

Modern World History
The French Revolution
Mr. Steele and Mr. Thomas

Big Ideas to take away from this unit:

- I. The past determines the future (*History Standard*)
 - i. I can... explain how Enlightenment ideas affected:
 1. cultural institutions
 2. politics
 3. government
 - ii. I can... explain how Enlightenment ideas challenged
 1. the power of the government
 2. the power of the church
 3. class structure
 - iii. I can... explain how Enlightenment ideas are connected to revolutions
 1. the French Revolution
- II. People create different forms of government for various reasons. (*Government Standard*)
 - i. I can... explain how various systems of government acquire, use and justify their power
 1. divine right
 2. revolution
 3. social contract
 - ii. I can... analyze the impact citizen action had on the following events
 1. French Revolution
 - iii. I can... explain the purposes, structures, and functions of various systems of government
 1. absolute monarchies
 2. constitutional monarchies
 3. parliamentary democracies
- III. The role of citizens varies depending on the form of government. (*Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities Standard*)
 - ii. I can... explain the different opportunities citizens have to participate under different forms of government
 1. absolute monarchies
 2. constitutional monarchies
 3. parliamentary democracies
- IV. Scarcity of resources requires people and governments to make choices. (*Economics Standard*)
 - iv. I can... explain how methods of production and available productive resources effects a country's fundamental economic questions- what, how, and for whom to produce.

Chapter 7: The French Revolution and Napoleon, 1789–1815

The French Revolution establishes a new political order, Napoleon Bonaparte gained and lost an empire, and European states forged a balance of power.



Conquerors of the Bastille before the Hotel de Ville. Painting (1839), Paul Delaroche

People and Terms for the French Revolution:

Old Regime	Estate	Louis XVI	Marie Antoinette	Estates- General
National Assembly	Tennis Court Oath	The Great Fear	Legislative Assembly	Émigré
Sans- Culotte	Jacobin	Guillotine	Maximilien Robespierre	Reign of Terror

Section 1: The French Revolution Begins

Economic and social inequalities in the Old Regime help cause the French Revolution.

The Old Order: The Old Regime	<u>Estates</u>	three social classes of France's Old Regime
	<u>Old Regime</u>	social and political system in France during the 1770s
The Privileged Estates	<u>First Estate</u>	Catholic clergy — owned 10 percent land, paid few taxes
	<u>Second Estate</u>	Rich nobles — 2 percent population, owned 20 percent land
The Third Estate - 97 percent of people are peasants, urban workers, middle class (bourgeoisie)	<u>Bourgeoisie</u>	(middle class): bankers, factory owners, merchants, artisans- some had more money than the nobles.
	<u>Urban workers</u>	trades people, apprentices, laborers, and domestic servants
	<u>Peasants</u>	Largest group Have few privileges, pay heavy taxes, want change

Population of France, 1787

97% (Third Estate)

less than 1%
(First Estate)

2% (Second Estate)

Percent of Income Paid in Taxes

2% (First Estate)

0% (Second Estate)

50% (Third Estate)

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



French satire on inequality of taxation:
caricature of over-taxed peasant carrying a
nobleman and a cleric on his back.
Engraving, 1789.

The Forces of Change: *Enlightenment Ideas*

Enlightenment ideas and foreign events inspire members of the Third Estate

They began questioning notions of society's structure (closed class)

People began quoting **Rousseau** and **Voltaire**- they demanded freedom, equality, and democracy

Inspired by the success of the American Revolution

Economic Troubles

High taxes and rising costs damage economy by 1780s although it seemed strong

Louis XVI



Marie Antoinette



King **Louis XVI** and his wife **Marie Antoinette** known for extravagance

Louis was ill prepared for becoming king

Marie was a member of the royal family of Austria, France's rival

Less interested in affairs with the state, much would rather physical activity

Did not abide by the strict rules of the complicated French court.

Louis doubles nation's debt;

Spent money on clothing, jewels, and gambled

King Louis XVI inherited a huge debt

Aiding the American Revolutionary War put France in further debt

Bad weather caused further problems resulting in fewer crop yields causing higher bread prices

Banks refused to lend more money

A Weak Leader

Louis's poor decisions and lack of patience add to France's problems

To remedy the financial problems, Louis wanted to tax the Second Estate

He calls **Estates-General**
(*The Estates- General, 1789*
seen below)

meeting of representatives from all three estates



Dawn of the Revolution: *The National Assembly*

Third Estate had little power under old rules in the Estates- General

Each Estate met in a separate hall and had one vote

Although the Third Estate had more members, they could easily be outvoted

A clergymen, Sieyès sympathetic to the cause of the Third Estate, persuades them to make major changes in French government

National Assembly

New legislature to make reforms

This is the first deliberate act of revolution

Three days later, they found themselves locked out of their meeting hall.

They broke down the door to an indoor tennis court and decided to state there until a new constitution was written

Tennis Court Oath

delegates decide to write new constitution for France

Storming the Bastille

Rumors fly in Paris that Louis wants to suppress National Assembly

Mob attacks and seizes Bastille, killing guards on July 14, 1789



A Great Fear Sweeps France: *Rebellion*

Rumors and panic spread throughout France

Great Fear — attacks by peasants taking place across France

Peasants destroy legal papers binding them to feudal system

In October 1789, Parisian women revolt over rising price of bread

They demand action, forcing Louis to return from Versailles to Paris

Section 2: *Revolution Brings Reform and Terror*

The revolutionary government of France makes reforms but also uses terror and violence to retain power.

The Assembly Reforms France: *The Rights of Man*

National Assembly adopts Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

Revolutionary leaders use the slogan, “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”

A State-Controlled Church

National Assembly seized church lands and turned clergy into public officials

This action alarmed many peasants, who were devout Catholics

Louis Tries to Escape

Louis, worried about his future, attempted to escape France

Revolutionaries caught the royal family near Netherlands’ border

War and Execution: *Problems with Other Countries*

Austrians and Prussians want Louis in charge of France; fear of revolts in their own countries → France declared war

France at War

Prussian forces soon threatened to attack Paris

Parisian mob jailed royal family and killed royal guards

Mob broke into prisons, killing over 1,000, people including many who supported king

Pressured by the mob, the Legislative Assembly deposed the king and then dissolved

National Convention takes office in September, forming the French Republic

Divisions Develop: *A Limited Monarchy*

In September 1791, Assembly finished a new constitution

Legislative Assembly	new body created to pass laws; King was still had executive power
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Factions Split France

Major problems, including debt, food shortages remain

Assembly split into:	Radicals	Moderates	Conservatives
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Spectrum



Émigrés

Were nobles who fled the country

Wanted Old Regime back in power

Sans-culottes — *Parisian sans-culotte. Drawing, 18th century.*



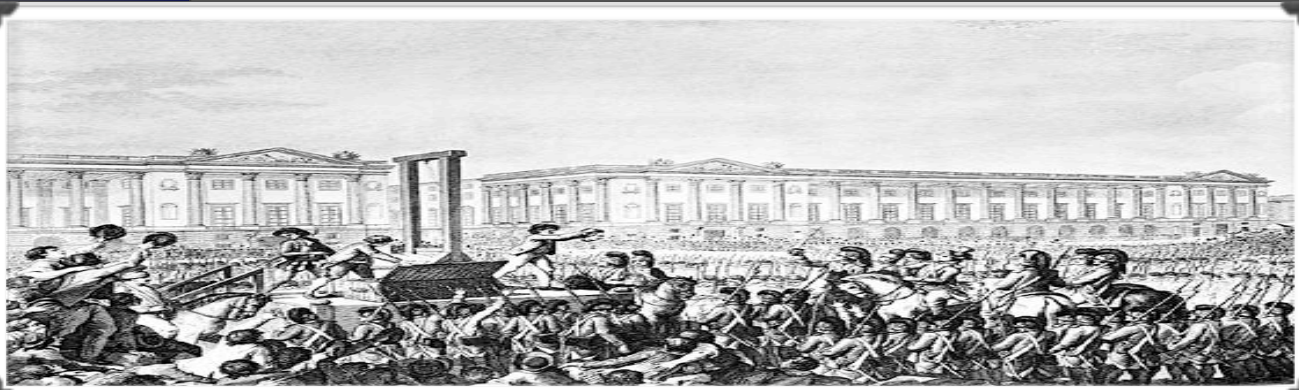
lower class who wanted more change from the Revolution

Jacobins Take Control

Jacobins — radical political organization behind 1792 governmental changes

After a close vote, Louis XVI is found guilty of treason and beheaded

Guillotine — machine designed during the Revolution to behead people



During the French Revolution (1789-1799), King Louis XVI of France was tried as a traitor and condemned to death. His execution by guillotine, which took place in a crowded plaza in Paris, was a public spectacle. Early opponents of the death penalty opposed such brutal methods of criminal punishment. <[http://encarta.msn.com/media_461543292_761561798_-1_1/Execution by Guillotine.html](http://encarta.msn.com/media_461543292_761561798_-1_1/Execution_by_Guillotine.html)>

The War Continues	
French army won a great victory against Prussians and the Austrians at the Battle of Valmy	
In 1793 Britain, Spain, and Holland joined forces against France	
National Convention ordered draft of 300,000 to reinforce army	
The Terror Grips France: <i>Divided Country</i>	
Not all people in France support all changes of the Revolution	
Robespierre Assumes Control	
<u>Maximilien Robespierre</u>	Jacobin leader rules France for a year
	Robespierre became leader of the Committee for Public Safety: basically, a dictator
<u>Reign of Terror—</u>	Robespierre's rule, which includes killing many opponents
Thousands die during the Terror, including former allies and Marie Antoinette and Georges Danton	
85 percent of those who die during the Terror are members of the middle or lower class	
End of the Terror: <i>Another Change in Government</i>	
In July 1794, Robespierre arrested and executed	
the Terror resulted in public opinion shifting away from the radicals and to the moderates	
Moderate leaders in the National Convention wrote a new constitution (3 rd government since 1789)	This was a Two-house legislature and five-man Directory
	Although corrupt, they restored order
New government makes Napoleon Bonaparte commander of armies	

People and Terms to Know:

1. Old Regime:	The social and political system in France
2. Estate:	Three closed classes in France under the Old Regime. The First Estate, which consisted of the clergy; the Second Estate- the nobility; and the Third Estate- the bourgeoisie, the urban working class, and the peasants.
3. Louis XVI:	King of France during the French Revolution who was found guilty of treason and beheaded.
4. Marie Antoinette:	The Queen of France during the French Revolution and wife of Louis XVI. Originally from the royal family of Austria who found acceptance difficult by the French citizens. She was eventually beheaded during the French Revolution.
5. Estates-General:	The assembly of representatives from all three estates during the Old Regime in France. Each estate received one vote.
6. National Assembly:	The representative body in France established by the Third Estate in 1789 to enact laws and reforms. This was the first official act of revolution.
7. Tennis Court Oath:	Pledge by members of the National Assembly in 1789 to continue to meet until a new constitution was composed.
8. The Great Fear:	A wave of panic that spread through the French countryside after the storming of the Bastille in 1789.
9. Legislative Assembly:	French congress that was established by the Constitution of 1791. The Assembly could make laws and declare war.
10. Émigré:	People who leave their country for political reasons.
11. Sans-Culotte:	A radical group of Parisian shopkeepers and wage earners who wanted a greater voice in government, lower prices on goods, and an end to the food shortages.
12. Jacobin:	A radical political organization that were heavily involved in the changes of government in 1792 France.
13. Guillotine:	A machine designed for execution by beheading. It's purpose was for humane and efficient executions. Played a significant role in the Great Fear.
14. Maximilien Robespierre:	Jacobin leader who wanted to establish a "public of virtue." He eventually gained power and ran France like a dictator through the Committee of Public Safety.
15. Reign of Terror:	(mid 1793- mid 1794) Maximilien Robespierre ruled France like a dictator, through the Committee of Public Safety. Thousands of political figures and ordinary citizens were executed.