

The French Revolution

Final Exam Review

3 Estates

- French society divided
- All citizens belong to 1 of 3 estates
- 1st Estate - Roman Catholic Clergy (1%)
- High: Bishops, People noble at birth
- Low: Priests, friars w/ poor backgrounds
- Scorned Enlightenment ideas
- 2nd Estate - Nobility (2%)
- Held high government and military posts
- Some lived at Versailles
- Income provided by the state
- Disagreed with Enlightenment ideas
- 3rd Estate - Peasants, Artisans, Bourgeoisie (97%)
- No influence over government, few rights
- Embraced Enlightenment ideas
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- Some wealthy, low social rank
- Resented the first and second Estates

Causes of the Revolution

- Extravagant court lifestyles (Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette)
- Government money spent on luxuries
- Weak and unconcerned ruler
- Provided aid to American Revolution at great cost - left France in debt
- 1786 - Banks refuse loans to government
- High taxes kept profits low
- Enlightenment Ideas spread ideas that everybody should be equal (Attracted 3rd Estate)
- Paid half of income in taxes, rich paid none
- Food supplies were short in the 3rd Estate

Estates-General

- Louis XVI calls a meeting of the Estates- General to force a tax on the 2nd Estate.
- An assembly of representatives from all three Estates
- Not met with in over 100 years
- Believed 1st and 2nd would join together and override 3 because each
- Estate met separately and vote counted equally
- 3rd wanted to meet jointly b/c = member # in the 1st and 2nd Estates
- King refused joint session and locked out E.-General members of the National Assembly.
- (3rd Estate representatives) Members meet in an indoor tennis court

Tennis Court Oath

- Members took oath not to leave until they drew up a new constitution
- "The Tennis Court Oath" is formed

- Nobles and members of the clergy who favored reform joined the Assembly

Storming of the Bastille

- July 14th - mob storms (raids) the Bastille in search of gunpowder and arms
- Bastille - a Paris prison
- Mob takes control, guards killed, and Bastille destroyed.

The "Great Fear"

- Panic throughout France
- Rumors that nobles were hiring outlaws to terrorize the peasants
- Peasants broke into nobles' manor houses and destroyed legal papers bounding them to pay feudal dues. Often burned down houses.
- Riot over rising prices of food (bread, etc.)
- Women storm Versailles and demand Louis and Marie Antoinette return to Paris

Declaration of The Rights of Man

- Nat. Assembly: Statement of Revolutionary ideals, influenced by the Declaration of Independence.
- Rights included Liberty, Property, Security, and resistance to oppression
- Equal justice, freedom of speech, freedom of religion.

Civil Constitution of the Clergy

- Attempt to reorganize the Roman Catholic Church.
- Legislation reduced the power of the Church.
- The state took over it's fortune in property

Flight of the Royal Family

- Advisors warn him that he and his family are in danger.
- June, 1791: Attempt to flee to Austria (Queen's brother's empire there)
- Recognized at rest stop; arrested, taken back to Paris

Legislative Assembly

- New constitution by Nat. Assembly, approved by Louis
- Limited constitutional monarchy - took king's power away.
- Still could enforce laws
- Assembly could create laws and approve or reject declarations of war.
- Seated by political beliefs
 - Left - (Left wing/ Radicals/Leftist) want to radically change government
 - Center - (Moderates/ Centrist) want some changes, not as many as radicals.
 - Right - (Right wing/ Conservatives/ rightist) - few changes in govt.

Emigres

- Nobles and others who had fled France
- Hoped to undo the Revolution and restore the Old Regime.

Sans-Culottes

- "Those without knee breeches"
- Parisian workers and shopkeepers that wanted the Revolution to bring greater changes to France

The Jacobins

- Radical political organization involved with government changes in September, 1792.

- September Massacre: Mobs raided prisons and murdered over 1,000 prisoners
- Jean-Paul Marat
 - He called for the death of people who continued to support the king.
- Georges Danton
 - A lawyer, known for devotion to rights of Paris' poor people
 - Guillotined against Robespierre's ideas
- Centralized govt. with strong executive powers - Maximilien Robespierre - following the constitution.
- By destroying a segment of the population, (40,000) able to keep the revolution alive and institute goals

Guillotine

- A machine with a heavy blade sliding vertically in grooves, used for beheading people.
- Very popular during The Revolution in France

Maximilien Robespierre

- Jacobin leader
- Gained power in 1793
- Wanted to build a "republic of virtue": wiping out France's past
 - Changed calendar to 12 months of 30 days, renamed each month
 - No Sundays - Radicals considered religion old-fashioned and dangerous - closed churches

Louis XVI

- Last king of France
- Married Marie Antoinette
- King during first segment of French Revolution
- Executed publicly due to charges of treason, etc.
- Helped cause the French Revolution
 - Weak leadership
 - Lavish Spending between him & Marie

Marie Antoinette

- Member of Hapsburgs
- Married into house of Bourbon (political reasons = unite between France & Austria)
- Frivolous and Extravagant (spending...)
- Executed after Louis XVI

Reign of Terror

- Internal and External problems
- Crushing Opposition
 - Neighborhood watch committees sought and turn over suspected traitors
 - courts pressured by mob and carried swift trials and punishments
- Many people innocent but accused by "enemies"
- Marie Antoinette Killed
- Approx. 40,000 killed
- End of Terror
- Danton and supporters call for end of terror.

- Maximilien Robespierre - 3rd Estate Leader calls for execution for treason.
- Other leaders fear own lives
 - Robespierre sentenced to death
- With the death of Robespierre, Jacobins lose power and terror over people
- People begin to go against Jacobins
 - Middle class gain control of Nat. Convention
- Price control relaxed & soared - Poor have hard times
- Riots by lower class put down easily because of little to no effective leadership.
- Mid 1794- Many favor restoration of monarchy

The Directory

- 1795 - Convention wrote new constitution
- Executive council of 5 men (directors)
- Directory ruled w/ 2 house legislation
- Discontent due to prices and lack of food and royalists gaining strength
- 1795-99 Army used to put down uprisings
- Not addressing the growing gap of rich and poor
- Government on brink of bankruptcy
- Directors involved in moral and financial scandals
- Directory and government start to lose popularity
- Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon

- Skillful military leader and made general after putting down a revolt in Paris against Directory - 1795
- Defeated Austrian forces in Italy and forced peace treaty France gained control of N. Italy
- 1798 - fighting in Egypt against Britain
- Wanted to cut trader route Br. and mid. E. and India
- Won on land Br. had the superior navy
- Adm. Horatio Nelson destroyed French fleet near Alexandria
- French forces cut off and not able to fight because of lack of supplies
- 1799 - Napoleon learns of political situation at home
- leaves command to others and returns to France
- Enters Paris w/ cheering crowds

Coup D'Etat

- Napoleon joins others and leads an overthrow of the Directory.

Napoleonic Code

- Replaced feudal laws
- Based on enlightenment ideas w/ equality for all
- placed state above individual however limited freedom of speech and press
- 2 Goals:
 - Give France a single legal system
 - Embody the values of the French Revolution in law

Lycees

- An upper-level secondary school
- Established under education reforms of Napoleon

- Enrolled the nation's most talented students

Battle of Trafalgar

- By 1805, felt ready to invade England
- Lord Nelson defeated Fr. fleet Oct. 1805
- Battle of Trafalgar off coast of Spain
- Fr. unable to invade Britain.

Continental System: Blockade

- Napoleon turned to economic warfare w/ a Continental System
- France and conquered nations stop trade with Britain
- Br. ships not allowed in ports
- Russia and Prussia follow blockade also
- Br. said it would stop any ship on the way to European ports
- put U.S. at odds w/ both sides
- led U.S. to declare war on Britain. (War of 1812)

Peninsula War

- Conflict fought in the Iberian peninsula
- France opposed by Britain, Portugal, and Spanish Guerrillas
- France w/ Spain - invaded Portugal
- Duke of Wellington pushed France out of Portugal after British were defeated.

Napoleon's Invasion of Russia

- Czar Alexander I saw Napoleon as a threat to Russia
- 1811: withdrew from continental system
- B/c of withdrawal, Napoleon sent 600,000 troops to Russia
- Scorched-Earth policy - Day after French arrive, fire starts and burns down Moscow.
- Nap. w/o supplies and worst winter to retreat
- Russians attack as Fr. retreated
- 400,000 lost to wounds, exposure, starvation

Downfall of Napoleon

- 1814 - Allies in Paris force Napoleon to surrender and abdicate
- Restored France to Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI
- Nap. exiled to island of Elba

"Hundred Days"

- Br., Prussia, and Netherlands sent army
 - Nap. defeated in Battle of Waterloo
 - House arrest and exiled to St. Helena
 - Died in 1821 of Cancer

Legacy of Napoleon

- Secured revolution and representative govt. in France
- New tax systems
- promoted education
- advancements by merit, not birth
- Religious toleration, equality in law

Congress of Vienna

- 1814 - 1815 allies meet to discuss terms for France
- 3 Principles
 - Prevent future aggression by surrounding France with strong countries
 - Balance of power - no country should dominate
 - Restore Europe's royal families to the thrones that they held before Napoleon's conquests.
- Fr. to give up gained territory
- Reestablished legitimate monarchies
- France, Spain, Portugal, Naples, Sardinia, and Sicily
- Several buffer states created around France
- N. Austria & D. Netherlands combined
- 39 German states for German Confederation
- Switzerland became neutral
- Forces in Congress
 - Spread new political philosophy and Enlightenment
 - Liked many ideals of French Rev. (freedom, etc.)
 - New boundaries reflect what monarchs want, not public.

Congress of Vienna - Concert of Europe

- Series of Alliances
 - Monarchs to prevent dem. revolution - unite
 - Austria, Prussia, Russia, France (later)
 - To meet and discuss security issues in Europe.
 - Goal to preserve boundaries

Congress of Vienna - Legacy

- Influenced world politics for the next 100 years.
- Continent-wide efforts to establish and maintain a balance of power diminished the size and the power of France.
- Power of Britain and Prussia increased.
- Nationalism began to spread in Italy, Germany, Greece, and to other areas that the Congress had put under foreign control.
- Eventually, the nationalistic feelings exploded into revolutions, and new nations were formed. Spanish colonies declared their independence and broke away from Spain.
- Ideas about the basis of power and authority had changed permanently as a result of the French Revolution.
- People saw democracy as the best way to ensure equality and justice for all.
- The French Revolution changed the social attitudes and assumptions that had dominated Europe for centuries.
- A new era had begun.