



1848: Year of Revolution

By Mike Rapport

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In 1848, a violent storm of revolutions ripped through Europe. The torrent all but swept away the conservative order that had kept peace on the continent since Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815—but which in many countries had also suppressed dreams of national freedom. Political events so dramatic had not been seen in Europe since the French Revolution, and they would not be witnessed again until 1989, with the revolutions in Eastern and Central Europe.

In *1848*, historian Mike Rapport examines the roots of the ferment and then, with breathtaking pace, chronicles the explosive spread of violence across Europe. A vivid narrative of a complex chain of interconnected revolutions, *1848* tells the exhilarating story of Europe's violent “Spring of Nations” and traces its reverberations to the present day.

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Editorial Review

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In this account of a turbulent year in which most European thrones were shaken or toppled, Rapport smoothly blends drama of battles on the barricades and perspective on the causes and consequences. As ever in revolution, severe economic distress of workers dovetailed with protest by liberals and radicals to ignite a political explosion, initially in Italy but contagiously in France. Rapport's telling of the February Revolution in Paris, and of ensuing popular revolts in Prussia, the Hapsburg Empire, and the Italian states, periodically pauses for his keen observations about disagreements within the temporarily triumphant revolutionary camps. After the political revolutions, discord between liberals hoping to establish constitutional order and radicals fomenting social revolution gave conservatives and reactionaries openings to mount counterrevolutions. Such are the political labels of the contending forces, but Rapport's emphasis on leaders installed in the history books about 1848—including Mazzini, Kossuth, Bismarck, and Marx—reminds readers of the force these key individuals exerted on the course of events. Striking an excellent balance between narrative and explanation, Rapport will engage the history audience. --Gilbert Taylor

Review

Wall Street Journal

"A fully nuanced portrait of a tumultuous year."

New York Times

"A lively, panoramic new history... a good yarn, with a keen eye for ground-level details."

Seattle Times

"Absorbing... anyone wishing a vivid account of a crucial period in European history can spend many hours engrossed in this book."

About the Author

Mike Rapport is a Lecturer in History at the University of Stirling and the author of *Nationality and Citizenship in Revolutionary France* and *Nineteenth-Century Europe*. He lives in Stirling, Scotland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Angela Rodriguez:

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Gerardo Whittaker:

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