The 1848 Revolutions

The 1848 revolutions play a big part in the development of Marx and Engels theories

What was 1848 about?

- ‘Springtime of People’s’- nationalism
- Liberalism- ideology of the new rising of middle class
- Democracy
- ‘Social question’

1848: Year of revolutions in France

- February Revolution: overthrow of Louis Philippe
  ‘The beautiful revolution, the revolution of universal sympathy’ (Marx)
- June Days: workers insurrection against provisional government
  ‘The June revolution is the ugly revolution, the nasty revolution’ (Marx)

Causes/origins of 1848 revolutions

Political

- The Congress system
- Rise of reactionaries: Metternich and Charles X
- Unsatisfactory outcome of 1830 revolutions
- Failure of liberal reform
- Tensions within empires- nationalism

Economic

- Bad harvest- rising food prices (over 50%)
- Crisis of 1847/8- bankruptcies

Social

- Tensions between workers and elites- socialism
- Tensions between middle class and elites- liberalism