Paths to Power

Compare political responses to socialist movements in Europe.

TOT.C.2.1 "Identify political responses to Communist and socialist political parties in Europe, including: Germany's Social Democratic Party and anti-socialist laws..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each government action toward a socialist movement, circle each party name, and number the countries in the order they appear so you can compare their political responses.

Three Countries, Different Responses

1. In the German Empire, rulers saw organized socialism as a threat to the monarchy. In 1878, Chancellor Otto von Bismarck backed Anti-Socialist Laws that banned socialist meetings, groups, and newspapers. The laws did not prevent socialist candidates from running for parliament. Supporters kept voting for them, and their movement grew. After the laws ended in 1890, the movement became known as the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD). The government tried repression, but socialist politics survived through elections.

2. In Paris in 1871, after France lost a war with Prussia, workers and other residents set up the Paris Commune. Its leaders held different radical views, including socialist ideas, and briefly governed the city. France's national government sent troops to retake Paris and crushed the Commune. Decades later, several socialist groups united in 1905 to form the French Section of the Workers' International (SFIO). This party sought change through elections rather than armed control of a city.

3. In Britain, trade unions and socialist groups wanted workers to have a stronger voice in Parliament. In 1900, they helped create the Labour Representation Committee, which became the Labour Party in 1906. Instead of banning this new party, the British political system allowed its candidates to run and win seats. Labour used elections to press for workers' interests. Across these three countries, German rulers restricted socialist organizing, French troops crushed an uprising, and Britain's electoral system made room for a workers' party.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Germany's Anti-Socialist Laws ban, and what political activity could continue?

2. How did France's national government respond to the Paris Commune?

3. After the Commune was crushed, what different political path did French socialists take?

4. How did Britain's response to Labour differ from Germany's response to socialist organizing?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are writing a newspaper caption in 1906 comparing two countries from the passage. Write three sentences that name the countries, describe each political response to a socialist movement, and explain one key difference.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each government action toward a socialist movement, circle each party name, and number the countries in the order they appear so you can compare their political responses. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Germany's Anti-Socialist Laws ban, and what political activity could continue?	**They banned socialist meetings, groups, and newspapers, but socialist candidates could still run for parliament.**
2	How did France's national government respond to the Paris Commune?	**It sent troops to retake Paris and crushed the Commune.**
3	After the Commune was crushed, what different political path did French socialists take?	**Several socialist groups formed the SFIO in 1905 and sought change through elections.**
4	How did Britain's response to Labour differ from Germany's response to socialist organizing?	**Britain allowed Labour candidates to run and win seats, while German rulers banned socialist meetings, groups, and newspapers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Germany, rulers banned socialist meetings, groups, and newspapers, though socialist candidates could still run for parliament. In Britain, the political system allowed Labour candidates to run and win seats. Germany restricted socialist organizing, while Britain made room for a workers' party in elections.

Accept either pair of countries if the caption accurately describes both responses and explains a supported difference. For Germany, distinguish restrictions on organizing from a ban on candidates.