

VI. The French Revolution & Napoleon

A. Background

1. France has problems

- a. monarchy too expensive (remember Versailles?)
 - “Madame Deficit” – Marie Antoinette
- b. taxes unfair – poor pay, nobles don’t
- c. monarchy too inexperienced – King playing with cost of goods
- d. cost of bread skyrockets

2. Estates General

- a. Three Estates:
 - First: Clergy
 - Second: Nobles
 - Third: Everyone Else
 - i. includes bourgeoisie
 - ii. includes artisans
 - iii. includes peasants
- b. How to vote? – by head or by Estate?

B. King gets worried about Estates General – locks door

1. Tennis Court Oath – swore to create a Constitution
 - a. declared themselves the government of all France – the National Assembly
2. King wants them to stop
3. Peasants want to support National Assembly – need gunpowder
 - a. there’s gunpowder in the Bastille!
4. The Great Fear – worry about foreign invaders leads to formation of militias

C. Declaration of Man & the Citizen

1. But not women – Olympe de Gouges
2. won’t stop women from looking out for their own – the Women’s March
 - a. a.k.a. March of the Fishwives
 - b. turns into a riot, calling for Marie’s body parts
 - c. royals surrender, return to Paris under house arrest

D. Declaration of Pillnitz

1. France declares war
2. War goes poorly for France (ill-equipped, ill-led)
3. Prussians insist king be left alone – threaten to invade
 - a. King Louis XVI killed

E. Committee of Public Safety formed to root out foreign spies

1. headed by Robespierre
2. urged on by Marat – the guillotine
3. Reign of Terror

F. The beginning of the end

1. Marat killed

2. Dechristianization
 - a. The “Cult of Reason”
 3. Robespierre’s threats
 - a. off with Robespierre’s head – end of Reign of Terror
- G. The Directory
1. corrupt
 2. inefficient
 3. the people remain hungry – and angry
- H. Napoleon Bonaparte
1. His rise to power
 - a. returns from Egypt to “save” the Directory
 - b. coup d’etat
 - c. plebiscite & coronation
 2. His rule – conquered most of Europe
 - a. Concordat – relationship with Catholicism
 - b. Napoleonic/Civil Code
 - first time most Europeans tasted Enlightenment freedoms – they won’t want to go back
 3. His downfall
 - a. Can’t conquer England
 - b. French troops obnoxious/overbearing/arrogant
 - c. invasion of Russia – 1812
 4. Concedes Empire to his son, who is quickly replaced by Louis XVIII
 5. Post-rule
 - a. exile to Elba
 - b. 100 Days
 - Waterloo/Wellington
 - c. exile to St. Helena
- I. France returns to monarchy under Louis XVIII