

The American Revolution

Causes:

- ① Impact of Enlightenment thinking
 - Locke, Montesquieu influential among colonial elite
- ② Impact of Seven Years War
 - High cost encouraged British leaders to increase colonial taxes in order to offset costs of colonial defense
- ③ Accession of George III ^{- leads to Stamp Act of 1765 *}
* Financial issues of East India Company
 - Confirmed believer in divine right monarchy * Global credit crisis critical
- ④ Colonial growth & mobility
 - > 2 million immigrants: 1700 - 1800
 - many ethnicities opposed to British controls
 - resented restrictions on westward migration

Flashpoint: Boston

- largest & economically wealthiest city in colonies
- Samuel Adams - radical leader * Patrick Henry
- Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party "Give me liberty"

First Continental Congress, September 1774

War

- ① War 1775 - 1783 - Declaration of Independence, 1776
 - ① - military blunders by British
 - ② - considerable support from French, Dutch
- Treaty of Paris (1783) - recognizes American Independence

1789 - Formation of U.S. Constitution

- * - New political structure based on Enlightenment Principles - checks & balances between legislative & Executive Branch of government, & Bill of Rights providing formal guarantees of individual liberty.
- * Socially, however, the Revolution accomplished little for colonial elites that encouraged Revolution remain

American Revⁿ (cont.)

- in power. Slavery is untouched, ~~rights of~~

* Significance

- Although more a War of Independence than a full-fledged revolution, America's struggle & success provided crucial encouragement to similar thinkers elsewhere, particularly in France. Its success proved that a challenge to the established monarchical order was possible, & capable of success. Many idealistic Frenchmen, such as the Marquis de Lafayette, fought in America - they would bring that idealism & experience back with them to France.

Western Revolution Part II - France

Intro. 413

Causes:

① Financial: Continual national deficits 1774-1789

- interest payments half of annual state revenue
- Assembly of Notables called 1787-88
- privileged orders refused to be taxed w/out increased royal financial accountability

② Agricultural (Meteorological)

- worst weather in 100 years leads to general crop failure in 1788
- winter of 1788-89 coldest, longest in a century
- Bread prices soar by 75%

- Crisis forces Louis XVI to call Estates-General a medieval representative assembly - has not met since '1614

First Estate - Clergy (2% of popⁿ)

Second Estate - Nobility (3% of popⁿ)

Third Estate - Everyone Else (95%)

- All drew up a list of grievances - cahiers - Abbe' Sieyes

→ 3rd Estate at odds w/ others over voting rights

- Decide to take control themselves

- On June 20, declare the Tennis Court Oath

- & declare themselves the National Constituent Assembly

* vow to continue until new Constitution drafted,

* Beginning of Revolution in principle

↳ Revolution in practice begins July-August 1789

- Storming of the Bastille, July 14

- ~~August~~ The Great Fear in the countryside

- August 4, 1789. all privileges renounced by nobility, clergy

* 1000 years of 'history' erased

3 Phases follow

① Moderate - led by middle-class professionals (1789-1791)

- Declaration of Rights of Man & Citizen, August 26, 1789
- Olympe de Gouge, Decl_y of Rights of Women (1791) (Halsall)
- Civil Constitution of the Clergy

* makes all clergy state employees

↳ leads to revolt among many priests

↳ now become leaders of counter-revolutionary activity, particularly in West (Vendee')

Constitution of 1791 (417)

② Radical (1791-1794)

- King ~~lost~~^{caught} attempting to flee, June 1791

* event used by radicals to justify fundamental reforms

* creation of modern political vocabulary

- Foreign invasion ^{turns tide in neighboring states} creates pretext for radical takeover (execution of Louis XVI) _{Jan 1793}

* Jacobins, famous for red hats, take control of assembly, arrest rivals, & declare France a Republic

- led by Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794), power now in hands of 12 member dictatorship, the Committee of Public Safety

* widespread use of terror results, focused on enemies of the regime, both internal & external

- guillotine executes over 50,000 people 1793-94 (Halsall Terror & Virtue)

- Revolutionary Army created through levée en masse

* first modern Army ever created * was now total

- success in foreign war, acceleration of terror leads many to question the continuance of terror

- Robespierre followers arrested, executed on guillotine

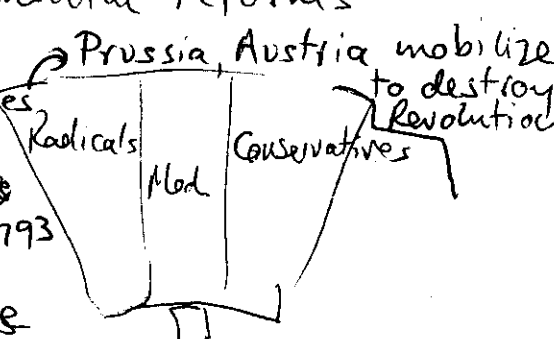
③ Conservative

- The Thermidorean Reaction

Rule of the Directory (1795-1799)

- Headed by an Executive Council, elected by upper-middle class representatives

- Overthrown by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799



Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

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Achievements - Political

- (1) created modern French government, administrative structure
 - centralized system ruled through prefects, powerful local officials supported by a large police force.
- (2) established stable monetary policy, honest taxation & accounting system - created National Bank of France, still today a model of sound finance
- (3) ~~created~~ ^{supported} mass education system - although not successful, set the stage for general state-controlled education systems later in the 19th Century
- (3) created comprehensive civil law code (known as Code Napoleon)
 - established formalized universal legal equality
 - * however, also negatively affected legal status of women
 - * ~~the~~ Napoleonic Code exported ~~with~~ by French military
 - * still serves as basis of legal code in many European, South American countries today
- Proclaimed himself Emperor, December 1804
- * crowned himself (David picture)

Military

- created vast land Empire
- * ~~was~~ principally through new type of warfare
- mobile forces, combined use of all weapons

Napoleon & the World

① Armies carried revolutionary ideals & the Code Napoleon across Europe
→ brought modern administration, law to Europe.

→ Territorial redistributions, particularly in ~~German~~ Central Europe & Italian Peninsula, destroyed 1000 years of feudal governments.

→ German political units reduced from > 300 to 39.

→ All of N. Italy united for first time in centuries

* French presence triggered two conflicting emotions

① admiration among educated observers of efficiency of standardization for trade, administration

② wave of nationalist resentment due to French arrogance. Napoleon's Armies inadvertently gave birth to French / Italian nationalism

③ Louisiana Purchase

④ Continental System provokes rapid transformation of British economy - accelerates industrialization

② Deposition of Spanish, Portuguese Kings unleashes wave of rebellions in the Americas.
→ led by Simón Bolívar (1783-1830)