THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
1789 - 1815
LIFE IN FRANCE IN 1789

- Roughly 90% of France’s population were poor peasants
- The king ruled as an absolute monarch
- The people’s only source of political power – The Estates General – hadn’t been used since 1614.
**Economy:**

- 50% of France’s annual budget is used to pay interest on their loans.
- 25% of France’s annual budget is used to support the military.
- 6% of France’s annual budget goes towards the king’s lifestyle.
Government:

- Led by Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette
  - Louis was a weak king
  - Marie Antoinette was hated
    - Utters the infamous phrase “Let them eat cake”
Society:
- Divided into social classes called “Estates”
  - 1st Estate – Clergy
  - 2nd Estate – Land-owning nobles
  - 3rd Estate – The other 98% of France
    - Bourgeoisie – merchants and lawyers
    - Workers – cooks, servants, etc
    - Peasants
- Enlightenment ideas were becoming increasingly popular
THE REVOLUTION BEGINS...

- Louis XVI needs more money to avoid bankruptcy
  - Nobles demand a meeting of Estates General
- Meeting of the Estates General
  - First meeting in 175 years
  - Disagreement on voting
THE REVOLUTION BEGINS...

- The 3rd Estate rebels
  - changes their name to “The National Assembly”...
  - and get locked out
  - so they break in to a nearby tennis court
    - swear the “Tennis Court Oath” – to draw up a new constitution

- Leader of the 3rd estate:
  - Abbé Emmanuel Sieyes
A NEW GOVERNMENT

- Members of 3rd Estate become **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** → promise to write new constitution & build a *republic* (people vote for representatives)

- **TENNIS COURT OATH** – promised not to break protest until completed constitution
TENNIS COURT OATH

(CLICK PICTURE FOR VIDEO)
Start this one about 10:00 min. in

STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

(CLICK PICTURES FOR VIDEOS)
Gentlemen, I was about to dine.
STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

- July 14th, 1789 ➔ French Independence Day

- Mobs looking for weapons & gunpowder b/c rumors king’s going to massacre people ➔ broke into fortress

- Broke out into GREAT FEAR – senseless violence spreads throughout country
A NEW CONSTITUTION

- Aug. 1789 – National Assembly adopts **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN** (statement of ideals)

- “Liberty, Equality & Fraternity!” (slogan)

- Olympe de Gouges criticizes this document because it did not apply to, or include, women!

- Oct. 1789 - women kidnapped king & family & took them from Versailles to Paris
1790 – National Assembly attempts to reorganize Church’s role, but changes are not popular (taxing the clergy & Church land)

Sept. 1791 – new constitution limits power of king & establishes a legislature ➔ LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
**PROBLEMS CONTINUE IN FRANCE**

- Food shortages, high prices, discontent, & riots

- Divisions within the Legislative Assembly:
  + **RADICALS**: opposed to monarchy
  + **MODERATES**: some changes, but nothing drastic
  + **CONSERVATIVES**: limited monarchy, few changes
  + **EMIGRES**: want to establish monarchy again
  + **SANS-CULOTTES**: want to address needs of working class & poor
FRANCE DECLARES WAR!

- April 1792 → Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria b/c they suggested reinstating Louis to the throne
- Prussia joins war
- French military is weak & unorganized
- French people are desperate → riots, chaos, massacres (king & family are imprisoned)
A NEW NAME FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- Sept. 1792 - Legislative Assembly dissolves itself (ineffective)

- NATIONAL CONVENTION becomes new legislature controlled by JACOBINS → abolish monarchy & declare France a republic
  - All men can vote (NOT women!)

- Execution of Louis XVI for treason! Absolute monarchy in France OVER
THE GUILLOTINE (VIDEO)
France still at war

- Britain, Holland, & Spain build alliance w/ Prussia & Austria against France ➔ called **First Coalition**

- French military is continually defeated

- Jacobins draft huge numbers of men & women into army
MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE

- Jacobins are fearful of enemies within France too
- Robespierre becomes leader of Committee of Public Safety & is determined to kill anyone opposed to Jacobin rule & beliefs
- July 1793 – July 1794 REIGN OF TERROR → thousands killed by guillotine (most famous: Marie Antoinette)
MARIE ANTOINETTE
A Hapsburg and youngest daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor
NEW COMMANDER: NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

- July 1795 – National Convention drafted new plan of government w/ two-house legislature, called bicameral system
- Executive branch & a court system (Montesquieu’s idea)
- France strengthened army by naming NAPOLEON commander
FRENCH REVOLUTION & AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- America starting a revolution to free themselves from British rule
- France sent troops & aid to help Americans
- American Revolution introduced more revolutionary ideas to France—freedom of speech, liberty, democracy, equality, “No taxation without representation”
- Republic is greater than a monarchy
MAIN CAUSES OF FRENCH REVOLUTION

- France was absolute monarchy w/ weak monarch
- Financial problems
- Population divided into three estates
- Age of Enlightenment ideals
- Influence of American Revolution
- High prices & taxes of basic items (like bread)
CRASH COURSE FRENCH REVOLUTION SUMMARY VIDEOS (5 MIN. EACH)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvSod16wfgg
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTMFiLAS90Q
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyZsLYxaluM
Napoleon Forges an Empire
(1804-1814)

⇒ RISE OF NAPOLEON VIDEO
Napoleon’s Rise to Power

- 1795-96 – Directory appoints Napoleon general of army & command troops against Austrians.
- He is defeated by British in Egypt, but his charisma gained him national popularity.
Napoleon as “First Consul”

• The Directory is ineffective & weak

• Napoleon launched successful **COUP D’ ETAT** (blow of the state) on November 9, 1799

• Proclaimed himself “First Consul” [Caesar’s title] & did away w/-elected Assembly

• 1800 - **PLEBISCITE** (vote of people) approves new Constitution, giving all authority to Napoleon
Napoleon Established the Banque de France or National Bank in 1800
Lycee System of Education

• Established by Napoleon in 1801 as an educational reform.

• **Lycées** were government run public schools

• **Lycées** trained nation’s future government leaders.
Concordat of 1801

- Signed **CONCORDAT** (agreement) w/ pope rejecting church influence in politics, but accepting its influence socially
- Bishops appointed by French gov’t, but parish priests appointed by bishops
- Eventually, Pope Pius VII renounced Concordat, & Napoleon had him brought to France & placed under house arrest
Napoleonic Code, 1804

- **NAPOLEONIC CODE**
  concise, uniform laws, but restrictive of individual liberty - law & order most important

- Restricted free speech & free press won during the Revolution
Saint Dominigue (Haiti) – slaves revolted in 1789 (led by **Toussaint L’Ouverture**) & Napoleon could not defeat the revolt → needed $ for more war efforts elsewhere & sold Louisiana Territory in 1803 to the US (Louisiana Purchase)
Louisiana Purchase, 1803

$15,000,000
Emperor Napoleon I
The Empress Josephine
December 2, 1804

Napoleon crowned himself emperor

& is determined to control Europe & French colonies in New World
“Napoleon on His Imperial Throne”
1806
By Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres
NAPOLEON’S MAJOR MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

- Gained control of Austrian Netherlands, Switzerland, & northern Italy → British join w/ Russia, Austria & Sweden

- Austria, Russia, Prussia eventually sign peace treaties w/ Napoleon b/c his army was massive & overpowering → largest empire since collapse of Rome

- Wants to defeat British navy
The Battle of Trafalgar

1805: France $\rightarrow$ Sea Power $\leftarrow$ Britain

- British defeat the French navy and succeed in remaining most powerful navy for the next 100 years

- Napoleon is unsuccessful in defeating Britain
Battle of Trafalgar

Battle of Trafalgar
21st October, 1805.

Spanish

British

French
By 1812 - only major European countries free from Napoleon’s control were: Britain, The Ottoman Empire, Portugal, & Sweden

**Puppet Countries:** Spain, Grand Duchy of Warsaw, and German kingdoms - ruled by brothers and in-laws of Napoleon

Russia, Prussia, & Austria loosely tied to French Empire through alliances

**THE EMPIRE WOULD QUICKLY COLLAPSE**
Napoleon’s Family Rules!

- Jerome Bonaparte → King of Westphalia.
- Joseph Bonaparte → King of Spain
- Louise Bonaparte → King of Holland
- Pauline Bonaparte → Princess of Italy
- Napoléon Francis Joseph Charles (son) → King of Rome
- Elisa Bonaparte → Grand Duchess of Tuscany
- Caroline Bonaparte → Queen of Naples
The Continental System
The Continental System

**GOAL** → to isolate Britain & promote Napoleon’s mastery over Europe

1806 - blockade Britain’s trade to destroy industrial & commercial economy

Blockade was not strictly followed by other European countries

Britain responded with their own blockade

American ships among those stopped by British navy & this lead to War of 1812 between British & U.S.
Peninsular War: 1808

- Portugal did not comply with the Continental System.

- France wanted Spain’s support to invade Portugal.

- Spain refused, so Napoleon invaded Spain as well!

- Spanish nationalism (pride) motivates GUERILLA FIGHTERS (militias who know the land really well) to attack French troops.

- Napoleon loses Peninsular War.
The “Big Blunder” -- Russia

- The retreat from Spain came on heels of Napoleon’s disastrous Russian Campaign (1812-1813)

- In July, 1812 Napoleon led his army of 614,000 men eastward across central Europe & into Russia

- Russian nobles abandoned their estates & burned their crops, known as **SCORCHED EARTH POLICY**, leaving French to operate far from their supply bases in territory stripped of food

- Napoleon retreats
Napoleon’s Troops at the Gates of Moscow

- September 14, 1812 → Napoleon reached Moscow, but city had largely been abandoned.
- The Russians had set fire to the city.
Napoleon’s Retreat from Moscow (Early 1813)

100,000 French troops retreat—40,000 survive!
The Fourth Coalition

1813-1814: France → Napoléon's Defeat ← Britain, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Sweden

← Alliances use weakness of Napoleon on his return from Russia to defeat him
Napoleon Abdicates!

- Allied forces occupied Paris on March 31, 1814.
- Napoleon abdicated (gave up his throne) April of 1814.
- Royalists took control & restored Louis XVIII (brother of the guillotined king) to throne.
Napoleon’s Abdication
Louis XVIII (18th)
The "Hundred Days"
(March 20 - June 22, '1815)
The "Hundred Days"
March 20 - June 22, 1815

1815: France \(\rightarrow\) Napoleon's "100 Days" \(\leftarrow\) Britain, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Sweden, smaller German states

- Napoleon escaped Elba & landed in France on March 1, 1815 \(\rightarrow\) beginning of his 100 Days
- Prussian & British forces defeat Napoleon & his army in city of Waterloo (Belgium)
Napoleon’s Defeat at Waterloo
(June 18, 1815)

- British and Prussian forces defeat Napoleon & his army in city of Waterloo (Belgium)

Duke of Wellington

Prussian General Blücher

Map of the Battle of Waterloo

Wellington 105,000
Blücher 120,000
Schwarzenberg 210,000

France
Spain
Prussia
Switzerland

Barclay de Tolly

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Napoleon on His Way to His Final Exile on St. Helena for 6
Napoleon’s Residence on St. Helena

(Video)
Napoleon's Tomb
What is Napoleon’s Legacy?

CLICK FOR VIDEO: TOP 10 SHOCKING FACTS ABOUT NAPOLEON (STOP RIGHT AFTER NAMING #1)
The Congress of Vienna
The Congress of Vienna
(September 1, 1814 – June 9, 1815)
Key Players at Vienna

The "Host"
Prince Klemens von Metternich (Austria)

Tsar Alexander I (Russia)

King Frederick William III (Prussia)

The Foreign Minister,
Viscount Castlereagh (Britain)

Foreign Minister, Charles Maurice de Tallyrand (France)
Key Principles Established at Vienna

• METTERNICH’S three goals @ Congress:

1.) prevent future French aggression & surround France w/stronger countries

2.) restore a balance of power (no one country is a threat)

3.) restore legitimacy: Europe’s royal families back on thrones
Balance of power - no country in Europe too powerful

A new map of Europe drawn (France weaker)

Congress of Vienna: (1815) Peace Conference after Napoleon (Metternich = leader)

Kings restored to power
Changes Made at Vienna

- France deprived of ALL territory conquered by Napoleon
- Austrian Netherlands & Dutch Republic united to form **Kingdom of Netherlands**
- A Germanic Confederation of 39 states (including Prussia) was created from previous 300, under Austrian rule
- Switzerland became independent
- Kingdom of Sardinia strengthened by adding Genoa (Italy)
The Germanic Confederation, 1815
**RESULTS OF CONGRESS OF VIENNA**

- Went easy on France b/c afraid they would want revenge → gave up conquered areas, but kept previous borders

  - **MAJOR RESULT**: no country in Europe could easily overpower another

- Successful agreement b/c fair enough for countries not to hold a grudge → but did not prevent future wars

- Peace lasted **38 years** & effects on world would be seen for next **100 years**!
Europe After the Congress of Vienna
What was the legacy of the Congress of Vienna?