

# The Family Heritage Series

A weekly discussion of Americanist truths and traditions for those "heirs of all the ages" who will have to preserve that most important inheritance of all — freedom.  
Produced by the Movement To Restore Decency.



Volume II

Lesson Seventy-Three

## Revolution In Europe

### LESSON IDEA

To show how international revolutionaries during the Nineteenth Century used the same techniques, and the same false promises, to incite insurrections and to topple governments in country after country.

### PREPARATION

If you are not familiar with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the Roosevelt era, gather some information for the discussion suggested. Information on women's lib, welfare spending, and President Ford's recent proposals for fighting inflation by higher taxation would also be helpful.

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**I**N THE SAME YEAR Karl Marx was supposedly originating the idea of a working-class revolution, professional revolutionaries were already at work creating one in France. In fact, for at least ten years they had been plotting, through a network of secret societies and lodges, the wreckage of all European nations and civilization.

One of the agents for this conspiracy reported in January 1846 on the prospects for success: "The journey that I have just accomplished in Europe has been as fortunate and as productive as we had hoped . . . The fall of thrones is no longer a matter of doubt to me now that I have just studied the work of our societies in France, in Switzerland, in Germany, and as far as Russia. The assault which in a few years and perhaps even in a few months from now will be made on the princes of the earth will bury them under the wreckage of their impotent

armies and their decrepit thrones. Everywhere there is enthusiasm in our ranks and apathy or indifference amongst the enemies. This is a certain and infallible sign of success . . ."

France was ripe for revolution. Her government was corrupt, as it had been since the revolutionary upheaval of 1789. There was opposition to political reforms as well as a callous indifference to the interests of the people. Alexis de Tocqueville, a leading French patriot, warned his fellow politicians of the coming danger. After citing some of the most blatant examples of corruption, he said: "The evils I point out will bring about the gravest revolutions; do you not feel by a sort of intuition that the soil of Europe trembles once more? Is there not a breath of revolution in the air? . . . Do you know what may happen in two years: in one year, perhaps tomorrow? . . . Keep your laws if you will, but for God's sake change the spirit of the Government. That spirit leads to the abyss . . . My profound conviction is that we are sleeping on a volcano."

De Tocqueville's warning, however, was ignored — and those who were intent on burying "the princes of the earth . . . under their impotent armies and decrepit thrones" worked harder to magnify the corruption in the minds of the people. With sad eyes and long faces, they moaned that the system was beyond reform, change was futile. Their answer to this cry of despair was a theoretical workers' paradise, where there would be no greed or jealousy or corruption, and where everyone would share all goods equally. When their listeners had accepted the bait of their

