

- I. Causes of the Revolution
 - A. Frustration with the “Old Regime”
 - i. Clergy (1-3% of the people; owned 10% of the land)
 - ii. Nobility (2-5% of the people; owned 30% of the land)
 - iii. Peasants (up to 97% of the population in some areas; owned 35-40% of the land)
 1. bourgeoisie (8% of the population that owned 20-25% of the land) - increasingly frustrated – had more wealth than most aristocrats, but little power
 2. The remaining peasants had a revolutionary tradition
 - a. The Right to Riot
 - B. The Enlightenment
 - i. criticism of privilege stemming from social class
 1. especially among the bourgeoisie
 - ii. finds voice in the American Revolution and Constitution
 1. French are proud of their contributions
 2. many French saw the American Revolution firsthand, esp. the Marquis de Lafayette
 - C. Financial crisis
 - i. Versailles is a huge money sink
 - ii. Louis XVI not well trained by his dad (who didn’t care about ruling anyway)
 1. tried to mess around in economy – increases price of flour
 - iii. must raise taxes – but only France’s parliament, called the Estates General, could do so (and they hadn’t met since 1614)
 - iv. Estates General meeting leads to argument
 1. vote by head, or by “doubling the third,” or vote according to estate
 2. Which does the Third Estate want?
 3. Who wins?
 - D. Third Estate responds to slap in the face by declaring themselves the “National Assembly” on 17 June 1789
 - i. King then locks the meeting house doors
 - ii. Tennis Court Oath
 - iii. Louis XVI then threatens to disband the Estates General

II. Begin the Revolution

- A. enter the commoners – upset by Louis’s threat (they see it as an attack on their rights)
 - i. Storming the Bastille
 - 1. attempt to seize arms
 - 2. important symbolically – history as a political prison
 - 3. not important otherwise – only 7 prisoners (5 forgers & 2 insane)
 - 4. Marquis de Launay resisted
 - a. head paraded through streets on a pike (new tradition – yay!)
 - ii. Other peasant revolts throughout France
 - 1. heard a rumor that the King supported the end of taxes/tithes, but nobles resisted, so the King asked the peasants to destroy the associated titles (basically the orders to pay)
- B. Louis XVI knows he’s losing, attempts to appease peasants by creating a citizens’ militia
 - i. led by the Marquis de Lafayette
- C. The Great Fear
 - i. rumor that foreign powers were attempting invasion
 - ii. many peasants formed militias to defend France
- D. End the Old Regime
 - i. Night Session of August 4, 1789 – abolished special rights & fiscal privileges of aristocracy
 - ii. Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (August 26)
 - 1. modeled after the philosophes’ ideas and the American Declaration of Independence/state constitutions
 - 2. Everyone has rights to “liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression”
 - a. Equal rights for all MEN (see p. 533)
 - b. Access to public office based on talent
 - 3. Old Regime is essentially dead
- E. Women’s March
 - i. Crowds of women, armed with farm implements & firearms, marched on city hall (Hôtel de Ville) to get food
 - 1. After city hall, they marched to Versailles
 - ii. They complained about starving children; Louis promised relief from grain supplies
 - iii. Marquis de Lafayette had followed them with National Guard
 - iv. They forced Louis & his family to come to Paris with them, where he finally accepted the decrees of the National Assembly

III. Things get radical

- A. split in National Assembly
 - i. Conservatives sit on far right
 - ii. moderates in center
 - iii. Radicals on left
 - 1. Radicals supported by Jacobin Clubs
 - a. think of salons that meet to discuss reforms (aristocracy and bourgeoisie)
- B. New rules for choosing National Assembly – favor bourgeoisie
 - i. 745 representatives, elected by electors, who were in turn elected by “active citizens” (could pay equivalent of 3 days unskilled wages in taxes)
 - ii. sat for two years
 - iii. decide not to be reelected – term limits
- C. Legislative Assembly replaced National Assembly (1791)
 - i. more radically-minded – came out of Jacobin Clubs and National Guard

IV. War!

- A. Leopold II of Austria worried about his sister (Marie Antoinette)
 - i. Declaration of Pillnitz – issued by Austria & Prussia (Frederick II)
 - ii. Legislative Assembly used it as an excuse to declare war on Austria on 20 April 1792
 - iii. France fared badly
 - iv. Led to mob attack on palace and Legislative Assembly in August 1792
 - 1. Formation of sans-culottes (without fine clothes) – radical bourgeoisie

V. Radical Revolution

- A. National Convention replaced the National Assembly
 - i. led by the Paris Commune
 - 1. rulers of Paris – mostly artisans and shopkeepers
 - 2. make the Jacobin Clubs look like Ronald Reagan – in other words – these guys are radicals (REALLY radical)
- B. Sept 21, 1792 – Commune dissolved the monarchy
- C. The Mountain (representatives of Paris’s radical bourgeoisie)
 - i. increasing in control
 - 1. these guys are even more radical than the Paris Commune
 - ii. Condemned Louis XVI to death (carried out in January 1793)
- D. The Girondins
 - i. moderates – they wanted either a constitutional monarchy or at least to leave the King alive (too late, of course)
- E. June 1793 – Paris Commune stormed into the National Convention and arrested the Girondins
 - i. The Mountain was left in control

VI. Enemies of the Revolution

A. Counterrevolution

- i. The Vendéan counterrevolution – peasants who revolted against the new military draft
- ii. Others also broke away from authority of Paris
 1. Included some major cities, like Lyons and Marseilles

B. The Committee of Public Safety

- i. Organized in Spring of 1793
- ii. Attempt to provide leadership to counter informal coalition of Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, Britain, and the Dutch Republic
- iii. Called for universal mobilization: raised 1,169,000 people by Sep 1794 (largest army in European history)
 1. Beginning of strong nationalist sentiment in raising armies
- iv. The Reign of Terror
 1. Committee on Public Safety wanted to track down those who might cause internal disruption
 - a. Included royalists (i.e. Marie Antoinette), Girondins (including Olympe de Gouges, advocate for women's rights), and peasants who opposed the sans-culottes
 2. 9 months long
 3. 16,000 died (officially) by guillotine
 - a. Real number probably closer to 50,000
 4. Most of these were in the Vendée & in cities like Lyons, and Marseilles (part of counterrevolution)
 - a. most were also peasants – don't buy into notion of only aristocrats dying
 5. Not only guillotine – read the description on p. 538-9
 6. Violence seen as temporary until the “Republic of Virtue” took over

C. Dechristianization – remove saints from street names, closed churches, priests encouraged to marry

- i. Notre-Dame designated “Temple of Reason,” accompanied by ceremonies
- ii. New calendar, based on Sep 22, 1792 (day French Republic proclaimed)
- iii. Angered overwhelmingly Catholic France

D. Ended when Committee sought to control reign of terror

- i. 1794 – executed its most radical members
- ii. Still didn't quite end – Robespierre tried to use it to get rid of all the corrupt so he could have the Republic of Virtue
 1. He himself was guillotined in July of 1794, ending the Reign of Terror

VII. Thermidorean Reaction

A. National Convention reduced the power of the Committee of Public Safety, shut down Jacobins

B. Gave freedom of worship

- C. Constitution of 1795
 - i. Established Council of 500 who initiated legislation
 - ii. Established Council of Elders (250) who approved suggested laws (or not)
 - iii. The Directory
 - 1. Leaders of the Council of Elders (five selected by Council of Elders from a list suggested by the council of 500)
 - 2. Ruled with corruption
 - 3. Opposed by the royalists and the Jacobins
- VIII. Results of the French Revolution
 - A. Model revolution (Europe can copy if they desire)
 - B. Attempt to construct new political and social order
- IX. Napoleon
 - A. Early life – Corsican
 - i. Educated at expense of Louis XIV (his father was a French official)
 - ii. Corsica rebelled during French revolution
 - iii. Napoleon fled to France
 - B. Command period
 - i. Napoleon was fighting rebels, artillery captain went down, he jumped in & saved battle
 - ii. Made commander of armies in Italy, right after marrying high-up Josephine
 - 1. Defeated 4 armies larger than his
 - iii. Invaded Egypt with intention to take England’s land in India
 - 1. Soundly defeated at the Battle of the Nile (only 4 ships left)
 - 2. He stayed to rebuild Egypt’s constitution, give rights to peasants
 - 3. Went back to France as a hero – said he wanted to “defend Directorship”
 - C. Napoleon takes control
 - i. Coup d’etat of 1799
 - 1. Self-crowned
 - ii. Divorced wife, Josephine to marry an actress
 - 1. No kids with Josephine, and an emperor needs an heir
 - iii. Domestic policies
 - 1. Concordat – agreement with Pope 1801
 - a. Pope could depose French bishops, but France can appoint
 - b. Pope won’t ask for land taken in revolution
 - c. Catholic church not enemy of France anymore
 - 2. Civil Code (or Code Napoléon)
 - a. Equality for all citizens
 - b. Religious toleration
 - c. Abolition of serfdom/feudalism
 - 3. No tax exemptions

- iv. Foreign relations
 - 1. Achieved very temporary peace with foreign powers in 1802 at Amiens
 - 2. Defeated all of France's continental enemies between 1805-1807
 - a. Took over Europe
 - b. left relatives in charge
 - 3. The Grand Empire
 - a. See map p. 548
- D. Napoleon's downfall
 - i. Britain survived (anti-British economic policies angered Europeans)
 - ii. Nationalism – French were too proud to be French; others proud to be themselves
 - iii. 1812 – invaded Russia
 - 1. Russian scorched-earth policy
 - 2. Moscow burned as French enter (winter was coming)
 - 3. Retreat back – attacked the entire way, France lost 2/3 of troops
- E. Elba
 - i. Napoleon stepped down, wanted son to rule but others would not have it
 - ii. Exiled to island of Elba, where he was allowed to “rule”
- F. Louis XVIII was weak
 - i. Napoleon escaped Elba, returned to Paris in triumph – called “100 Days”
 - ii. Europe united against him
- G. Waterloo
 - i. Exiled to St. Helena, where he remained until his death in 1824 (body removed to France 40 years later)
- H. Europe creates the Congress of Vienna to prevent another Napoleon