Growing prosperity after 1850 contributed to the expansion of democracy in Western Europe.

- In the late 1800s, political democracy was spreading in Western Europe, as universal male suffrage laws were passed, political parties formed, and ministerial responsibility became the dominant political entity.
Great Britain:

- A two-party parliamentary system emerged as the Liberal and Conservative parties vied for political power.
- The Liberals voted for social reforms, such as unemployment benefits and pensions.
Western Europe and Political Democracy
(cont.)

• France:
  – In 1875 the Third Republic in France gained a republican constitution.
  – The new government was established with a president and a legislature made up of two houses.

Western Europe and Political Democracy
(cont.)

• Italy:
  – Italy had emerged by 1870 as a united national state, but the disparity of wealth and widespread government corruption led to a weak, centralized political system.
Central and Eastern Europe: The Old Order

Although Germany, Austria-Hungary, and later Russia instituted elections and parliaments, real power remained in the hands of emperors and elites.

Central and Eastern Europe: The Old Order (cont.)

- In Germany, the government established by Otto von Bismarck set up a two-house legislature.
- Although the Reichstag was elected by male voters, the emperor still maintained political power by controlling the military and foreign policy.
Central and Eastern Europe: The Old Order (cont.)

• By the reign of William II (1888 to 1918), Germany was the strongest military and industrial power in Europe. Conservative forces thwarted the rise of democracy in Germany.

• In the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the emperor Francis Joseph largely ignored the Austrian parliament and governed by imperial decree. Ethnic problems threatened the stability of Austria.

Central and Eastern Europe: The Old Order (cont.)

• In Hungary, the parliamentary system worked, although it was dominated by the nation’s landholding class.

• Nicholas II became the czar of Russia in 1894, and was committed to autocratic rule of the large nation.
Central and Eastern Europe: The Old Order (cont.)

- Russia was becoming an industrialized nation, and the rising working class demanded more political power. In 1905 the bloody breakup of a peaceful demonstration in St. Petersburg left hundreds dead.

- Czar Nicholas relented and permitted the establishment of the Duma, although he had limited the power of the legislative body by 1907.

The United States

**MAIN IDEA** In the United States, the Second Industrial Revolution produced wealth that was more concentrated than it was in Europe.
The United States (cont.)

• In the United States, the Civil War had destroyed the Southern way of life, and new amendments to the U.S. Constitution protected the civil liberties of African Americans.

• Between 1860 and 1914, the United States switched from a farm-based economy to an industrial economy.

The United States (cont.)

• The populations of urban centers soared, and by 1900, three American cities had over 1 million inhabitants.

• Around the turn of the century, America became imperialistic and acquired territories abroad.

• American forces deposed Queen Liliuokalani in Hawaii and acquired territories from the vanquished Spanish in the Spanish-American War.
International Rivalries

The German emperor pursued aggressive foreign policies that divided Europe into two hostile alliance systems.

- To prevent France from limiting its power, Germany entered into a defensive alliance with Austria-Hungary and Italy by 1882. This coalition was known as the Triple Alliance.

- In 1890 Emperor William II fired Bismarck and took control of Germany’s foreign policy. In 1894 William II ended the treaty Germany had with Russia.

- By 1907, France, Great Britain, and Russia had drawn into an alliance known as the Triple Entente.
International Rivalries (cont.)

- The two opposing alliances of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente had become more divided and less willing to compromise at the beginning of the twentieth century.

- As the Ottoman Empire began to lose power, the provinces of Greece, Serbia, Romania, and Montenegro in the Balkans began to gain their freedom. Austria and Russia vied for influence in the region.

International Rivalries (cont.)

- In 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed the Slavic territories of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This outraged Serbia, which wanted to establish a Slavic kingdom.

- Serbia and its ally Russia prepared for war against Austria-Hungary. Germany demanded that Russia accept the Austrian annexation or face war; Russia, weakened by war with Japan, backed down.

- By the beginning of 1914, the crisis in the Balkans threatened the security of Europe.
ECONOMIC CAUSES AND EFFECTS of the Second Industrial Revolution

- Steel, chemicals, electricity, and petroleum led a new wave of economic growth in the late 1800s.
- The introduction of assembly lines made mass production of goods more efficient.
- Industrialization raised the standard of living for many people in Europe.
- Harsh conditions caused many people to turn to socialism and trade unions.
- By the early 1900s, Europe dominated the world economy.

SOCIAL EFFECTS of the Second Industrial Revolution

- The rapid growth of cities forced local governments to improve public health and sanitation services.
- Europe’s small elite class controlled much of the wealth; the working classes made up around 80 percent of the European population.
- Women began to push for the right to vote.
- The work of Curie, Einstein, and Freud led many people, including artists, to question the nature of reality.
INTERNATIONAL RIVALRIES Set the Stage for War

- Democracy expanded in Western Europe, while Central and Eastern Europe remained authoritarian.
- Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy formed a defensive alliance called the Triple Alliance.
- France joined Britain and Russia in the Triple Entente.
- The rivalry between Austria and Russia for influence in the Balkans pushed a dangerously divided Europe toward war.