

XVII. The French Revolution

A. French Social Hierarchy Prior to the Revolution → *Rhea Padalkar*

- 1) 1st Estate-the Clergy, 2nd Estate-the Nobility
- 2) 3rd Estate- Everyone else, only estate that **pays taxes**
 - a. **Bourgeoisie**-middle class, wealthy, **wanted power**, rep. the 3rd Estate
 - b. **Workers/Artisans**- Urban, food shortages, high prices, hunger
 - c. **Peasant Farmers**- 80% pop., rural, **paid feudal fees and taxes to the nobility**

B. Long- Term and Short-Term Causes → *Rhea Padalkar*

- 1) Long Term- American Revolution (debt) and Enlightenment ideas (change the govt.)
- 2) Short Term- Parlements, **Weak Financial Structure**, Debt from Wars, Louis XVI
 - a. Can't tax the wealthy, can only tax the poor heavily

C. National Assembly (1789-1791) → *Rhea Padalkar*

- 1) **Estates General called** to fix the financial situation, but unable to agree on anything...
- 2) The National Assembly is formed and makes the **Tennis Court Oath** (new const.)
- 3) Dominated by the Bourg., end absolute monarchy, est. rep. gov.'t & const. monarchy
 - b. Referred to as **"The Age of Montesquieu"** b/c checks and balances in power
- 4) Made the **Constitution of 1791** that est. a **Legislative Assembly**

D. The Role of Women → *Emily Lupercio*

- 1) Gained few rights, **gender equality not popular**
- 2) Olympe de Gouge- *Declaration of the Rights of Women*, Mary Wollstonecraft- *Vindication of the Rights of Women*
- 3) **Women's March on Versailles** b/c of bread prices- **Royal Family moves to Paris**

E. The Revolution and the Rest of Europe → *Emily Lupercio*

- 1) **Food shortages**, expensive bread
- 2) People **storm the Bastille** for gun powder b/c of fear of Louis's troops
- 3) **Great Fear caused by rioting peasants** → **August 4th**
 - a. Nobles and clergy renounce nobility privileges, **ends serfdom** and peasant taxes
- 4) *Declaration of the Rights of Man*- Aug. 27th, 1789
- 5) Paris Commune led the **September Massacres**

F. Legislative Assembly (1791-1792) → **"Bourgeoisie gov.'t"** → *Emily Lupercio*

- 1) **Replaced the NA**, dominated by the Jacobins (Girondins= radical group of Jacobins)

- 2) LA declares war (led by Girondins) on Austria and Prussia (**War of the 1st Coalition**)
 - a. Austria and Prussia readiness to help the royal family = **Declaration of Pillnitz**
 - b. Lose the war, blame Louis XVI
- 3) Radicals storm the Tuileries Palace & place Louis under house arrest after Prussia & Austria's **Brunswick Manifesto** (threatened the Fr. people if the royal family was hurt)
- 4) LA= most radical phase of the Rev.
- 5) **Paris Commune takes over the LA**, wanted a **National Convention and a republic**

G. National Convention, the Terror, the Directory (1792-1799) → *Briana Geary*

- 1) NC **abolished monarchy, est. a republic**, emphasized equality, liberty, & fraternity
 - a. Voted 361-360 in favor of **Louis's death** – shows the rev. is divided
- 2) **Sans-Culottes** (radical working class) against the NC and Girondins
- 3) **The Reign of Terror led by the Committee of Public Safety**
 - a. Nearly a dictatorship of Robespierre. Led by Danton & Carnot as well.
 - b. Executed Girondins, Clergy, Nobles, Peasants, Counter-revs., & Prisoners
 - c. Eventually leaders and supporters of the CPS executed
 - d. **Thermidorian Reaction** (1794) ended the Reign of Terror and CPS
- 4) **The Directory** (1795-1799)
 - a. New assembly chose a **5 member executive** to govern France
 - b. **Bicameral Legislature**, adult males voted for electors
- 5) National Convention + The Directory = *Age of Rousseau*

H. Napoleon Bonaparte (1799-1814) → *Briana Geary*

- 1) **Coup d'Etat Brumaire** drove out the legislators- New const. est. the **Consulate Era**
- 2) Consulate Period – Enlightened Reform, Napoleon is the First Consul
 - a. **Napoleonic Code** – equality, religion, property, women's rights, ends serfdom
 - b. **Careers Open to Talent**- nobility privileges reduced
 - c. **Concordat of 1801**- peace with the Gallican Church
 - d. **Bank of France**- Financial unity
 - e. **Police state** ends opposition
 - f. Napoleon wins the **War of the Second Coalition** (treaty of Lunéville)
- 3) **Empire Period** (1804-14) – Napoleon is Emperor of Fr., his lands = **Grand Empire**
 - a. **War of the Third Coalition** – Napoleon is a threat to the Balance of Power

1. Wins the war, Napoleon= master of W. and C. Europe
- b. **Confederation of the Rhine**- HRE abolished, Ger. Reorganized (Bund)
- c. **Continental System**=**failed** attempt to weaken GB economically
- d. **Russian Campaign**- Napoleon's **unsuccessful** attempt to invade Russia
- e. Napoleon is **defeated** in the **War of the 4th Coalition**

I. Congress of Vienna and the Restoration (1814-15)→ *Briana Geary*

- 1) Restoration- Napoleon abdicated & **Bourbons** restore Louis XVIII
 - a. **Charter of 1814**- a 2 house legislature that represented the upper class
 - b. Maintained Napoleonic Code, Concordat w/church, and abolition of serfdom
- 2) Congress of Vienna- **Quadruple Alliance, Metternich, conservatism, old order**
 - a. Wanted legitimacy, compensation, and balance of power

Enduring Understandings

- 1) A different social class led each phase of the rev'n & each phase had different causes. (Rhea)
 - **Age of Montesquieu**: NA & LA, **led by the bourgeoisie** b/c wanted more power to 3rd estate, dire financial situation, dissatisfaction w/monarchy, deadlock in EG
 - **Age of Rousseau**: NC & Directory, **led by radical working class** b/c desired a republic & democracy to end the oppressive gov.'t
- 2) Fr. Rev'n resulted from a combo of traditional class conflicts, econ insecurity, & Enlight. ideals (Rhea)
 - 3rd Estate= 97% pop., poorest, **only taxed estate**
 - Wanted to **increase political power**, pay less taxes, have more money for food
 - France has enormous **debt from wars & spending**, **ineffective taxing** worsens this
 - Enlight shows weakness w/Fr. monarch, ppl want **equality, democracy, & natural rights**
- 3) The ideals of the rev., intro'd by Napoleon to conquered territories, lit the spark of freedom in many parts of E. Europe. (Emily)
 - Spreads the main principles of the French Revolution to his territories
 - Spreads Fr. revolution ideas such as **freedom and equality**
 - **Napoleonic Laws** emphasized freedom, implemented in his territories
- 4) Napoleon used a variety of methods to maintain absolute control over Fr. while also offering freedom to the Fr. ppl. (Emily)

- Portrays himself as a *liberator of the people* who were oppressed by absolute ruler
- After his abdication of the throne he regains his power with the support from the lower classes and the army of France
- Establishes the **Napoleonic Laws**
- Creates **spies** who put down all opposition to his rule
- Wins the second coalition of the Napoleonic wars
- Gave the people **freedoms such as equality before the law, freedom of religion, Protection of private property, and abolishment of serfdom**
- **Gave women inheritance rights** but denied them many other rights
- **Careers Open to Talent**
- Created **the bank of France** which helped the people while still making the tax system more efficient

5) Most Euro nations were threatened by Napoleon not only for political reasons, but also b/c he gave their pops. a taste of freedom. (Briana)

- Sought to **reorganize Germany & in doing so abolished HRE**
- Named himself the **“Protector” of the Rhine**
- Doing this awakens **Ger. Nationalism** due to Fr. domination & repression of the Ger. States
- Many nations feared this **rise of nationalism meant the fall of absolutism**

6) The Congress of Vienna was a reaction to the liberalism of the Fr. Revn. & set the stage for the struggle b/w conservatism & liberalism during the 19th cent. (Briana)

- **Conservatism of the congress opposed liberalism**- wanted to restore **old order** among major powers
- Liberalism= threat to old power b/c **emphasized democracy & equality rather than hierarchies and absolutism**