

## Study Guide: French Revolution

Estates	Class system in France before the French Revolution. There were three Estates, First Estate was Clergy, Second was Nobility, and Third was peasants, merchants, and townspeople.
Anciens regime	Old social class system of the 3 estates
Old Regime	Same as anciens regime
Bourgeoisie	Educated, middle class people
Deficit spending	Government spends more money than it collects
Cahiers	Notebooks of the 3 estates which listed their grievances [complaints]
Estates General	The legislative body of France. Each Estate was entitled to one vote on legislative matters. Louis XVI was forced to call it together in 1789 to get more money.
National Assembly	Third Estate declared themselves this body; First new government during the first stage of the French Revolution.
Tennis Court Oath	Oath taken by 3 <sup>rd</sup> Estate promising to write a new constitution for France
Bastille	Prison in Paris where political prisoners were held; storming of Bastille marked the beginning of the Revolution
Émigré	Nobles who fled France during the Revolution
Sans-culotte	Working class radicals of the Revolution
Great Fear	Period of chaos caused by famine in which peasants rioted against nobles

“Liberty, Equality, Fraternity”	The slogan used in the French Revolution of 1789 to mean freedom for all persons, equal treatment regardless of inherited status, and brotherhood of all people working together to make a better world.
Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen	Revolutionary document of the French Revolution. Written in 1789, it spelled out certain rights believed to be universal to all mankind. Patterned on the American Declaration of Independence.
Lafayette	Hero of American Revolution; Led the National Guard
National Guard	A middle-class militia created to fight against the royal troops
Tricolor	Flag of the Revolution (red, white, and blue)
Civil Constitution of the Clergy	1790- bishops and priests became elected, salaried officials; Papal authority over French Church ended; dissolved convents and monasteries. Many peasants did not agree with this.
Constitution of 1791	Made France a limited monarchy; created the Legislative Assembly to make laws, collect taxes, and decide on issues of war and peace.
Declaration of Pilnitz	Emperor of Austria threatened to intervene in France to protect the French monarchy
Jacobins	Radical leaders of Legislative Assembly; mostly middle-class lawyers or intellectuals
Legislative Assembly	Lawmaking body created by Constitution

	of 1791.
Constitutional Monarchy	A political system in which a country is ruled by a monarch who has limited power due to a constitution
September Massacres	Attack on prisons holding many nobles and priests; these prisoners were killed along with many common criminals
Louis XVI	King of France during the Revolution; he was executed in January 1793.
Marie Antoinette	Queen of France who has disliked by the French people. She was executed in October 1793.
Suffrage	The right to vote
French Republic	Government of France ruled by the National Convention
National Convention	Legislative body created by Radicals after the September Massacres
Committee of Public Safety	12 member committee that ruled with absolute power; goal was to defend France from anti-revolutionaries; led by Robespierre; ran the Reign of Terror
Robespierre	Jacobin leader who become leader of Committee of Public Safety; goal was to make France a “Republic of Virtue”; instituted the Reign of Terror
Reign of Terror	Period during the Revolution from July 1793 to July 1794 when thousands of people were executed without fair trials
Guillotine	Method of execution used during the Reign of Terror

Directory	5 man ruling body created by the Constitution of 1795; held power from 1795 to 1799; it was ineffective and corrupt.
Nationalism	Pride in one's country or culture, often excessive in nature. This was an effect of the Revolution and rule of Napoleon
"La Marseillaise"	Patriotic song of Revolution, which was banned by Napoleon and later became France's national anthem
Olympe de Gouges	Leader of women's rights; created a "Declaration of the Rights of Women"; gains were taken away by Napoleon
Jacques Louis David	Leading artist of this period
Napoleon	General and emperor; ended the period of revolution and violence in France by stabilizing the government and the currency, promoted equality of the people before the law, as well as religious toleration through the Napoleonic Code of Laws.
Corsica	Island where Napoleon was born
Plebiscite	Ballot where voters say yes or no to an issue; used by Napoleon to gain power
First Consul	Title taken by Napoleon after his coup d'etat overthrew the Directory
French Empire	French territory under rule of Napoleon; Napoleon annexed territory and abolished the Holy Roman Empire

Continental System	Napoleon attempt to block trade between Great Britain and the rest of Europe as a way to weaken Great Britain
Abdicate	To give up power to rule
Napoleonic Code	A series of laws established by Napoleon that affected the lands he conquered throughout Western Europe. This law code reinforced many of the ideals of the French Revolution such as religious toleration and equality before the law.
Waterloo	Place in Belgium where Napoleon faced his final defeat
Congress of Vienna	Conference held after the defeat of Napoleon, led by Austria under the direction of Prince Metternich. Its goals were to turn back the clock (reactionary) and erase the ideals of the French Revolution.
Balance of power	A political policy in which countries attempt to preserve peace by keeping an equal military and economic status.
Prince Metternich	Austrian prince who led the Congress of Vienna; goal was to create a lasting peace by establishing a balance of power.

### 1. **What were the causes of the revolution?**

Causes: special privileges of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Estates, high taxes, huge government debt, Enlightenment ideas, high food prices.

### 2. **What were the different phases of the Revolution?**

1<sup>st</sup> phase: Creation of National Assembly (Tennis Court Oath )

- Storming of Bastille (July 14, 1789)
- Declaration of Rights of Man

2<sup>nd</sup> phase: Constitution 1791- Limited monarchy

(Moderate) Constitution of civil clergy – put church under state control

3<sup>rd</sup> phase (radical): 1793- King & Queen are executed

- National Convention set up Committee of Public Safety.
- Reign of Terror July 1793 – July 1794

4<sup>th</sup> phase (moderates): -Directory – 5 man rule 1795-1799

5<sup>th</sup> phase: Rule of Napoleon (1799-1815)

-coup d'état –overthrow of government.

-Plebiscite

### 3. **What ideas were embodied in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen?**

-All men have natured rights

-Equality under the law

-Religious freedom

-fair taxes

### 4. **Why did the Revolution become radical?**

War against other nations was going badly; king's guards are attached; radicals took over assembly; King & Queen executed.

### 5. **How and why did Napoleon come to power?**

Directory was ineffective; Napoleon was popular general who had won victories for France & restore order; coup d'état put him in power; became 1<sup>st</sup> consul; 1804 declared himself emperor; defeated in 1814 & exiled to Elba; returned for 100 days – finally defeated at Battle of Waterloo.

### 6. **How did France change under the reign of Napoleon?**

Changes by Napoleon:

- Economy: encourage new industries, built roads & canals, controlled prices
- Education: built schools (free public education)
- Napoleonic Code: equality of citizens before the law.

**7. How did the Napoleonic Age influence Europe?**

- Rise of Nationalism
- Spread of Enlightenment ideas
- Legal systems influenced by Napoleonic Code