

## FRANCE

### Valois Dynasty

- 1461-83

#### **Louis XI “The Spider King”**

Rebuilds France after devastation of 100 Yrs War/France emerges as top power in Europe after Louis’ reign/France’s 1<sup>st</sup> “New Monarch”/Centralizes power at the expense of Nobles/Starts France on it’s way towards Absolutism

- 1483-98

Charles VIII

- 1498-1515

Louis XII

- 1515-47

**Francis I**

Continued the policies of Louis XI, further increased the power of the King & strengthened the army/**Concordat of Bologna (1516)** gave French kings power over church appointments in France/Continued military expeditions into Italy began under Louis XII bringing French forces into conflict with the forces of HRE Charles V/This begins the long conflict between the Valois & Habsburgs

- 1547-59

Henri II (Catherine de Medici)

- 1559-60

Francis II

- 1560-74

Charles IX

- 1574-89

**Henri III**

Last of the 3 sons of Catherine de Medici (who served as Regent during the reign of all 3 sons)/**The War of the Three Henri (1584-1589)**, part of the larger **French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)**, was fought during reign of Henri III/Henri III had the Catholic **Henry of Guise** assassinated/Henri III was then assassinated as well leaving the throne to the Huguenot **Henry of Navarre**

### Bourbon Dynasty

- 1589-1610

#### **Henri IV (Henry Navarre)**

First King of the Bourbon Dynasty/Henri IV changed his faith from Calvinism to Catholicism upon ascending the throne (“Paris is worth a mass”)/His reign ended the French Wars of Religion when he issued **The Edict of Nantes (1598)**

- 1610-43

Louis XIII

- 1643-1715

#### **Louis XIV “The Sun King”**

200 years of centralizing power in the hands of the French King reached it’s zenith during the reign of Louis XIV/The Sun King became synonymous with Absolute Divine Right Monarchy/Louis’ power was symbolized by his elaborate **Palace of Versailles** where he held powerful nobles hostage by requiring them to perform demeaning tasks/Louis revoked the Edict of Nantes (1685) making Protestantism illegal in France/Throughout his reign Louis tried to expand his territory through constant warfare

- 1715-74

Louis XV

- 1774-93

#### **Louis XVI (Marie Antoinette)**

The reign of Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette was marked by the outbreak of the **French Revolution** in 1789/After the revolution began with the **Storming of the Bastille** a Constitutional Monarchy was created with Louis ruling as a figurehead/With the creation of the First French Republic Louis was no longer needed and he was executed in 1793

### The First Republic

- 1792-1804

The First Republic was founded in 1792 by the newly established National Convention and ended with the crowning of Emperor Napoleon I in 1804/The 1<sup>st</sup> Republic saw many manifestations of power including the **National Convention**, **The Committee of Public Safety**, and **The Directory**/This was the period which saw the **Reign of Terror**, the **Thermidorean Reaction**, and the rise of **Napoleon Bonaparte**

## Napoleonic Empire

- 1804-1815                      **Napoleon I**

Hero of the Revolution or Tyrant?/Napoleon Bonaparte conquered most of Europe through military conquest/In the process he spread many of the liberal ideas of the revolution (freedom of speech, religion, popular sovereignty, an end of feudalism, etc.)

## Bourbon Restoration

- 1814-34                      Louis XVIII  
- 1824-30                      Charles X

## July Monarchy

- 1830-48                      **Louis-Philippe “The Citizen King”**

The **July Revolution of 1830**, immortalized in Eugene Delacroix’s painting *Liberty Leading the People*, removed Charles X from power and placed Louis-Philippe (from the Orleans branch of the Bourbon family) on the throne/At first Louis was very popular and earned the nickname “Citizen King” due to his simple dress & style/Eventually Louis became too much like a king and he too was overthrown in the **Revolution of 1848**

## The Second Republic

- 1848-1852                      **Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III)**

The Revolution of 1848 did away with the Bourbon Dynasty for good/In its place a Republic was created with a President who would serve a 4-year term/The 1<sup>st</sup> and only president of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic was Louis Napoleon, nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte

## The Second Empire

- 1852-70                      **Napoleon III**

When Louis Napoleon’s presidential term was almost up he seized power in a coup and made himself Emperor Napoleon III (he didn’t use Napoleon II in deference to Napoleon Bonaparte’s son)/His actions were supported in 2 plebiscites/The Second Empire was destroyed when Napoleon III foolishly led his troops into battle against the Prussians at the Battle of Sedan in the **Franco-Prussian War (187-71)**/Napoleon III was captured & allowed to go into exile in England

## The Third Republic

- 1870-1940

After the defeat of Napoleon III, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Empire was replaced by The 3<sup>rd</sup> Republic/The 3<sup>rd</sup> Republic was immediately challenged by **The Paris Commune** (the first attempted socialist revolution), which was ruthlessly crushed/The 3<sup>rd</sup> Republic lasted until the German invasion of WWII/It was the longest lasting French regime since the Bourbons

## The Vichy Regime

- 1940-44

Puppet regime created by the Nazis in southern France and led by Marshal Philippe Petain

## The Fourth Republic

- 1946-58

In many ways a revival of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Republic/Oversaw the rebuilding of France after the war and the trend towards economic unity in western Europe/Best remembered for political instability & the decolonization of French colonies (specifically Indochina & Algeria)

## The Fifth Republic

- 1958-present

The present government of France emerged in 1958 with the collapse of the Fourth Republic/The Fifth Republic differs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> in that it has a strong president/**Charles de Gaulle** was the first president of the Fifth Republic/Nicolas Sarkozy is the current president of France