

French Revolution

Ch. 23

1789-1815 #1

The Old Order

- The absolute monarchy in France controlled the richest and possibly the most powerful state in Europe. Yet the majority of people did not share the wealth and privileges of the aristocracy.
- Bad harvests, high prices, high taxes and questioning of the Enlightenment lead to social unrest.



French Society Divided 1700's

- Class system showed inequality among the people
- 3 major estates = large social classes
- First Estate= (1%) Catholic clergy, landowners, collected taxes paid for lifestyle, ran schools, and took care of religious duties
- Second Estate= (2%) Owned 25% of the land, monarchs, nobility privileges, government positions, main income collected from the peasants who worked the land.
- Third Estate= (97%) Largest social class, working class, bourgeoisie, few political privileges, paid high taxes.

**1st estate:
The Clergy**
People who
worked in the
Church

2nd estate: The Nobility
The king and queen, nobles of
the sword: princess of royal blood,
dukes, marquises, counts, viscounts,
barons, knights, and nobles of the robe

3rd estate: Everyone Else
Includes lawyers, doctors, businessmen, merchants,
soldiers, craftsmen, shopkeepers, peasants

Growing Unrest

- Third Estate wanted change due to unfair social structure.
- Bourgeoisie wanted more political power
- 1774 Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette come into power and tax nobility.
- First and Second Estate wanted to gain control the government and weaken royal court.



- Louis XVI – weak leader, indecisive. Paid little attention to his government advisers. Enjoyed hunting, skilled trades man, lock making and metal working. Married at 15



- Marie Antoinette- interfered with the government, Austrian (France's enemy), spent too much money on gambling, jewels, gowns and gifts. Known as Madame Deficit. Married at 15



Revolution

- Third Estate formed the National Assembly (wanted to write a constitution for France)
- NA voiced unhappiness with the French social order
- July 14, 1789 NA stormed the Bastille = mob, axes, guns
- Lead to a revolutionary government in Paris due to fear of the Third Estate



The Guillotine 1792

- Dr. Joseph Guillotine proposed a machine that was sufficient, humane, and democratic.
- Before execution victims were bound and walked through town for an hour.
- Executioners cranked the blade to the top and released it. Sharpe weighted blade fell severing victims head from their body.
- Doctors believe victim retained hearing and eyesight for up to 15 minutes after blade cut head off.



Constitutional Government

- Violence continued to sweep the countryside and the National Assembly (NA) worked to form a new government.

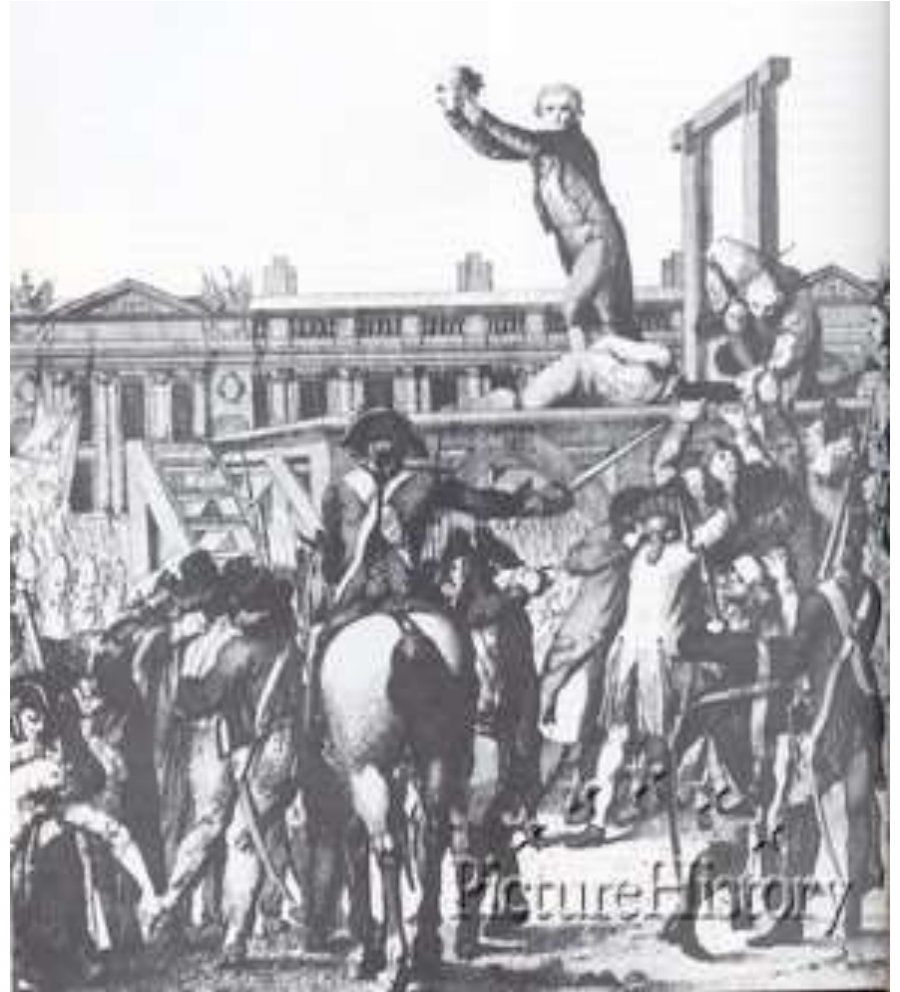
End of Old Order

- NA wanted to establish equality for all citizens stated by the law
- National Assembly established the Declaration of the Rights of Man August of 1789 = freedom of speech, religion and all equal before law
- Women did not gain voting rights or many legal rights
- King refused to accept new reforms
- Bread March



Decline of the Monarchy

- Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette feared violence and unrest
- Fled to Austria and were caught and imprisoned, kids took away
- Pairs mob wanted to kill the king and queen
- Social unrest continued



Napoleon's Empire 1800's



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1804

- Napoleon named himself Emperor of France
- Took crown from pope's hands and crowned himself
- He quickly concentrated power into his own hands
- Wanted to restore France



Restoring Order/ Building an Empire

- Napoleon wanted to bring order to France
- Brought education under his control
- Created tech.schools, university and secondary schools
- Restored financial systems = every citizen had to pay taxes
- Napoleonic Code = equality for all citizens before the law, religious toleration. State above the individual.
- France forces defeated Italy, Austria and Poland. Wanted Russia and Great Britain



Downfall of the Empire

- Countries decided to withdrawal alliances with France and sent armies against Napoleon
- Russia had a huge win against France = destroyed Napoleon's power
- Napoleon forced to surrender and then exiled to Elba
- Released and ruled again
- Final defeat at Waterloo in June of 1815 = Napoleon placed under house arrest and died there in 1821

- Overall Napoleon spread equality, set uniform government standards, improved education, agriculture and economics

