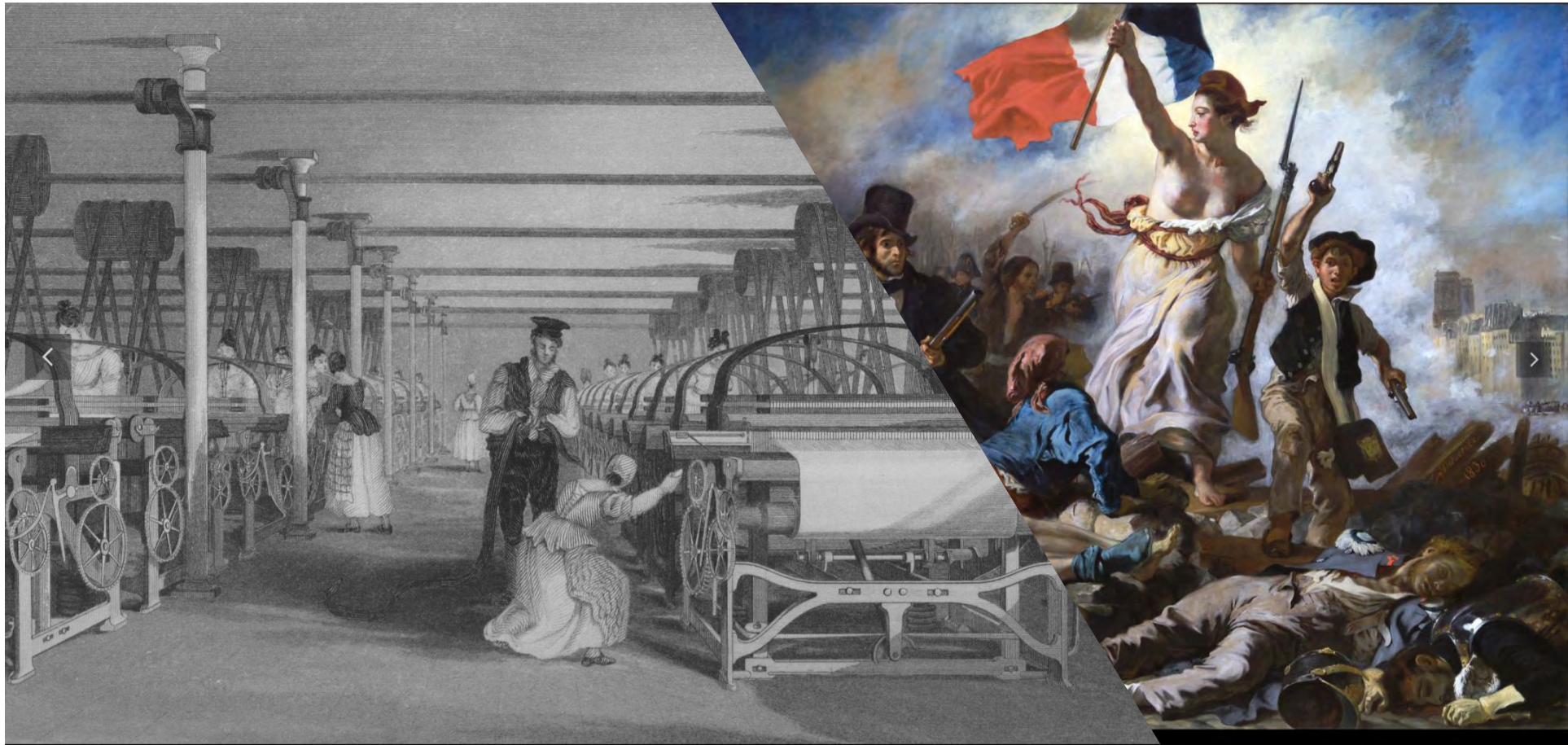


The Century of Peace

Class Five



Queen Victoria

- The Grandmother of Europe
- Her nine children and dozens of grandchildren married into royal families in many countries including:
 - Germany
 - Russia



Walter Scott –

Romantic Origins of the Century

- Invented the modern historical novel (*Waverley*, *Ivanhoe*), blending Enlightenment realism with Romantic emotion
- Turned national history—especially Scotland's—into mythic narrative, expressing post-Napoleonic Europe's search for identity and moral continuity
- Inspired a unified European Romantic imagination, linking literature, painting, and early historical consciousness
- His works dramatized reconciliation between past and progress, setting the emotional tone for a century of historical self-reflection



*"One foot nearer & I plunge myself from the precipice."
"Un pied plus près et je me plonge dans le précipice."*

DESERT, MAY & CO LONDON & PARIS, 1827

Stability Versus Continental Turmoil



- Victorian period was marked by Britain's evolution into a model constitutional monarchy
- Other European states were rocked by revolutions changing national borders, and regime collapses, Victorian Britain preserved parliamentary continuity and increasingly limited royal power
- Queen Victoria played a prominent, though largely ceremonial, role within this evolving constitutional framework, in contrast to more autocratic or unstable regimes elsewhere

Belle Époque Optimism 1871-1914

- Scientific marvels
- Flourishing arts
- Vibrant city life
- Miserable living conditions for the poor
- Profound income inequality
- Similarities with Gilded Age in USA





Fighting Temeraire **By J. M. W. Turner in 1838**

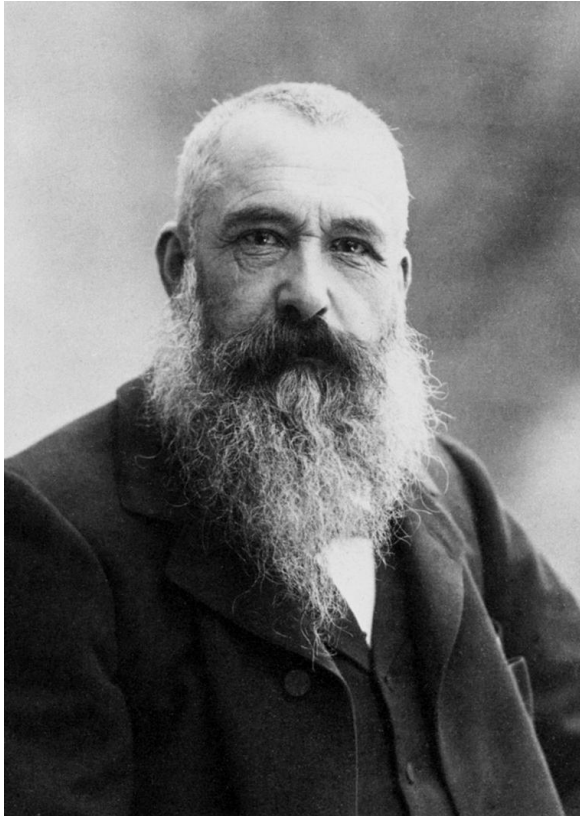


- His favorite work and that of present-day England
- A Battle of Trafalgar ship being towed to the breaker's yard by a steam tug
- The becalmed ships show the advance of steam power; setting sun the sign of a new day coming
- The artist hoped to illustrate the beauty in very manifestation of human creativity
- Precursor of French impressionism



“Impression, Sunrise”

By Claude Monet, 1872



- Painted in port of Le Havre after France’s defeat in the Franco-Prussian War (1870-71); symbolizes French renewal and optimism in the modern age
- Inspired the term “Impressionism”; marked a radical break from academic artistic conventions and rejection of Salon authority
- Capturing industrial change, it depicts both fishing boats and steamships, reflecting Europe’s rapid technological and social transformation
- Embodies themes of progress and individual perception—core ideas in an era marked by industrialization, nationalism, and social change
- Exemplifies how art responded to and shaped contemporary debates on modernity, national identity, and the future of European society

Clara Butt – First Singer of Elgar’s *“Land of Hope and Glory”*



Edward Elgar Late Romantic Resolution

- His Symphonic and choral works (*Enigma Variations*, *The Dream of Gerontius*) conveyed a longing for faith, coherence, and order in an age of imperial modernity
- Embodied Romantic nostalgia at the threshold of modernism—music as moral and emotional architecture after industrial change
- Represented Britain’s self-image within Europe’s waning sense of Romantic unity and confidence
- Elgar’s art, like Scott’s fiction, expresses Europe’s enduring effort to reconcile emotion, heritage, and modern power



The Mighty Five

- were five prominent 19th-century Russian composers who worked together to create a distinct national style of classical music:
- Mily Balakirev (the leader), César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Borodin
- They lived in Saint Petersburg and collaborated from 1856 to 1870.



Tchaikovsky and “*March Slav*”

- Composed in 1876 for a charity concert in Moscow
- Commissioned by the Russian Musical Society to aid Serbian victims of the Serbo-Turkish War
- The premiere, conducted by Nikolay Rubinstein, led to a wave of patriotic enthusiasm in Russia

Serbian Soldiers Attacking Ottomans



A Serbo-Russian March Connection

- Stressed Slavic unity and Russian leadership as protector of fellow Orthodox Slavs under Ottoman oppression
- Russian pan-Slavism and the Tsarist role as “protectors of Slavs” across Ottoman domains were reinforced through public charitable efforts and musical commissions
- The composition met an immediate function and had broader cultural-political dynamics between Western and nationalist musical currents, as well as the ideology of Russia’s engagement with its Slavic neighbors.

Western Influence vs. Russian Nationalism

Serbian
Gusle



- Tchaikovsky draws on strong Western classical forms—clear orchestration, sonata-like structure—but bases primary themes on Serbian and Russian folk tunes
- Quotes include two Serbian folk songs at the start and the “God Save the Tsar” Russian anthem in the peroration
- While aligning with Russian nationalist sentiment and folk materials, the work’s musical construction and orchestration reflect Tchaikovsky’s engagement with cosmopolitan, pan-European symphonic traditions
- Critics have noted that the anthem’s orchestration is sometimes almost satirical, adding complexity to its nationalistic reading



Imperialism

- Accelerated after 1870 through start of WWI
- New acquisitions based upon reasons of:
 - Strategic
 - Economic (esp depression of 1870s)
 - Prestige
- Berlin Conference of 1884-85 formalized rules for colonization
- By 1914, approx. 85% world's surface part of empires or their colonies



The Iron Chancellor

- Unified Germany
- Introduce the First Comprehensive Social Safety Net Programs
- Promote industry
- Form personal relations with Europe's leaders to ensure peace



At the End of 19th Century:

“Europe has never been richer, more inventive, more confident ... so why is it building armies like never before?”