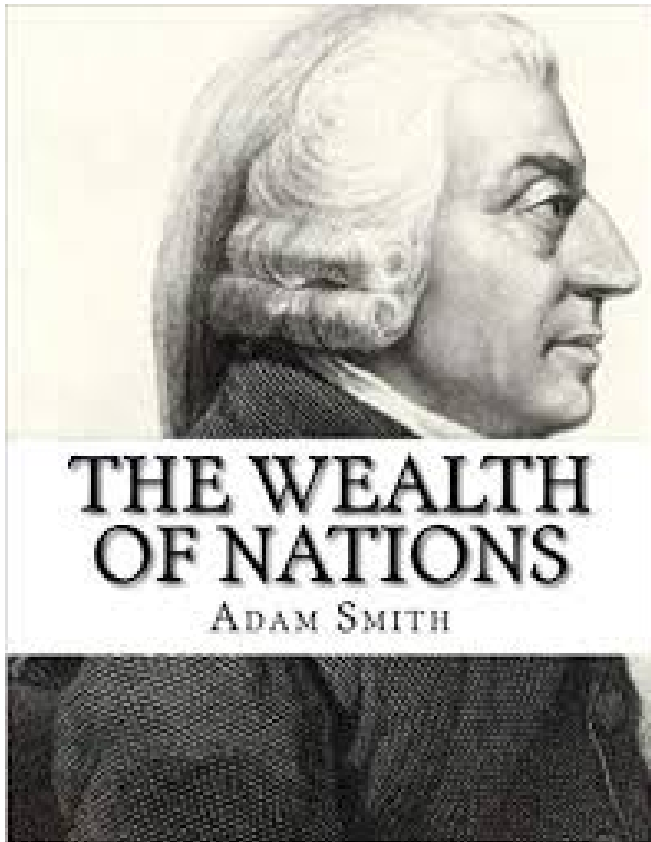
- *The belief that people should be as free from restraint as possible.*
- Two types of liberalism:
  - Economic
  - Political



# Economic liberalism

- Laissez-faire policies: government should not interfere with economics. Government should only -

1. Defend the country
2. Police protection for individuals
3. Public works



# Thomas Malthus

- *Essay on the Principles of Population* (1798)

- misery and poverty were simply the inevitable result of the law of nature. Government should not interfere to help with these social problems.

- Population growth needed its “check”.

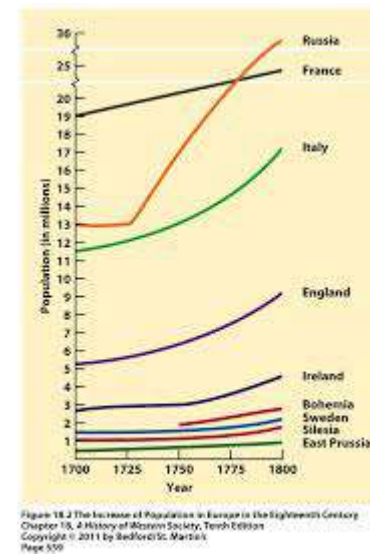
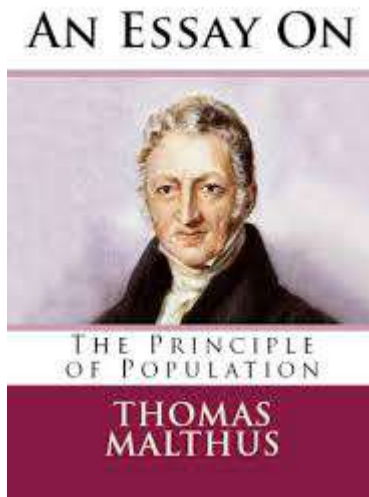


Figure 18.2 The Increase of Population in Europe in the Eighteenth Century  
Chapter 18, A History of Western Society, Tenth Edition  
Copyright © 2011 by Bedford/St. Martin's  
Page 509

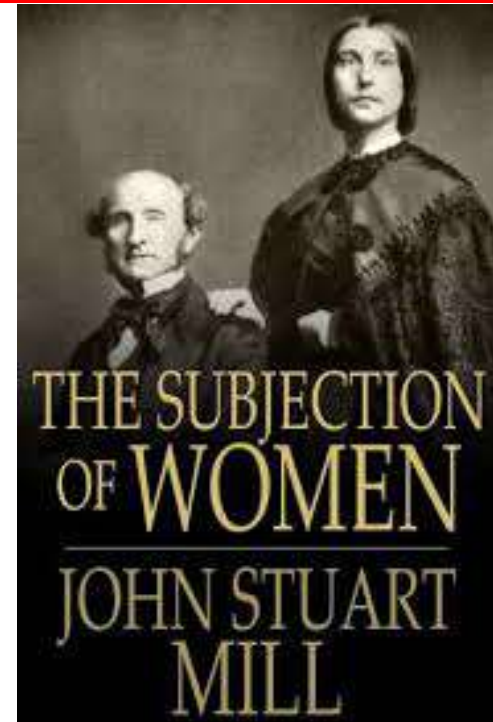
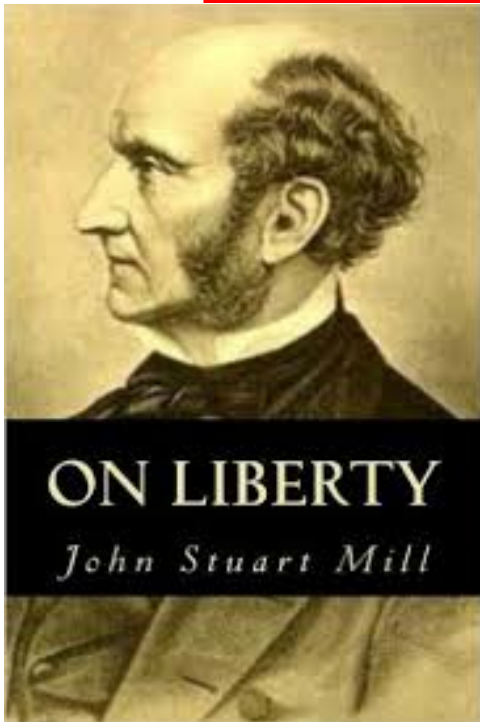
# Political Liberalism

- Common beliefs included protection of civil liberties (basic rights of all people), equality before the law, freedom of assembly, speech and press.
  - American Bill of Rights
  - French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
- Religious freedom
- Separation of church and state
- Right of peaceful opposition to the government



# John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

- English Philosopher
- Women's rights advocate (*On the Subjection of Women*)
- *On Liberty* (1859)
  - "absolute freedom of opinion and sentiment on all subjects" that needed to be protected from both government censorship and the tyranny of the majority.



# Nationalism



- Arose out of awareness of being part of a community with common:
  1. institutions
  2. historical traditions
  3. language and customs
- Community = “a nation” and becomes individuals primary political loyalty.
- Post French Revolution - nationalists believe each “nationality” should have its own government.
- Conservatives attempt to suppress nationalism to maintain power.

# Socialism

- Early political theorists and intellectuals attempted to bring equality into social conditions and believed human cooperation was superior to competition (industrial capitalists).
- According to Marxists, these were impractical dreams and became “Utopian Socialism”.
- Utopian socialists were against:
  - private property & the competitive spirit of capitalism.
- Goal = create a better environment for humanity.





# Early socialists

- Charles Fourier (1772-1838) – small model communities called phalansteries. Cooperative with 1,600 people.
- Robert Owen (1771-1858) – humans would reveal their true goodness when living in a cooperative.
- Louis Blanc (1813-1882) – *The Organization of Work* suggested that social problems could be solved by government assistance.

