

In the same year a revolution against Austria broke out in Piedmont, which was easily routed, and Charles Felix made absolute king.

In 1831 a revolution against government by priests broke out in the Central States of Italy. Austrian troops were sent southward, and the Pope recovered his provinces.

In 1832 an insurrection in Italy again broke out, and Austria once more crossed the frontiers at the request of the Pope. This time France intervened, as she claimed the balance of power in Europe might be upset by the predominance of Austria in Italy. The two powers jealously watched each other in Italy until 1838, when both Austria and France retired, and absolutism was restored in the papal states.

From the years 1815 to 1848 there gradually developed a spirit of nationality among the varied several peoples of the Austrian Empire. This spirit was particularly pronounced in Bohemia and Hungary. Both of these races chafed under the predominance and the favors heaped upon the Germans, which created a public opinion that was hard to quell. Both races sought repeatedly to establish independent states, but were not sufficiently strong to do so. From this situation in Hungary arose Louis Kossuth, under whose leadership Hungary demanded some sweeping reforms and greater independence.

In 1831 the society of "Young Italy" was formed with the express intention of driving out Austria. This movement was later joined by Garibaldi. This movement gained further weight by the election of a new Pope, Pius IX. Pius IX was liberal and protested against Austria's occupation of Ferrara, to the alarm of Metternich. Austria seemed to be in the throes of dismemberment, and Italy took this supreme moment to strike. The year 1848 was one of revolution, which spread rapidly to the various countries.

Vienna was the storm centre, and here the empire began one of the most confused chapters in European history. Hungary arose under the leadership of Kossuth, and ten days later a riot broke out in Vienna itself, organized by students and workmen. People and soldiers fought hand in hand. "Down with Metternich!" was the cry. Metternich fled in disguise from Austria to England, to see his whole system crash completely before the spirit of the times.

Hungary seized this opportunity to establish for itself laws and reforms which made it practically an independent nation, the only connection being that one monarch ruled over Austria and Hungary. In its dire necessity Austria consented. The example of Hungary was speedily followed by Bohemia, and their demands for a more liberal form of government were conceded. A revolt now arose in the Austrian provinces for a constitution and greater local self-government, which, owing to the helplessness of the government, was also granted.