



The revolutions of 1848 began early in that year, in January in Italy. In February, a revolution in Paris ousted Louis Philippe and set up a republic. From France, the revolutionary tide swept Europe: the German and Italian states, the Austrian Empire, Hungary. They succeeded immediately in overturning the conservative governments and it seem that Europe would never be the same. The European figure who more than anyone else stood as the symbol of the revolutions was Giuseppe Mazzini. However, by 1850, with the exception of France, the revolutions had been defeated and conservative governments were once again in the saddle. Historians judged the revolutionaries harshly and labled the year of revolutions as the turning point at which history failed to turn. Yet it is true that Europe would be changed forever as a result of these revolutions, because, while the liberals who made them did not come to power, their principles ultimately triumphed.

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