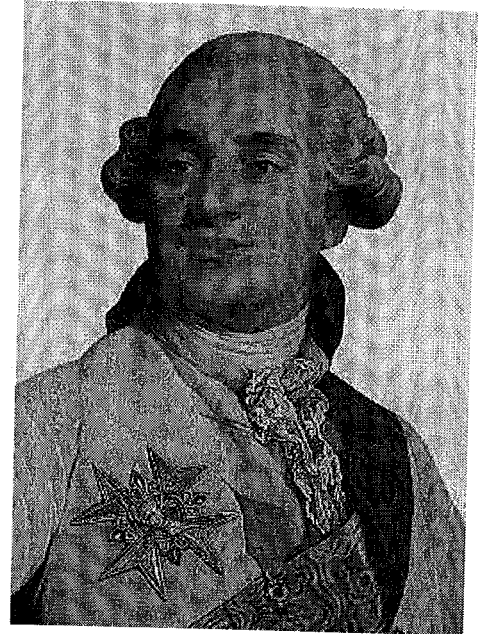


# The French Revolution and Napoleon

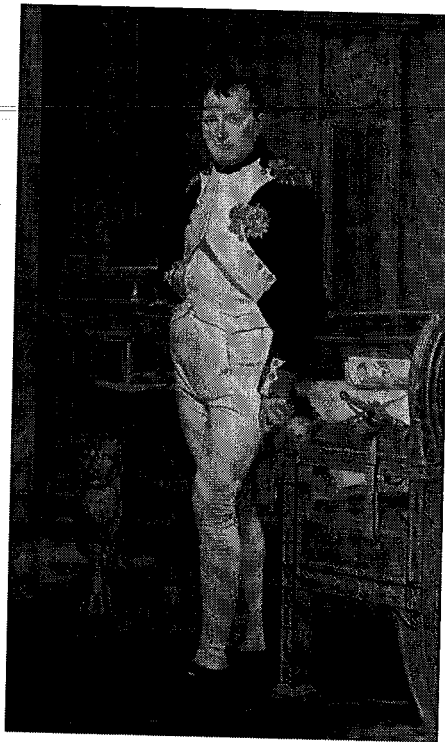
## Chapter 23



Marie Antoinette



King Louis XVI



Napoleon



## Revolution in France

### Global History and Geography

#### A Problem of Inequality



#### The Three Estates:

French society was divided into Three Estates. The First Estate was the Clergy. The Second Estate was the nobility and the Third Estate consisted of professionals, peasants, and laborers. Almost 98 % of the French population belonged to the Third Estate and this estate had the least privileges and paid the majority of taxes. Is it any wonder people started shouting, "Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality"?

#### The Causes of the French Revolution

##### 1. A Nearly Bankrupt Government

- Louis XIV had spent too much money. Wars and a particular palace at Versailles were too expensive. Successors did not stop overspending. By 1789, the government was nearly bankrupt!

##### 2. The Enlightenment Philosophers

- The French Enlightenment philosophers (especially, Montesquieu and Rousseau) often wrote against Absolute Monarchy.
- The success of the American Revolution was inspirational.

##### 3. And of course, Inequality

- The nobility and clergy enjoyed so many privileges and did not have to pay some taxes.
- The Third Estate paid many taxes and had no privileges.

When Louis XIV finally called a meeting of the Estates General in 1789, the Third Estate rebelled. Tired of each estate having only one vote as opposed to a vote for every representative, the left the Estates General and formed the National Assembly. After that the leaders of the Third Estate would be arrested, the people began to rebel. In Paris, an angry and hungry mob (the harvest had been bad), attacked the Bastille, a prison for political prisoners. The French Revolution had begun!

#### Questions:

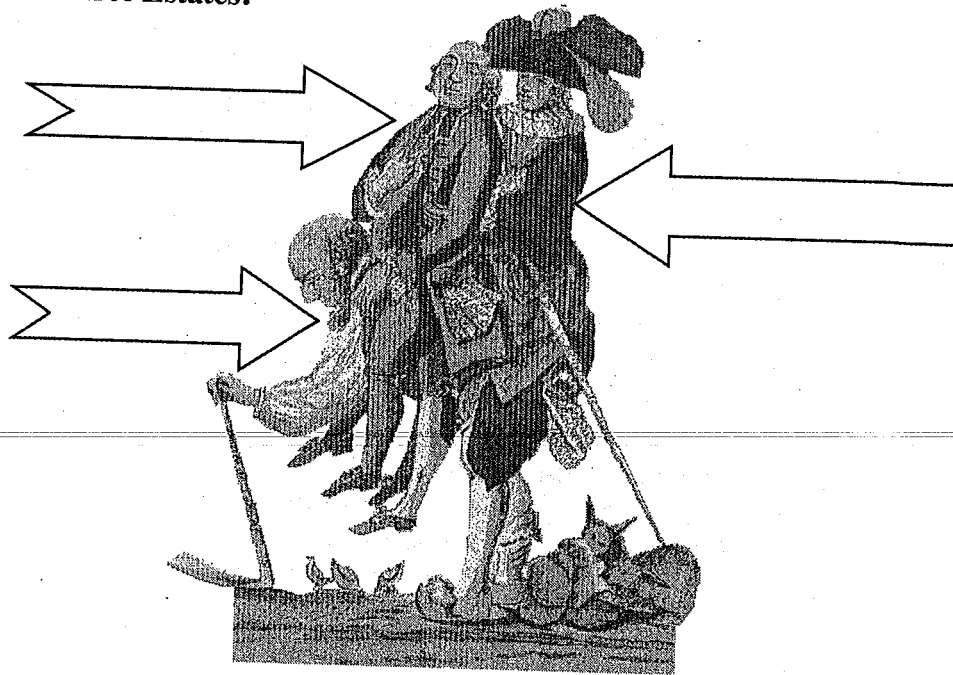
1- Why did inequality exist in France?

2- How did the Enlightenment and the American Revolution affect the French people?

3- Why was the government nearly bankrupt?

4- What happened in 1789?

The following cartoon was adapted from schoolhistory.uk  
Label the Three Estates:



Explain the meaning of the cartoon:

From the Regents:

A study of revolutions would most likely lead to the conclusion that a pre-Revolutionary government

1. is more concerned about human rights than the government that replaces it
2. refuses to modernize its armed forces with advanced technology
3. attempts to bring about the separation of government from religion
4. fails to meet the political and economic needs of its people

## A Primary Source:

Arthur Young  
Travels in France (1792)

J.H. Robinson, ed., *Readings in European History*  
2 vols. (Boston: Ginn, 1906), 2:365, 373-378, 402-404

*Robinson's Note:* Of all the descriptions that we have of the general condition of the French people upon the eve of the Revolution, the most important and interesting is Arthur Young's account of his travels in France during the years 1787, 1788, and 1789. Young was an honest and observant English gentleman farmer, whose aim was to ascertain "the cultivation, wealth, resources, and national prosperity" of France, which were, as he foresaw, to be fundamentally changed by the Revolution then under way.

"Walking up a long hill..., I was joined by a poor woman, who complained of the times, and that it was a sad country...she said her husband had but a morsel of land, one cow, and a poor little horse, yet they had a franchar (forty-two pounds) of wheat and three chickens to pay...to one seigneur (lord); and four franchar of oats, one chicken, and one franc, to pay to another, besides very heavy tailles (taxes) and other taxes. She had seven children, and the cow's milk helped to make the soup. But why, instead of a horse, do not you not keep another cow? Oh, her husband could not carry his produce so well without a horse...It was said, at present, that something was to be done by some great folks for such poor ones...

"This woman, at no great distance, might have been taken for sixty or seventy, her figure was so bent and her face so furrowed and hardened by labor, but she said she was only twenty-eight. An Englishman who has not traveled cannot imagine the figure made by infinitely the greater part of the country women in France; it speaks, at the first sight, hard and severe labor. I am inclined to think that they work harder than the men, and this, united with the more miserable labor of bringing a new race of slaves into the world, destroys absolutely all symmetry of person and every feminine appearance. To what are we to attribute these differences, in the manners of the lower people in the two kingdoms? To government..."

### Questions:

1. Who was Arthur Young and why did he travel in France?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe the woman Young met?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was her life so difficult?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does this primary source explain one of the most significant causes of the French Revolution?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**"Arrest of Louis Capet at Varennes, June 22, 1791"**

This print shows an angry crowd of fervent revolutionaries breaking down doors to arrest the King. (Source: Museum of the French Revolution L84.264)

Of course, when a revolution begins, the years of oppression and injustice give can give rise to extreme violence and anger.

Why were the people of France upset with their king?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

From pbs.org

"Louis XVI reluctantly agreed to much of the revolutionaries' agenda, hoping in this way to retain his throne in a constitutional monarchy, not unlike that of England across the Channel. But over time, the Revolution became more militant and the King, urged on by the Queen and her family in Austria, less accommodating. Eventually the King, who was known, formally simply as "France," was at odds with that other France, the citizens and their representatives. Once France was declared a republic in 1792, "France" had lost all claims to represent the people whose will he had embodied for the previous 18 years."

Questions:

1. Why did Louis XVI accept much of the revolutionaries' agenda?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Louis XVI expect to happen after he accepted the revolutionaries' agenda?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did the King begin to change his mind?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the King known as?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why and when did he lose all claims to represent the people?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Excerpt from [thecaveonline.com/APEH/](http://thecaveonline.com/APEH/)

**"The Queen of France was bored. Try as she might, Marie Antoinette (1755-93) found insufficient diversion (entertainment) in her life at the great court of Versailles. When she was fourteen, she had married the heir to the French throne, the future Louis XVI. By the age of nineteen, she was queen of the most prosperous state in continental Europe. Still, she was bored. Her life, she complained to her mother, Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, was futile and meaningless.**

**Maria Theresa advised the unhappy queen to suffer in silence or risk unpleasant consequences. Sometimes mothers know best. As head of the Habsburg Empire, Maria Theresa understood more about politics than her youngest child. She understood that people have little sympathy with the boredom of a monarch, especially a foreign-born queen. But Marie Antoinette chose to ignore maternal advice and pursued amusements and intrigues that had unpleasant consequences indeed.**

**This Austrian-born queen may not have been shallower or more wastefully extravagant than other queens, but it mattered that people came to see her that way. The queen's reputation sank to its nadir (lowest point) when it was reported that she dismissed the suffering of her starving subjects with the haughty retort "Let them eat cake." What better evidence could there be of the queen's insensitivity than this heartless remark?**

**Marie Antoinette never said "Let them eat cake," but everyone thought she did. This was the kind of callousness that people expected from the monarchy in 1789. Marie Antoinette understood the plight of her starving subjects, as her correspondence indicates. Probably a courtier at Versailles was the real source of the brutal retort, but the truth did not matter."**

**Questions:**

1. Who was Marie Antoinette?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was she bored?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was her mother's advice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was she reported as saying?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Although she did not say these words, the public viewed her as being insensitive. How did the public interpret her words?

Excerpt from [chnm.gmu.edu](http://chnm.gmu.edu)

"Bread was the basic staple of most people's diets, and variations in the price of bread were keenly felt by the poor, especially by women who most frequently bought bread in the marketplace. Women would sometimes protest against what they thought to be unjust price increases for bread in what were known as "bread riots." As this excerpt shows, these were not usually violent, nor did they involve looting, but instead were a collective action designed to force bakers to sell bread at a "just" or "moral" price rather than at whatever price the market would allow.

This passage is taken from a well-known chronicle of the reign of Louis XV by Etienne-Joseph Barbier.

(17 July 1725)—On Saturday the fourteenth, a baker ...tried to sell bread for thirty-four *sous* which that morning had cost thirty. The woman to whom this happened caused an uproar and called her neighbors. The people gathered, furious with bakers in general. Soon their numbers reached eighteen hundred, and they looted all the bakers' houses ... from top to bottom, throwing dough and flour into the gutter."

Question:

1. Why was bread so important?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was a bread riot?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. According to the primary source, why were the women furious?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the women do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did the women hope their actions would lead to?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## The Declaration of the Rights of Man – 1789

Men are born equal and remain free and equal in rights which are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression. Liberty is being able to do whatever does not harm others.

The law should express the will of the people. All citizens have a right to take part personally, or through their representatives, in the making of the law. Every citizen can talk, write and publish freely, unless the liberty is abused in a way which breaks the law.

August 1789

1. Why do you consider this Declaration to be fair?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which people in France did not have equal rights previously?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which people in France were still not equal despite the declaration? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Outline the changes brought about by the Assembly in August - September 1789.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Explain how changes in the constitution affected;
  - a. The King: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The Nobility: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The Church: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which of these changes were the most important? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1.) Base your answer to the following question on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

...We must ask ourselves three questions.

- 1.) What is the Third Estate? *Everything.*
- 2.) What has it been until now in the political order? *Nothing.*
- 3.) What does it want to be? *Something...*

Based on this passage, what did the Third Estate want?

- a.) independence from France
- b.) more influence in the political system
- c.) removal of the monarchy
- d.) freedom of religion in France

2.) One important result of the French Revolution was that

- a.) France enjoyed a lengthy period of peace and prosperity.
- b.) the church was restored to its former role and power in the French government.
- c.) political power shifted to the bourgeoisie.
- d.) France lost its spirit of nationalism.

3.) Which statement is a valid generalization about the immediate results of the French Revolution of 1789?

- a.) the Roman Catholic Church increased its power and wealth
- b.) the revolution achieved its goal of establishing peace, democracy, and justice for all
- c.) the revolution had little impact outside France
- d.) the French middle class gained more power

4.) In France, which was a majority result of the French Revolution?

- a.) the king was restored to unlimited power
- b.) the clergy dominated government
- c.) the middle class gained political influence
- d.) the tax burden was carried by the lower class

5.) Read the following headings and answer the question.

- "Angry Mob Destroys Bastille"
- "Robespierre's Execution Ends Reign of Terror"
- "Napoleon Seizes Power"

Which country's revolution is referred to in these headlines?

- a.) Spain
- b.) Austria
- c.) France
- d.) Russia

## The Reign of Terror

### Global History and Geography



Anonymous print

"It is dreadful but necessary."  
("C'est affreux mais  
nécessaire")

~the Journal d'Autre Monde,  
1794

The Jacobins were extremists. They forced the Assembly to arrest the King and Queen. They ordered the execution of the monarchs and created a dictatorship to protect the Revolution.

In 1789, The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was adopted. It stated that "all men are born free and equal in rights." It ensured freedom of speech, religion, and press. It gave people the right to participate in government. In 1791, a Constitution limited the power of the monarchy. But by 1792, Prussia and Austria went to war with France to aid the royal family and protect the monarchy. Other nations joined. The Revolution was under attack. A powerful extremist group convinced the French that Louis XVI had plotted against the Revolution. The Revolution, they believed, must be protected. The Reign of Terror began!

#### Questions:

1: After analyzing the illustration and the documents, explain the meaning of the illustration's caption ("It is dreadful but necessary.")?

2: Why did the revolutionaries have to protect the ideals of the Revolution?

**3: Do you agree or disagree with the illustration's caption?**

---

**Excerpt from fordham.edu/halsall**

**Maximilien Robespierre (1758 1794) was the leader of the twelve-man Committee of Public Safety elected by the National Convention, and which effectively governed France at the height of the radical phase of the revolution.**

**The committee rapidly put into effect policies which stabilized the French economy and began the formation of a very successful French army. It also directed it energies against counter-revolutionary uprisings, especially in the south and west of France. In doing so, it unleashed the reign of terror.**

**Robespierre ordered the executions of many individuals. After issuing threats to the National Convention, he himself was arrested in July 1794. He tried to shoot himself but missed, and spent his last few hours with his jaw hanging off. He was guillotined, as a victim of the terror, on July 28, 1794.**



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**Primary Source: Excerpts from speech from Robespierre: On the Moral and Political Principles of Domestic Policy**

**“But as the essence of the republic or of democracy is equality, it follows that the love of country necessarily includes the love of equality...A nation is truly corrupted when, having by degrees lost its character and its liberty, it passes from democracy to aristocracy or to monarchy; that is the decrepitude and death of the body politic...**

**“We must smother the internal and external enemies of the Republic or perish with it; now in this situation, the first maxim of your policy ought to be to lead the people by reason and the people's enemies by terror...Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible; it is therefore an emanation of virtue; it is not so much a special principle as it is a consequence of the general principle of democracy applied to our country's most urgent needs.”**

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**~Source: Robespierre: On the Moral and Political Principles of Domestic Policy**

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**Question:**

1. Who was Robespierre?
2. Why was he executed?
3. When did Robespierre believe that a nation was corrupted?
4. Why did he believe that "terror" was necessary?
5. Do you agree or disagree with Robespierre? Explain your answer.

Excerpt from schoolhistory.co.uk



Louis behavior in the years 1789-1791 is crucial in deciding whether or not Louis co-operated with the Assembly's attempts at reform.

1. When many nobles fled France after their chateaux were burned. Louis continued to support the nobles (known as émigrés) who were now living in the courts of other European monarchs, by sending money to them.
2. Marie-Antoinette (whose brother was Emperor of Austria) wrote to neighboring monarchies stating that she and Louis wanted to leave France and that they hoped their absolute monarch friends would invade France, put down the revolution and restore Louis to absolute monarchy. Louis agreed with his wife's actions and wrote to the kings of Prussia, Spain and Sweden, as well as the emperors of Austria and Russia to suggest an alliance to put down the revolution.
3. During the night of June 20-21, 1791, Louis attempted to escape to Montmedy, near the Austrian Netherlands. He and his family were disguised and carried false passports. Once there, he hoped, he would rally the émigrés nobles, get the support of Austria and return with an army. However, Louis's plan was filled with problems.
  - Firstly, the queen insisted that all the family travel together. This meant using a larger, slower coach, which, even with six horses had a top speed of only 10km per hour.
  - The bodyguards wore easily recognizable uniforms.
  - There were six people instead of five listed on the passport.

- Louis himself was recognized on the route to Varennes and a mob prevented his coach from proceeding.
- Louis's advisers suggested he use his bodyguards to shoot their way through the mob, but Louis refused.

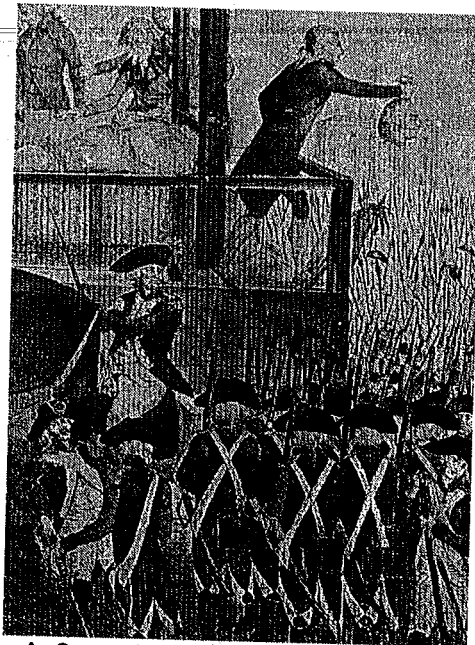
On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Louis and his family were captured and brought back to Paris. The crowd along the way jeered them, but once in Paris, Louis and his family were greeted with a grim silence. Anyone who applauded the King was beaten, and anyone who insulted him was hanged. The National Assembly had to decide what to do with Louis....

In the end, the Assembly decided to keep Louis as their Constitutional monarch (a monarch who has to obey the rules of a constitution). On September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1791, the constitution was proclaimed and Louis swore an oath of loyalty to it. On 30<sup>th</sup> September 1791, the National Assembly declared its work finished. It seemed the revolution was over.

But by 1792, Louis was denounced as a traitor for allegedly helping the Austrian invasion of France. On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1793, Louis XVI was executed.

Questions:

1. What evidence suggests that Louis XVI opposed to the ideals of the French Revolution?
2. Why did Louis XVI's escape from France fail?
3. Why was Louis XVI executed?



Excerpt from theguillotine.info

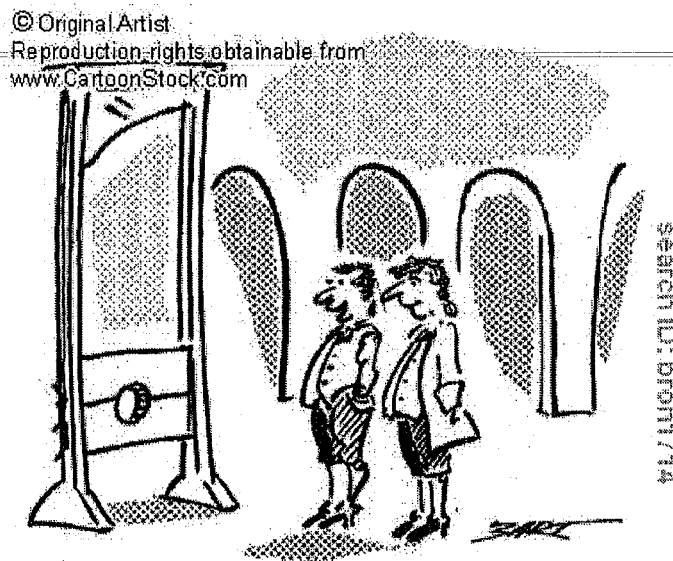
Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotin (1738-1821) was a French physician and deputy to the French assembly in 1789. Dr. Guillotin neither invented nor met his death by the guillotine. As a deputy to the Estates General, he was the first to demand a doubling of the representatives of the Third Estate. It was in that assembly on December 1, 1789, that he urged capital punishment should be inflicted as speedily and painlessly as possible, and argued for a machine designed for this end.

The guillotine was actually invented by Antoine Louis, secretary of the Academy of Surgeons, and a mechanic named Schmidt. Prior to the French Revolution similar devices were in use in Scotland, England and other European counties.

In the 1700's, many people had been executed and Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotine suggested that decapitation would be a more humane method of execution. His model was first used on April 25, 1792 at the Place De Greve. Although he didn't invent the guillotine, his name will forever be attached to it.

Questions:

1. Who was Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotin?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did he recommend?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How is his name remembered?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you think the doctor would have wanted his name associated with this device? Explain your answer.  
\_\_\_\_\_



*"Citizen Guillotin has a knack for designing  
consensus maintenance tools!"*

Images from [chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/imaging/images1--14.html](http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/imaging/images1--14.html)



**Quotes from Reign of Terror:**  
**"To punish the oppressors of humanity is clemency; to forgive them is cruelty."**  
 ~ Robespierre



## **The Rise and Fall of Napoleon**

Desperate for a strong leader, people approve new constitution that gave all real power to Napoleon, the popular head general of the French army. Later, the people name him emperor. Napoleon conquered most of Europe, bringing the ideals of the revolution with him. He instituted the **Napoleonic Code**, a system of laws that gave all citizens equal rights. He also started public schools called lycees, fired corrupt government workers and hired new ones based on merit, and made tax collection fairer. While expanding his French empire, Napoleon made some errors such as the **Continental System**, the **Peninsular War**, and the **invasion of Russia** which led to Napoleon's downfall, as they used a **scorched-earth policy** to deprive his army of resources. After his defeat and exile, Napoleon returned to rule France in a period called the **Hundred Days**. He was soon defeated again at Waterloo, and was exiled to the remote island of St. Helena where he remained until his death.

## **The Congress of Vienna**

### **Global History and Geography II**



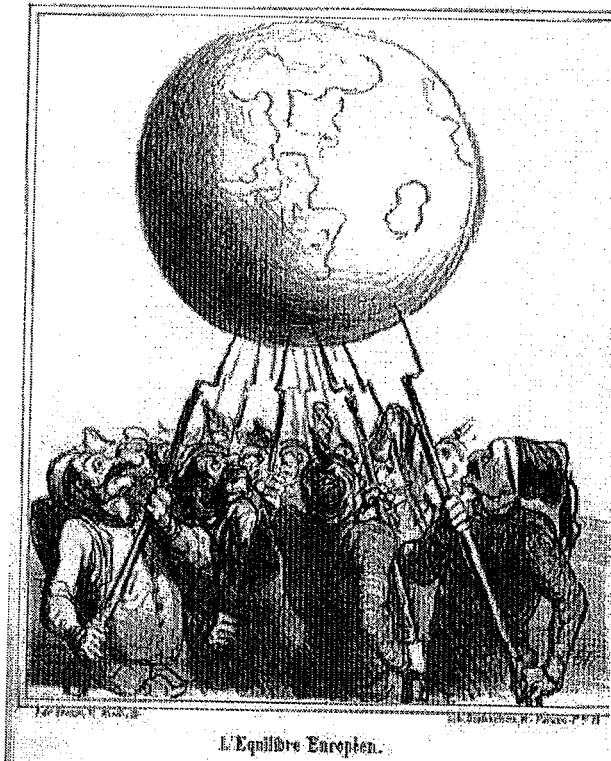
After the fall of Napoleon, a group of aristocratic leaders from various European countries met to discuss ways to prevent more political and social unrest as well as to establish the future boundaries of the continent. Representatives from most European countries and even France met to determine the future of the continent. Officials from Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Austria (the Quadruple Alliance) made most of the decisions at this conference known as the Congress of Vienna. The meetings were held in Vienna between 1814 and 1815. Prince Klemens von Metternich, a brilliant Austrian diplomat, dominated the conference. His ideas greatly influenced European affairs for the next thirty years. Metternich helped restore Europe's monarchs after the turmoil of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars.

As Prince Metternich once said, "When France has a cold, all of Europe sneezes."

#### **Questions:**

1. Why did representatives from many European countries meet in Vienna between 1814 and 1815?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which nations made most decisions during the Congress of Vienna?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who dominated the Congress?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What changes did this individual bring to Europe?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Explain the meaning of Metternich's quote?



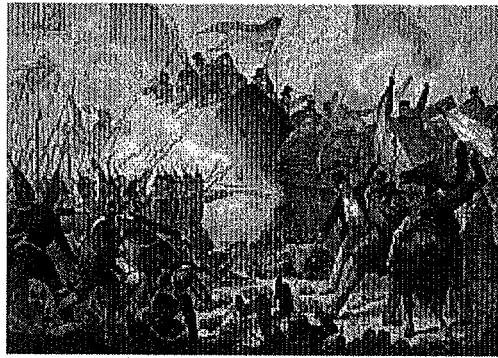
### A Balance of Power

Metternich wanted to establish a balance of power among the nations. He wanted to keep Europe at peace. By preventing any one nation from becoming militarily stronger than its neighbors, Europe would be kept at peace. The general agreement among the leading powers about the aims of the Congress has been labeled the Concert of Europe.

Representatives also wanted to prevent future aggression on the part of France. The Congress redrew the map of Europe in an effort to prevent one nation from dominating other nations. The great powers successfully restored a balance of power. These decisions did reduce conflict in Europe for a period of time.

### Questions:

1. What is a "balance of power"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does a "balance of power" create peace?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the Concert of Europe?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did representatives want to create this "balance of power"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did Europe benefit from Metternich's idea of a "balance of power"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **Struggles between Absolute Rulers and Revolutionaries**

- During the 1800s, struggles between absolute rulers and revolutionaries took place throughout Europe
- Revolutionaries were influenced by the ideas of the Enlightenment
- Revolutionaries were encouraged by the American and French Revolutions
- Liberals supported efforts to make government more democratic
- Conservatives wanted to conserve an already existing way of life
- Radicals believed that democratic reforms were not enough
- Radicals wanted to bring about a more even distribution of wealth
- Radicals wanted to restrict or do away with private property

#### **Questions:**

1. Why did conflict exist between Absolute rulers and some members of their societies in the 1800s?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What events and ideas inspired individuals who wanted to change society?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did liberals differ from conservatives?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did liberals differ from radicals?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why were absolute rulers conservative?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Regents Multiple-Choice Questions:**

- At the Congress of Vienna (1815), the governments of Europe reacted to the French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon by attempting to
  - (1) restore old regimes to power
  - (2) spread the idea of democracy
  - (3) encourage nationalist movements
  - (4) promote the European free-trade zone
- “Congress of Vienna Restores Monarchy to France”
- “Czar Nicholas I Limits Freedom of the Russian Press”
- “Reform Movements Crushed in Hungary, Italy, and the German States”

These headlines could be described as

1. reactions to the French Revolution
  2. movements to unify all of western Europe
  3. efforts to improve the conditions of factory workers
  4. attempts to promote trade between European nations
- Which factors protected Russia from control by Napoleon’s army?
    - (1) religious and cultural similarities
    - (2) industrialization and modernization
    - (3) geographic size and location
    - (4) political and economic instability
  - Before the French Revolution, the people of France were divided into three estates based mainly on their
    - (1) education level
    - (2) geographic region
    - (3) social class
    - (4) religious beliefs
  - What was a major cause of the French Revolution?
    - (1) inequalities in the tax structure
    - (2) economic success of mercantilism
    - (3) failure of the Congress of Vienna
    - (4) Continental System in Europe
  - Who was the man whose ideas and aims dominated the Congress of Vienna and after whom the age of reaction, from the fall of Napoleon to the Revolutions of 1848, is named?
    - (1) Alexander I
    - (2) Castlereagh
    - (3) Hardenburg
    - (4) Metternich

**The Congress of Vienna** was essentially a peace conference called by Clemens von Metternich of Austria to plan a post-Napoleon Europe. There were three goals. First, **make sure France never attacks again**, by surrounding it with stronger nations. Second, a **balance of power** among nations was desired to discourage future aggression. Last, he wanted **legitimacy** – a restoration of the rightful rulers to the thrones from which they had been deposed by Napoleon. **The outcome of the meeting was a long-lasting peace in Europe**, where the major nations did not fight for over fifty years. It is considered a success.

## Results of the French Revolution

The French Revolution had major impacts on Europe. First, many nervous rulers formed alliances such as the **Concert of Europe**, agreeing to help each other in the event of another revolution. Second, conservative governments regained control as a reaction to the liberal ideals of the French Revolution. However, the ideals of equality, fairness and rights were merely suppressed, not dead. They would flare up and resurface during successful fight for Latin American independence as well as the unsuccessful revolutions of the 1840's in Europe. Lastly, the French revolution and reign of Napoleon **inspired nationalism**. The French used it to revolt against their king. Europe used it to revolt against Napoleon and his French empire. These same nationalistic feelings would later be critical in the Italian and German unification movements of the 1860s and 1870s.

"Estates General Meet for First Time in 175 Years"  
"National Assembly Issues *Declarations of the Rights of Man*"  
"Reign of Terror Ends; Robespierre Dies"

Which event in European history is most closely associated with these headlines?

- (1) Puritan Revolution
- (2) Hundred Years War
- (3) French Revolution
- (4) signing of the Magna Carta

One of the main purposes of the Congress of Vienna (1814–1815) was to

- (1) promote the unification of Italy
- (2) preserve the German territories gained by Otto von Bismarck
- (3) restore the power of the Holy Roman Empire
- (4) establish a balance of power in Europe after the defeat of Napoleon

Which factors protected Russia from control by Napoleon's army?

- (1) religious and cultural similarities
- (2) industrialization and modernization
- (3) geographic size and location
- (4) political and economic instability

## ~~Lesson~~: The Congress of Vienna

Directions: Read the article below about European countries dealing with the aftermath of the defeat of Napoleon. Then answer the questions on the next page.

### The Congress and the Diplomats

•Following the defeat of Napoleon, Europe was a mess. Napoleon had completely rearranged the boundary lines of many countries -- now that he was gone, what was to be done?

•The *Congress of Vienna* was not a legislative body, but a meeting of diplomats from major nations in Europe. Their job was to decide what to do about the changes Napoleon had made to Europe.

•Representing *Austria*, and the host of the Congress, was *Prince Klemens von Metternich*, the foreign minister to the Austrian Emperor. Britain was represented by *Lord Castlereagh*, Russia by the *Czar* himself, *Alexander I*, and Prussia by their King *Frederick William III*.

•Many felt *France* should not have been invited because they had caused all the turmoil, but they were represented well by the crafty *Charles Maurice de Talleyrand*.



### Guiding Principles of the Congress

•*Conservatism*. The diplomats were all members of the upper classes, and therefore were interested in the traditional order of things. Historians consider these diplomats to be *reactionaries* (extreme conservatives) because they wanted to *return* to the previous era.

•*Legitimacy*. The diplomats decided to return the *legitimate* rulers to their thrones in cases where Napoleon had deposed them. The King of Sardinia (Italy) was restored as ruler of his various territories, and King Louis XVIII was recognized as the ruler of France.

•*Compensation*. It was decided that nations who had suffered in fighting against Napoleon would be given land. The Netherlands received Belgium, Russia got Finland and part of Poland, Prussia received the other part of Poland, and Britain received control of various colonies.



### Forces Ignored?

•*Liberalism*. The idea that individuals had certain innate rights and liberties was completely ignored by the delegates of the Congress. It was as if they tried to completely erase the ideas of the Enlightenment.

•*Nationalism*. This force was, to some degree, born during the French Revolution (in Europe), and was inadvertently spread by Napoleon's troops. The principle of compensation followed by the diplomats went completely contrary to the growing forces of nationalism.



### Results?

•Fans of the Congress point out that there was not another widespread European war for almost 100 years, and suggest that the Congress effectively established peace and order.

•Critics of the Congress, point out that major nationalist rebellions broke out only 15 years after the Congress. A series of rebellions rocked Europe in 1830, breaking out in Paris, Berlin, Poland, in Italian states and in Belgium (which was successful in breaking away from the Netherlands).

•By 1848, rebellions were so widespread that it was considered epidemic.



**RIGHT THERE:** What was the situation in Europe following the defeat of Napoleon?

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**RIGHT THERE:** What was the Congress of Vienna, and what was its purpose?

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**THINK AND SEARCH:** Explain the guiding principles of the Congress. Give examples when possible.

a. Conservatism: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Legitimacy: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Compensation: \_\_\_\_\_

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**THINK AND SEARCH:** Explain the forces that the delegates ignored. Give examples of how the forces were ignored when possible:

a. Liberalism: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Nationalism: : \_\_\_\_\_

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**RIGHT THERE:** Why do many suggest that the Congress was a success?

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**RIGHT THERE:** Why do many suggest it was a failure?

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Global  
French Revolution

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Write one paragraph about the French Revolution. Your paragraph needs to contain the words/phrases in the following box. Please use the words/phrases accurately!

Estates-General

National Assembly

Louis XVI

Tennis Court Oath

Great Fear

Marie Antoinette

Handwriting practice lines for the paragraph.

# French Revolution and Napoleon – Chapter 23

\* indicates that the word will be found in the reading, not the glossary

Estate (list all three) - One of the three social classes in France before the French Revolution. **First Estate** – clergy, **Second Estate** – nobles  
**Third Estate** – Everyone else

\*Louis XVI - king of France during the Revolution, he was a weak, uninterested leader who inherited economic problems from other kings.

Estates General - an assembly of representatives from all three of the estates, or social classes in France

National Assembly - A French congress established by representatives of the Third Estate to enact laws and reforms in the name of the French people.

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Tennis Court Oath - a pledge made by members of France's National Assembly in 1789, in which they vowed to continue meeting until they had drawn up a constitution.

Declaration of the Rights of Man - a statement of revolutionary ideals adopted by France's National Assembly in 1789.

Great Fear - a wave of senseless panic that spread through the French countryside after the storming of the Bastille in 1789.

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\*Robespierre - a revolutionary leader who became a radical and launched the Reign of Terror, during which he ruled like a dictator

**Reign of Terror** - the period when Robespierre ruled France nearly as a dictator and thousands of political figures and ordinary citizens were executed.

**\*Napoleon Bonaparte** - French General who became emperor of France. He brought order to France after the revolution and created a French empire in Europe before his final defeat in 1814.

**Napoleonic Code** - a comprehensive and uniform system of laws established for France by Napoleon.

**Continental System** - Napoleon's policy of preventing trade between Great Britain and Europe, intended to destroy Great Britain's economy.

**Scorched earth policy** - the practice of burning crops and killing livestock during wartime so that the enemy can't live off the land

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**Congress of Vienna** - a series of meetings in 1814-1815 during which European leaders sought to establish long-lasting peace and security after the defeat of Napoleon.

**\*Klemens von Metternich** - Foreign minister of Austria who engineered the Congress of Vienna and set up the Concert of Europe

**Concert of Europe** - a series of alliances among European nations in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, devised by Metternich to prevent the outbreak of revolutions.

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