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The Opening of an Era: 1848, An Historical Symposium edited by Francois Fejto with an introduction by A. J. P. Taylor (Universal Library, \$3.95).

1848, one of the most extraordinary years in European history, saw the disintegration of the static balance set up after Waterloo. It began with an insurrection in Palermo on January 12, and (leaving only England and Belgium relatively undisturbed) revolt spread through all the major cities of the continent as far North as Copenhagen, toppling conservative governments and introducing sweeping changes. A year later, spearheaded by Louis Napoleon's coup d'état and the intervention of Russia, reaction had triumphed and begun to consolidate its power again. A key element in the outcome was the decision of the bourgeoisie (the core of earlier revolutions in England, the United States and France) to align itself with the forces of reaction. Spanning a whole continent and a variety of aspirations, these revolutions are one of the most complex subjects in modern history. This complexity is covered with panoramic scope and fine detail in 19 essays written by leading historians of each of the nations involved.

'Book World' (Washington Post)

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