

Section 5 Study Guide

The French Revolution and Romanticism

PLEASE NOTE: The test will be fill in the blank and short answer response. Study carefully.

Chapter 1 Roots of the Revolution

The Spread of Ideas

- The ideas of John Locke spread to the **salons** of Paris. He was an English philosopher who argued that all people have certain natural rights and that the people of a nation have the right to get rid of any government that takes away these rights.
- The French philosophes wanted to limit the power of the **absolute monarch** and give the people a voice in government
- The most famous philosophes were:
 - Voltaire: great advocate of religious freedom
 - Jean-Jacques Rousseau: summarized the political state of the world in a famous line, "Many is born free and everywhere he is in chains."
 - Montesquieu: felt balanced government was better than absolute monarchy
 - Bourbon was the family name of the line of kings who had ruled France for 200 years

Talk of Change

- Laws censored writing and speech- philosophes' works had to be smuggled back into France
- Enlightenment ideas continued to spread in France and even into the members of the middle and upper classes found these ideas appealing.
- By the late 1780's French people didn't want to rely on the king's good will to give thme the freedoms they deserved.
- Citizens wanted to limit the king's power

The Influence of English Rights

- Parliament had passed the Bill of Rights that forced the king to share power with it and limited the government's right to treat people arbitrarily.
- English Glorious Revolution and a bloody civil war influenced France- they were beginning to think, "Why not France?" since they wanted a limited government, too.

"Let me Volunteer"

- Marquis de Lafayette believed in the ideals of the Enlightenment
- Led troops in battle against the British and risked his life to fight for his ideals
- He was the first Frenchman to join the American fight

Chapter 2 The Three Estates

American Minister to France: Thomas Jefferson

Three Social Classes

- Medieval society was divided into three classes
 - First Estate-Clergy: wealth of the clergy came from tithes
 - Paid no taxes
 - Their wealth and large landholdings meant they had power in guiding the affairs of the nation
 - Second Estate-the nobility or aristocracy
 - Mostly army officers were nobles

- Nobles owned 20 percent of the land
 - Had in Common with the first estate- that holding on to their wealth and power was extremely important
- Third Estate-everybody that did not belong to the First and Second Estate
 - Changed most of all since feudal times
 - Had the most reason to want more change
 - Classes within the Third Estate
 - Unhappy with the ancien regime
 - BOURGEOISIE- wealthiest group within the Third Estate but could not claim any privileges of nobility
 - By 18th century built up resentment against the aristocracy but still lived better than the other classes of the Third Estate
 - Peasants were poorest and paid most in taxes

Chapter 3- The Absolute Monarchs

- Louis XIV- the most powerful monarch in Europe and absolute monarch
- Louis XV-became king at only five years old- continued heavily taxing the poor and spending extravagantly
- Louis XVI- last absolute monarch of France

Chapter 5- The Third Estate Revolts

- The **Estates-General** had not been assembled since 1614, and its deputies drew up long lists of grievances and called for sweeping political and social reforms. The **Third Estate**, which had the most representatives, declared itself the National Assembly and took an oath to force a new constitution on the king
- Tennis Court Oath- a pledge that was signed in the early days of the French Revolution and was an important revolutionary act that displayed the belief that political authority came from the nation's people and not from the monarchy.

Chapter 6 A Time of Violence

King Louis XVI was angry that the new National Assembly had refused to disband. The Bastille was attacked and many saw that the fall of the Bastille was the true beginning of the revolution.

Chapter 7 Toward a New Government

- Feudal system under the ancien regime was swept away and opened the door for a new system of government and a constitution.
- Supporter of natural rights won and the Assembly issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man.
 - 1st article read, "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights."
 - 2nd article states that the rights are liberty, property and resistance to oppression

Chapter 8 From Monarchy to Republic

- The new deputies of the Legislative Assembly were solid members of the middle class and included many lawyers.
 - Divided due to conflicting ideas:
 - Conservatives: wanted to keep limited monarchy

- Radicals: wanted to get rid of the king and set up a republic

Left-wingers: The radicals sat to the left of the president

Right-wingers: The conservatives that sat to the right of the president

Chapter 10 The Reign of Terror

- To meet foreign crisis, the National Convention gave broad powers to a special committee of 12 known as the Committee of Public Safety and became dominated by the radical Maximilien Robespierre.
- For approximately a year during 1793 and 1794, the Committee of Public Safety took control of the government.
- To defend France from domestic (relating to or originating within one's country) threats, the threats
- Jacobins:
 - a political club that demanded the deaths of Louis and Marie Antoinette- they felt the need to ensure the king was not rallying opponents
 - Began turning the revolution on a violent path
 - Insisted on going to war against Austria and its allies
 - Radical Jacobin: Maximilien Robespierre
- The Committee of Public Safety introduced the Law of Suspects: Under this law, people had only to be suspected of being a traitor- or of not wholeheartedly agreeing with the revolution- to be brought to trial and be condemned.

Chapter 11 Napoleon: Empire Builder

- Napoleon ordered his troops to fire cannons point-blank into the crowd when Paris mobs attacked the Tuileries, killing and wounding hundreds
 - "Whiff of grapeshot"
 - Put an end to the uprising
 - Made Napoleon famous
- Greatest mistake was invading Russia
- One of the greatest military geniuses of all time
- Napoleon's armies carried many of the ideas of the French Revolution throughout Europe. The 1800's would be marked by a series of revolutions as the ideals of liberty and equality spread to old and new nations.