

## Chapter 22: The French Revolution

### Section 1: The Old Order

- French richest and most powerful - trendsetter
  - Aristocracy enjoyed and working class very poor and wanted change spurred on by American Revolution
- French Society divided
  - All citizens belonged to 1 of 3 estates (orders of society)
    - **1st Estate:** Roman Catholic clergy 1% of population
      - **2 groups:** high clergy and low clergy
        - **high:** bishops, abbots, who are noble by birth
          - controlled 10% tax (tithe) on income on workers living on their land
        - **low:** parish priests, friars who had poor backgrounds
          - carried out religious duties and resentful
    - **2nd estate:** nobility 2% of population
      - held high government and military posts
      - some live at Versailles
      - income from federal dues
    - **3rd Estate:** peasants, artisans, bourgeoisie (mid class) 97%
      - bourgeoisie well-off but no political rights
        - some very wealthy, but always low social rank
      - rural peasants owned 40% of land, but always poor because of taxes
        - tithe to clergy/ land tax to king/ feudal dues
- Growing Unrest
  - 3rd Estate began calling for reform
    - 1st and 2nd not pay taxes
    - 3rd not hold high positions in military or government
    - with growing population, more demand for resources
      - higher prices and fees for using equipment
    - bourgeoisie want political power
  - 1st Estate wants changes
    - not like the king's absolute power
      - wanted increase of political influence
  - National debt very high
    - Wars with Spain and England impending
    - extravagant royal court life (Louis XIV and XV)
  - Louis XVI to power 1774 with wife Marie Antoinette
    - recognized growing problems
      - cut govt. costs
      - decided to tax 1st and 2nd Estates
        - groups refused tax
    - provided aid to American Revolution at great cost
    - 1786 banks begin to refuse loans to govt.
    - 1788-89 crop failures cause bread shortage
    - 1789 Louis XVI call Estates-General to meet to force tax of 1st & 2nd Estates
      - not met since 1614 w/ delegates from all estates

- 2nd wanted to use General to undermine king and strengthen itself
  - believed 1 & 2 join together and override 3 because each estate met separately and vote count equally
- 3rd wanted to meet jointly b/c 3rd = members # in 1 & 2
  - some of 1 & 2 already support 3
- king refused joint session & 3 refused so locked out of E.-General
  - locked out members named National Assembly
    - meet at nearby indoor tennis court
    - members from 1 & 2 w/ same views joined
    - members took oath not disband until write constitution
      - tennis court oath
  - king see danger and force all 122 join Assembly
    - king put troops in Paris also
- a call to revolt
  - no estate happy in assembly
    - 122 fought keep privileges
    - 3 many want to complete social equality
  - debates and fights break out in Paris
    - those w/ opposing views became violent
  - Louis XVI added troops to Versailles
  - Many feared Louis close Assembly and stop all reforms
    - Citizens rise up and attack symbol of injustices of monarchy
    - Paris prison - Bastille - July 14, 1789
      - Mob tries gain access inside for weapons to defend Assembly
      - Prison commander want calm crowd and lowers drawbridge
        - Mob takes weapons and freed 7 prisoners
      - Soldiers fire and kill 98 rioters
        - Mob kills several soldiers and commanders takes over prison
      - Take-over begins a revolution and formation of rev. govt. in Paris
  - revolution in Paris sparks wave of violence in France - "Great Fear"
    - b/c of rumors that nobles hired robbers to kill peasants and take land
      - peasants arm selves and wait but no robber come
        - too much anxiety and pressure on peasants so many "snap"
          - never want to pay feudal dues again and drover landowners off land
          - broke into manor houses and destroyed records and looted
          - robbed granaries
          - 1st wave of Fr. Rev. began

## **Section 2: Constitutional Government**

### **- End of the Old Order**

- escalation of violence causes National Assembly to make reforms
  - nobles agreed and voted to end privileges
    - gave up feudal dues and exemption of taxes
    - all male citizens hold government-army-church offices
  - composed Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
    - 1789 (Aug) and current Constitution
    - patterned after U.S. Constitution and English Bill of Rights

- easier to inherit property and divorce
- king refused to accept
  - people felt he acted against National Assembly
  - called on him to move to Paris
  - would show support for Assembly
- Oct 1789 thousands of women march on Versailles
  - Demanded bread - had pitchforks and sticks and called for king
  - guards unable to hold them back and Louis decided to move to Paris
    - women escort Louis and family to Paris
    - women now had bread on bayonets as they march
- **A New France**
  - days after Louis moves to France - National Assembly does the same
    - political stability returns
  - money needed
    - Assembly voted to take and sell church lands to pay for debt 1790
      - Further weaken Catholic power, Assem. passes Civil Const. of Clergy
        - Placed French Catholic church under govt. control
        - Clergy now elected and salaried officials
        - Pope Pius VI condemns it and many clergy refuse to follow
  - Constitution of 1791
    - kept monarchy but limited royal powers
    - set up unicameral legislature w/ members elected by citizens
    - "equal" rights for all *but* suffrage limited to males who pay taxes
    - many not happy
      - either went too far or not far enough
    - Legislative Assembly seated by political beliefs
      - Reactionary royalists - moderates - radicals
        - Became polarized and distrust of each other
        - began spreading throughout country w/ violence again
- **Decline of the Monarchy**
  - Louis 16 and Marie Antoinette aware of violence
    - June 1791 attempt to flee to Austria (queen's brother's empire there)
      - Recognized at rest stop - arrested - taken back to Paris
  - Monarchs in Gr. States and Austria fear rev. spread
    - Fr. nobles exiled (émigrés - "eh-mih-gray") want restore full monarch power
      - Tried to convince rulers that own rule in jeopardy
        - Must crush rev. before spread
      - Fr. Rev. leaders declare war on Austria 1792 to preempt
        - Prussia and Sardinia join w/ Austria
  - War throws Fr. into upheaval
    - Aug 1792 Paris mob attack palace and King fled to Legislative Assem.
      - Assem. Refused to help and voted for their imprisonment
    - Sept 1792 Paris mobs conduct "Sept. Massacres"
      - Killed imprisoned nobles and priests accused of political crimes

- Assem. Radicals - backed by mob - took over Assem.
- Called for National Convention for new Const.
- Extend voting to all males (land or landless)

### **Section 3: Dawn of a New Era**

#### **- The French Republic**

- Austria and Prussia advancing into France by attacked during winter
  - Losing because attacking and weather
- Nat. Convention met Paris make new govt.
  - Get rid of monarchy and set up Republic
    - drew up democratic constitution
    - all power in Nat. legislature and universal male suffrage
  - adopted metric system
  - new calendar w/ Sept. 22, 1792 as 1st day of 1st year of Liberty
    - b/c Sept 22 date of Rep. Creation
    - calendar not last

#### **- Death of a kingdom**

- Convention needed to get rid of Louis
  - Found secret correspondence bt/w Louis and other monarchs in iron box
    - No real evidence for treason, but "good enough"
    - Dec 1792 convention tries and convicts Louis
      - "conspired against liberty of the nation"
      - Jan 1793 beheaded w/ guillotine
      - secured Republic
- Republican enthusiasm sweeps Paris
  - Low and mid class see selves as heroes and demand respect of upper class
  - Everyone addressing each other as citizen, not Mr. or Madame
  - Rejected fancy clothes and wigs → simple style pants and dresses
- Growing problems
  - Extreme radicals - Jacobins "Ja-Kuh-buhns"
    - Formed group called "Mountain" b/c sat on high benches in back
    - Felt as defender of revolution and voice of people
  - Moderates - Girondists "juh-rahndihsts"
    - Named because most from Gironde in SW France
    - felt revolution had gone far enough
- wanted to protect mid-class from radicals
  - undecided group - plain and were majority
    - by 1793 most members support mountain
    - helped make revolution more radical and violent
- **Spreading the Revolution: "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity"**
  - After execution Louis many monarchs felt revolution spread
    - Jan 1793 Britain - Netherlands - Spain - Sardinia joined Aus. and Prussia
    - Gorges-Jacques Danton - one high rank member of Mt.

- Called for forces to expand French boundaries to national frontiers
- French army has huge influx volunteers
  - Poorly trained by tactics used to take by surprise
  - Won many at first but soon have string of defeats
    - French commander abandons troops and surrenders self
      - causes French forces to retreat
- national Convention begins defensive action
  - formed Committee of Public Safety
    - to direct war effort
    - summer 1793 adopted conscription 18-45
    - called upon skills and services of all civilians
      - could take whatever they need
- Rev. in Crisis
  - Problems b/c civil war in W France
    - Royalist peasants revolted against revolutionaries
      - angry b/c of draft for war they not want
  - mobs in cities b/c rising food prices and shortages
  - internal problems in govt.
    - Girondists ["juh-rahndihsts"] accuse Jacobins(Mt.) of seeking favor
      - w/mob
    - Jacobins claim Girondists secretly royalists
      - Jacobins ["ja-kuhbuhns"] won control of Convention
        - Arrest Girondist delegates
    - supporters of Girondist rebelled in Convention
      - Charlotte Corday (Gir. supporter) kills Jacobin leader Jean-Paul Marat
        - Corday sent to guillotine
- **Reign of Terror**
  - Brought on b/c internal & external problems
  - Crushing opposition
    - neighborhood watch committees sought and turned over suspected traitors
      - courts pressured by mob and carried swift trials & punishments
        - many innocent but accused by "enemies"
        - Marie Antoinette killed
      - Approx. 40,000 killed
- Republic of Virtue
  - Committee of Public Safety wants to set up republic made of good citizens
    - Opened new schools & promoted universal elementary education
    - produced pamphlets for farmers to learn farming skills
    - put temp. wage and price controls
    - abolished slavery in colonies & encourage religious toleration
  - Committee stopped radical rev. from persecuting Catholics

- Cath. Viewed as having ties w/ monarchy
- Committee does not want rev. Catholics to turn against them
- End of Terror
  - Spring 1794 Fr. back on offensive in war & republic out of danger
  - Danton & supporters call for end of terror
    - Maximillian Robespierre - 3rd leader of Mt. accused them of treason & sent them to guillotine
  - other leaders fear own lives & had Robespierre executed
    - at his death - Jacobins lost power & terror over
  - people begin to go against Jacobin ideas
    - middle class gain control of Convention
    - clothing becomes fashionable
- price control relaxed & soar & poor have hard times
  - riots by lower class put down easily b/c no leadership
  - mid 1794 many favor restoration of monarchy
- **The Directory**
  - 1795 Convention wrote new constitution
    - univ. male suffrage over / only those w/ property
    - set up executive council of 5 men - Directors -
      - Directory ruled w/ 2 house legislature
  - Much discontent b/c prices & lack of food & royalists gaining strength
    - 1795-99 army used to put down uprisings
  - not address growing gap of rich & poor & govt. on brink of bankruptcy
  - Directors involved in moral & financial scandals
- **Napoleon Takes Over**
  - Directory & govt. losing popularity
  - French army still winning against monarchies, most noted being Napoleon Bonaparte
  - Early fame
    - Skillful military leader & made general after putting down revolt in Paris
    - against Directory 1795 - age 26
    - 1796 married Josephine de Beauharnais - leader of Paris soc.
      - Used connections to command army fighting against Aus. in Italy
        - Improved supply route & reorganized ranks
    - Defeated Aus. forces in Italy & forced peace treaty
      - French got control of most N. Italy
  - Napoleon takes control
    - 1798 fighting in Egypt against Britain
      - wanted to cut trade route Br. & Mid. E. & India
      - won on land but Br. has superior navy
        - Adm. Horatio Nelson destroyed Fr. fleet near Alexandria
          - Fr. forces cut off & not able fight long b/c supplies
    - 1799 Nap. Learns of political situation at home

- leaves command to others & returns to France
- lands in S France Oct 1799 & enters Paris w/ cheering crowds
- joined others & led a coup de 'tat against Directory

#### **Section 4: Napoleon's Empire**

##### **- Restoring Order**

- 1799 after overthrow proclaimed new constitution written
  - in theory established republic
  - actually made dictatorship
  - executive branch committee - 3 members (consuls)
    - Napoleon #1 consul & took power for himself
- Replaced elected officials w/ own appointed men
- Education under national control - technical/ universities/ secondary schools
  - designed to produce patriotic govt. workers
  - mostly wealthy families could send but scholarships given
- created national Bank of France & all citizens to pay taxes
  - taxes deposited & bans given to businesses
  - brought inflation down
- 1802 Nap. named himself Consul for Life
  - people happy b/c gave strong govt. & peace & order
- 1804 declared himself Emperor
  - at coronation took crown from pope and put on his own head
- greatest legacy was code of law
  - Napoleonic code replaced feudal laws
    - Based on enlightenment ideas w/ equality for all
    - placed state above individual however
    - limited freedom of: speech/press

##### **- Building an Empire**

- led forces & defeated Italy and Austria
- unable to defeat Britain b/c of navy
  - Britain wanted peace b/c disrupting commerce
  - March 1802 both signed Treaty of Amiens
- By 1805 felt ready to invade England
  - Br. Lord Nelson defeated Fr. fleet Oct 1805
  - Battle of Trafalgar off coast of Spain
  - Fr. unable to invade Br.
- Napoleon turned to economic warfare w/ Continental System
  - Fr. & conquered nations stop trade w/ Britain
  - Br. ships not allowed into ports as well
  - Made Russia and Prussia go along w/ blockade
  - Br. said would stop any ship on way to European ports
    - put U.S. at odds w/ both sides
    - led U.S. to declare war on Britain (War of 1812)
  - Br. navy stronger & more aggressive & controlled seas
    - Nap. still strong on land
- By 1812 Nap. controlled most of Europe
  - Became also king of Italy & put brothers as kings in Spain & Holland

- dissolved Holy Roman Empire
  - created Confederation of the Rhine
  - caused Prussia to declare war but defeated easily
- rise in nationalism in occupied countries begins
  - wanted self rule & stop high taxes
  - Spanish began revolting w/ support of Br.
    - 1812 overthrew Fr. rule
  - Prussians began revolt w/ help from Br.

### **- Downfall of the Empire**

- Russia broke support of Napoleon - marked beginning of the end
  - Czar Alexander I saw Nap. Emp. as a threat to Russia
  - 1811 withdrew from Continental System
- b/c withdraw nap. took 600,000 troops into Russia
  - Russia employs scorched-earth policy
  - Winter coming when reach Moscow
    - Day after reaching city - fire started & destroyed most of city
  - Nap. w/o supplies & one of worst winters begins to retreat
    - Russians attacked as Fr. retreated
    - 400,000 lost to wounds - exposure - starvation
  - Russians/Prussians declare War of Liberation
    - Austria & other join
    - Defeated Nap. at Leipzig in present Germany Oct 1813
- 1814 Allies in Paris force Nap. to surrender and abdicate
  - restored Fr. throne to Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI
  - made boundaries of Fr. go back to 1792 location
    - Nap. exiled to island of Elba
      - Returned Mar 1, 1815 amid wide support of population
        - Period of rule known as Hundred Days
        - Hoped to avoid war & said wanted to more territory
          - Br., Prussia, & Netherlands sent army
            - Nap. defeated at Waterloo
              - located in Austrian Netherlands
            - house arrest & exiled to St. Helena
              - island in S Atlantic
              - died in 1821

### **- Legacy**

- Secured revolution & representative govt. in Fr.
- New tax systems/ promoted edu/ advancement by merit, not birth
  - Religious toleration/ equality in law

### **Section 5: Peace in Europe**

#### **- Congress of Vienna**

- 1814-1815 allies met to discuss terms for Fr.
- most drafting by Prince Klemens von Metternich - Austria
  - 3 principles
    - compensation- to repay expenses

- legitimacy- restoring royal power in Fr. & others
- balance- no country should dominate Europe
- Fr. to give up gained territory & pay indemnity
- Reestablished legitimate monarchies
  - Fr. - Spain - Portugal - Naples - Sardinia - Sicily
  - Louis XVIII in Fr.
- Several buffer states created around Fr.
  - N Austria & Dutch Netherlands combined
  - 39 Gr. States formed Ger. Confederation
  - Switzerland neutral
- Forces in the Congress
  - Most diplomats at Congress reactionaries
    - wanted Euro. To go as it used to be w/ monarchs
  - some diplo. Liberals
    - spread new political philosophy and Enlightenment
    - liked many ideals of Fr. Rev. (freedoms)
  - most new boundaries reflect what monarchs want, not what public wants
- Alliances
  - Monarchs want to prevent democratic rev. so need to stick together
  - G.B. - Austria - Prussia - Russia - Fr (admitted later)
  - To met & discuss security issues in Europe
  - goal was to preserve boundaries
  - meetings known as Concert of Europe - early U.N. -
  - broke down by 1830s b/c democratic ideals reformed govt. to move away from monarch power