AP® European History
2003 Sample Student Responses
Form B

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Political liberalism and conservatism were two opposing forces in the first half of the nineteenth century. While each feared the other, it was fundamental differences in their policies of government that drove these two systems apart.

Political conservatism was led in the first half of the nineteenth century by the Austrian leader Metternich, who was principled in his loyalty to the Hapsburgs of Vienna. The method of government championed most by Metternich was conservative authoritarianism, and he moved quickly and almost fraudulently to destroy any liberal uprising that arose in Europe. Political liberalism had no definite leader, but liberals throughout Europe had similar goals in the basic "rights" of man. Their idea of government allowed for greater expression and control of the government by the people.

The primary objective of these two systems—what they wished to serve—was the first major difference. Political conservatism was not a vehicle for the acquisition on the oppression of its people, but in the first half of the nineteenth century was more interested in preserving itself. In the case of Metternich, his Austria was comprised of multiple peoples and ethnic groups, should a spread of liberalism (which often went hand in hand with the great ethnic-binding force of nationalism at the time), be
people might stand up to the leadership and break Austria to pieces—political conservatism functioned to prevent anything new in thought to be open to the people so that the state remain intact. Political liberalism, on the other hand, was wholly geared towards the people. It did not care for the stability of the government and very often sought to overthrow the government in order to achieve its objective—as the revolutionaries in France in 1848.

In either seeking to preserve the government or to overthrow the government (which liberalism may at times seek to do), both political conservatism and political liberalism showed no fear in adopting aggressive and sometimes violent methods to proceed in their quest. Mazzini, who had declared a right for intervention into situations threatening the conservative status quo, used military force to quickly crush uprisings throughout Europe. In his view, the French revolutionary movement of 1848 saw liberals, military active in the streets of Paris; violence was an acceptable method on both fronts.

The fundamental quest for the liberals rights of man provided yet another difference between the organization of political liberalism and political conservatism.
Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

and also sometimes a right to property, political liberalism gave its people much freedom in expression as well, at times, in the government, where they could state their cases in parliament. While political conservatism also had occasional assemblies and parliaments for delegates from the public, the liberal rights of man were often a threat to the stability and conservative nature of the state, and would be suppressed (as Malthus did abroad, he also needed to do domestically) for the stability of the state.

Both political liberalism and political conservatism made their appearances and had their governments in Europe during the first half of the nineteenth century. Political liberalism had their countries and made noise in France during the revolutions of 1848 - advocating a mission statement for the people and granting the liberal rights of man. Political conservatism was epitomized by Malthus who sought to keep the state together with the need for the suppression of the liberal's rights. Regardless of their differences, though, neither put a shred of violence as a tool to further their cause.
Napoleon's conquest of Europe contributed to spreading ideologies of French Revolution—equality, in front of law and freedom. However, Vienna Congress led by Metternich of Austria sought to reverse the general European trend to conservatism and to reestablish the order of pre-revolution era. The clash of political liberalism and conservatism resulted in series of revolutions throughout the European continent during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Political liberalism sought to expand political participation to general people, even at the cost of violent revolution. However, political conservatism sought to maintain the established social structures and to preserve established power. In Germany, universities formed Burschenschaft in order to propagate liberalism and to establish republican form of government. However, afraid of revolutionary fervor that threatens Austria's order, Metternich promulgated Carlsbad decree requiring German princes to repress Burschenschaft.

Two contrasting beliefs of political liberalism and political conservatism clashed in England's Peterloo massacre in which many people were killed during the speech about liberalism and expanded political rights.
Politically conservative and political liberalism differed in that while conservatism was usually led by people in power, political liberalism was led by middle class who wanted to elevate their social status by participating in the politics. Thus, friction between political liberalism and conservatism was interchangeable with friction between people with power and those without power. Thus, political conservatives were usually more likely to oppress political liberals since they were the people with substantial power. However,

Both conservatism and liberalism was based on their own interest rather than the support of the ideology itself. This is easily shown by support of political participation only for male, and exclusion of female in liberalism movement. Also, in sharp contrast to political conservatism, when Greece sought to gain independence from Ottoman Turk, major powers of Europe supported its cause and supported independence movement.

In conclusion, political liberalism was a movement of people without political power to gain political power.
When political conservatism was a movement to maintain social structures and avoid potential disruptions, both of these movements was to gain their interests and political power, and reacted to each situation in accordance to their own interest.