

The French Revolution and Napoleon, 1789–1815

- Why was it so hard for the French to establish a republic than it was for the Americans?
- How was Napoleon able to take power twice?

The French Revolution and Napoleon, 1789–1815

SECTION 1

The French Revolution Begins

SECTION 2

Revolution Brings Reform and Terror

SECTION 3

Napoleon Forges an Empire

SECTION 4

Napoleon's Empire Collapses

SECTION 5

The Congress of Vienna



Section 1

The French Revolution Begins

For your listening and viewing pleasure.....

**THE FRENCH
REVOLUTION SET TO
MUSIC IN UNDER 3
MINUTES**

<http://www.history.com/videos/the-french-revolution>

The Three Estates



A First Estate

- made up of clergy of Roman Catholic Church
- scorned Enlightenment ideas

B Second Estate

- made up of rich nobles
- held highest offices in government
- disagreed about Enlightenment ideas

C Third Estate

- included bourgeoisie, urban lower class, and peasant farmers
- had no power to influence government
- embraced Enlightenment ideas
- resented the wealthy First and Second Estates.

Population of France, 1787

97% (Third Estate)

less than 1%
(First Estate)

2% (Second Estate)



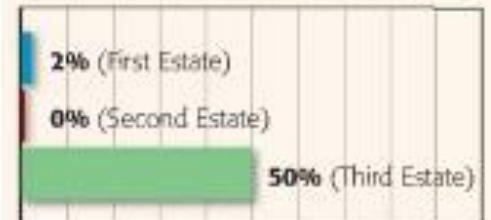
Percent of Income Paid in Taxes

2% (First Estate)

0% (Second Estate)

50% (Third Estate)

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



SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts and Political Cartoons

1. **Drawing Conclusions** How do the chart and the graphs help explain the political cartoon?
2. **Making Inferences** Why might the First and Second Estates be opposed to

The Forces of Change

Enlightenment Ideas

- Enlightenment ideas inspire some in Third Estate

Economic Troubles

- High taxes and rising costs damage economy by 1780s
- King **Louis XVI** and his wife **Marie Antoinette** known for extravagance
- Louis doubles nation's debt; banks refuse to lend more money

A Weak Leader

- Louis's poor decisions and lack of patience add to France's problems
- He calls **Estates-General**—meeting of representatives from all three estates

Dawn of the Revolution

The National Assembly

- Third Estate has little power under old rules
- Third Estate sets up **National Assembly**—new legislature to make reforms
- **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

The French celebrate Bastille Day, just as we do the 4th of July

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.



SECTION

2 Revolution Brings Reform and Terror

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 seizes church lands, turns clergy into public officials
- This action alarms many peasants, who are devout Catholics

Continued . . .

SECTION

2

continued **The Assembly Reforms France**

Louis Tries to Escape

- Louis, worried about his future, attempts to escape France
- Revolutionaries catch the royal family near Netherlands' border

Divisions Develop

A Limited Monarchy

- In September 1791, Assembly finishes new constitution
- **Legislative Assembly**—new body created to pass laws

Factions Split France

- Major problems, including debt, food shortages remain
- Assembly split into Radicals, Moderates, Conservatives
- **Émigrés**—nobles who flee country, want Old Regime back in power
- **Sans-culottes**—lower class who want more change from the Revolution

War and Execution

Problems with Other Countries

- Austrians and Prussians want Louis in charge of France; France declares war

France at War

- Prussian forces soon threaten to attack Paris
- Parisian mob jails royal family, kills guards
- Mob breaks into prisons, killing over 1,000, including many who support king
- Pressured by mob, Legislative Assembly deposes the king and then dissolves
- National Convention takes office in September, forming French republic

Continued . . .

continued **War and Execution**

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

The War Continues

- French army wins great victory against Prussians and Austrians
- In 1793 Britain, Spain, Holland join forces against France
- National Convention orders draft of 300,000 to reinforce army

The Terror Grips France

Divided Country

- Not all people in France support all changes of the Revolution

Robespierre Assumes Control

- **Maximilien Robespierre**—Jacobin leader rules France for a year
- Becomes leader of the Committee for Public Safety, really a dictator
- **Reign of Terror**—Robespierre's rule, which includes killing many opponents (many former allies)
- Thousands die during the Terror, including former allies and Marie Antoinette
- **85 percent of those who die during the Terror are middle or lower class**



End of the Terror

Another Change in Government

- In July 1794, Robespierre arrested, executed
- Terror results in public opinion shifting away from radicals
- Moderate leaders write new constitution
- Two-house legislature and five-man Directory restore order
- New government makes **Napoleon Bonaparte** commander of armies

Section 3

Napoleon Forges an Empire

Napoleon Bonaparte, a military genius, seizes power in France and makes himself emperor.

<http://www.history.com/videos/napoleon#napoleon>



SECTION

3 Napoleon Forges an Empire

Napoleon Seizes Power

Hero of the Hour

- In 1795, Napoleon defeats royalist rebels attacking National Convention
- Napoleon wins stunning victories in Italy, gaining popularity
- News of his defeats in Egypt is suppressed

Coup d'État

- In November 1799, he carries out **coup d'état**— seizure of power
- Napoleon defeats British, Russians, Austrians who join forces against him

Napoleon Rules France

Vote of Approval

- New constitution is approved through **plebiscite**—vote of the people

Restoring Order at Home

- To fix economy, he sets up national banking system, efficient tax collection
- Establishes **lycées**—government-run public schools to train officials
- Signs **concordat**—agreement—with pope restoring Catholicism in France
- Creates **Napoleonic Code**—uniform system of laws

Napoleon Crowned as Emperor

- In December 1804, Napoleon crowns himself emperor of France

Napoleon Creates an Empire

Loss of American Territories

- In 1801, Napoleon attempts to retake colony of Saint Domingue but fails
- Sells the Louisiana Territory to United States for \$15 million in 1803

WHY WOULD HE DO THIS?

Conquering Europe

- Britain, Russia, Austria, Sweden join forces against Napoleon
- Napoleon crushes enemy forces in several brilliant battles
- Napoleon forces Austria, Russia, Sweden to sign peace treaties

Continued . . .

The Battle of Trafalgar

- In 1805, British win **Battle of Trafalgar**—ensures British naval superiority
- This defeat forces Napoleon to give up plan of invading Britain
- Looks for another way to control Britain

The French Empire

- Napoleon controls Europe except for Britain, Portugal, Sweden, Ottomans
- Has puppet rulers in some countries, alliances with others
- French Empire reaches largest extent from 1807 to 1812

What happens to the map of Europe after Napoleon takes control of France?



What happens to the map of Europe after Napoleon takes control of France?



Section 4

Napoleon's Empire Collapses

Napoleon's conquests aroused nationalistic feelings across Europe and contributed to his downfall.

Napoleon's Empire Collapses

Napoleon's Costly Mistakes

The Continental System

- Napoleon strikes Britain through **blockade**—forced closing of ports
- **Continental System**—economic plan to strengthen Europe, weaken Britain
- Smugglers and uncooperative allies
- British counter blockade
- War of 1812

Continued . . .

The Peninsular War

- Napoleon sends troops across Spain to attack Portugal, causing protest
- Napoleon makes his brother king of Spain, making things worse
- Spanish fight as **guerrillas**—small groups that attacked and then disappear
- British aid Spanish guerrillas
- Napoleon loses 300,000 soldiers
- Nationalist rebels fight the French in other conquered territories



Continued . . .

The Invasion of Russia

- Relations with Russia break down, Napoleon decides to invade
- In June 1812, Napoleon's army marches into Russia with 420,000 men
- Russians use **scorched-earth policy**
- In September 1812, Russians retreat from Moscow
- Napoleon finds Moscow abandoned and burning
- Napoleon retreats, losing thousands of soldiers to raids, cold weather

Napoleon's Downfall

Napoleon Suffers Defeat

- Britain, Prussia, Sweden, Russia, Austria join forces against Napoleon
- Napoleon raises another army, but meets quick defeat by allied powers
- Napoleon finally surrenders and is exiled to island of Elba

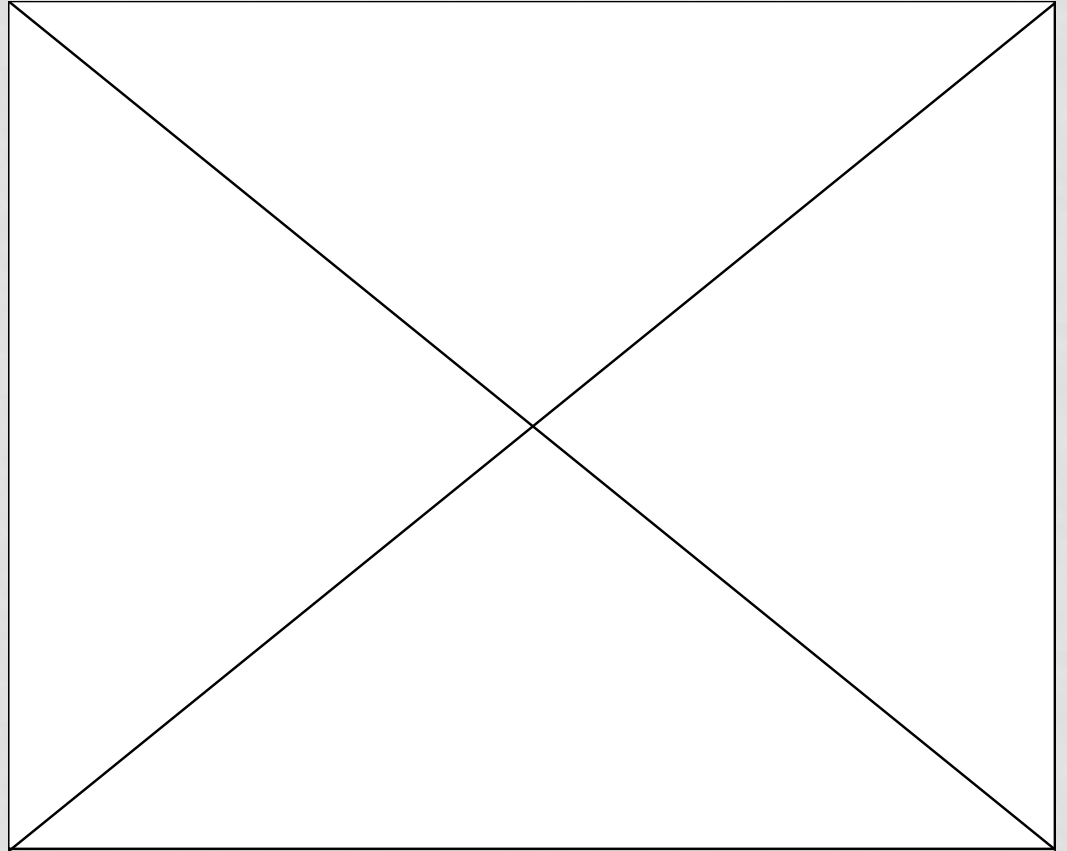
The Hundred Days

- Louis XVIII, new king, is soon overthrown and Napoleon returns from exile
- **Waterloo**—British, Prussian forces defeat Napoleon's army
- This defeat ends **Hundred Days**—Napoleon's last attempt at power

Section 5

The Congress of Vienna

After exiling Napoleon, European leaders at the Congress of Vienna try to restore order and reestablish peace.



SECTION

5 The Congress of Vienna

Metternich's Plan for Europe

A Meeting of Nations

- **Congress of Vienna**—series of meetings that reshape Europe

Metternich and the Great Powers

- Klemens von Metternich—foreign minister of Austria, influential at Congress
- He distrusts the idea of democracy
- **Balance of power**—a chief Metternich goal, with no one country a threat

Continued . . .

FIVE “GREAT POWERS” MEET:

- Prussia - Frederick Wilhelm III
- Russia - Czar Alexander
- Austria - Klemens von Metternich
- Great Britain - Lord Castlerough
- France - Talleyrand



continued **Metternich's Plan for Europe**

The Containment of France

- Kingdom of the Netherlands formed, and Switzerland made independent
- Austria dominates new German Confederation of 39 German states

Balance of Power

- European powers weaken France but leave it mostly intact

Continued . . .

continued **Metternich's Plan for Europe**

Legitimacy

- **Legitimacy**—monarchs deposed by Napoleon are returned to thrones

Political Changes Beyond Vienna

Conservative Europe

- **Holy Alliance**—Russia, Prussia, Austria pledge to fight revolution
- **Concert of Europe**—European nations pledge to help fight revolutions
- Conservative governments rule across Europe, but new ideas have impact

Revolutions in Latin America

- Napoleon's replacing king of Spain set off rebellions in Spanish America
- Many former colonies of Spain and Portugal gain independence

Long-Term Legacy

- Britain, Prussia gain power; spreading nationalism leads to revolutions

Before and after the Congress of Vienna



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Region** What parts of Napoleon's French Empire did France lose as a result of the Congress of Vienna?
- 2. Region** In what sense did the territorial changes of 1815 reflect a restoration of order and balance?