Chapter 6 – The French Revolution and Napoleon

I. On the Eve of Revolution (6-1)

A. French Society Divided

1. Old Regime (Ancien Régime)—government model where France society separated into social classes or estates

2. Estates—the three social classes of France’s older order government: 1st—Clergy, 2nd—nobility, 3rd—the people

3. 1st Estate: CLERGY—The Clergy Enjoy Wealth
   a. Favored the nobles
   b. They were wealthy and privileged
   c. Owned 10% of the land
   d. Paid no direct taxes to the state
   e. Condemned the Enlightenment

4. 2nd Estate: NOBLES—Nobles Hold Top Government Jobs
   a. Held top jobs in government, army, courts, and the Church
   b. Owned land but had little income and struggles to maintain their status
      (“keeping up with the Jones’s”)
   c. Did not pay taxes
   d. Feared losing their privileges and freedom from paying taxes

5. 3rd Estate—Vastly Diverse
   a. 3rd Estate was 97% of population and broken into three groups:
   b. Bourgeoisie: “Middle Class”
      i. Some Bourgeoisie had money, but most did not
      ii. Bankers, merchants, manufactures, lawyers, doctors, journalist, etc.
   c. Workers:
      i. Laborers: tradespeople, apprentices, laborers, and domestic servants.
   d. Rural Peasants:
      i. Paid 1/2 their income to in dues to nobles and had high taxes.
      ii. 9 out of 10 people were rural peasants
      iii. Many were unemployed lived in cities

B. Financial Troubles

1. National Debt Soars
   a. Seven Years’ War, American Revolution, and lavish royal spending had strained the treasury under Louis XIV
   b. The government was forced into deficit spending, spending more money than it brought in, resulting in most tax money being used to pay interest on the enormous debt
   c. In the 1780s bad harvests sent food prices soaring

2. Economic Reform Fails
   a. Louis XVI’s financial advisor, Jacques Necker, proposed reducing court spending, reform government, end tariffs, and start taxing 1st and 2nd estates.
   b. King was forced to dismiss Necker despite the solid advice
   c. As economic crisis grew worse, King Louis XVI called for the first meeting of the Estates General in 175 years
   d. Estates General, a legislative body consisting of representatives of the three estates

C. Louis XVI Call the Estates-General

1. Estates Prepare Grievance Notebooks
   a. The king had all three estates prepare cahiers, or lists of their grievances
   b. Grievances: fairer taxes, freedom of press, regular Estates-General meetings, boiling class resentments, etc.
c. 3rd Estate disagrees with voting practices of Estates General—each estate voted separately allowing the first two Estates to outvote the 3rd

2. Delegates Take the Tennis Court Oath
   a. The Estates General was deadlocked over the issue of voting, traditionally, each estate voted separately allowing the first two Estates to outvote the 3rd—instead of voting as one entire group
   b. After weeks of stalemate, the delegates of the 3rd Estate turned themselves into a National Assembly
   c. The National Assembly found itself locked out of their meeting place one evening so the members met at an indoor tennis court where they took the “Tennis Court Oath”
      i. They pledged to meet until a new French Constitution was formed
   d. Reform-minded clergy and nobles joined and Louis XVI was forced to accept it

D. Parisians Storm the Bastille
   1. French troops gathered in Paris and it was rumored that the King was going to dissolve the National Assembly
   2. On July the 14, 1788 over 800 Parisians gathered at the Bastille, a fortress used as a prison, to demand weapons
   3. Soldiers at the Bastille opened fire on the crowd but the crowd overran the prison
      a. No weapons were found
   4. The Bastille (still celebrated annually as their national independence day) was a symbol to the French people representing the year so abuse by the monarchy

II. The French Revolution Unfolds (6-2)
   E. Political Crisis Leads to Revolt
      6. Rumors Create the “Great Fear”
         a. Rumors (tales of attacks on villages and soldiers seizing peasant crops) created an instability
         b. The crisis was made worse by famine—even some with jobs spent 80% of their income on bread
         c. Peasants began attacking and raiding the homes of nobles
      7. Paris Commune Comes to Power
         a. A number of factions, dissenting groups of people, competed to gain power
         b. Marquis de Lafayette, who had marched with George Washington, headed the National Guard in response to royal troops in Paris
         c. Many in the capital were more radical and demanded an end to the monarchy
         d. A radical group, the Paris Commune, replaced the royalist government and readied for revolutionary actions
   F. The National Assembly Acts
      3. Special Privilege Ends
         a. On August 4th, noble members of the National Assembly voted to end their own privileges
            i. Nobles gave up old manorial dues and exclusive hunting rights.
            ii. Nobles ended their special legal status and their exemptions from paying taxes.
            iii. The assembly enacted the equality of all male citizens before the law.
      4. Declaration of the Rights of Man
         a. In late August, the Assembly published the Declaration of the Rights of Man, in many ways it mirrored the Declaration of Independence
b. It proclaimed that all male citizens were equal and that government exists to protect the rights of citizens—Modeled after the American Declaration of Independence:
   i. Free and equal rights for all men
   ii. Natural rights for all men
   iii. Equality before the law for all men
   iv. Freedom of religion for all citizens
   v. Taxes levied fairly for all citizens
c. Many women were disappointed since they were not granted equal citizenship—in 1791, Olympe de Gouges, a journalist, demanded equal rights in her Declaration of the Rights of Women and the Female Citizen

5. Women March on Versailles
   a. Women marched 12 miles in the rain chanting “Bread” to the palace at Versailles
   b. Much of the crowds anger had been directed at the Queen Marie Antoinette of Austria (daughter of Maria Theresa and sister of Joseph II)—who was against reforms and lived a life of luxury
   c. In order to end the march, the King had to return with the women to Paris
   d. For the next 3 years, Louis XVI was a virtual prisoner in his own capital

G. The National Assembly Presses Onward
3. The Church is Placed Under State Control
   a. In order to pay off government debt, the Assembly voted to sell Church lands
   b. in addition it took control of the Church—Civil Constitution of the Clergy
      i. Bishops and priests became elected, salaried officials
      ii. Ended papal authority of the French Church and dissolved convents and monasteries
   c. Many priests and the Pope condemned this action
   d. Many peasants in the provinces also disagreed, creating separation between them and the revolutionaries in Paris
4. The Constitution of 1791 Establishes a New Government
   a. In 1791 the Assembly created a constitution with a limited monarchy and an elected legislature
      i. Had power to make laws, collect taxes, and decide on issues of war and peace.
      ii. Elected by tax-paying male citizens over age 25
   b. The revolution seemed complete
5. Louis’s Escape Fails
   a. The King and Marie Antoinette tried to escape the capital in disguise
   b. They were recognized and returned to Paris
   c. Their secret escape attempt was viewed as traitorous to the revolution

H. Radicals Take Over
5. Supporters of the Enlightenment applauded the reforms of the National Assembly
6. Rulers Fear Spread of Revolution
   a. Fueled by stores from émigrés, those that fled France, leaders throughout Europe denounced the revolution and increased border security
   b. Edmund Burke, a British writer and statesman, condemned the revolutionaries and predicted that it would all soon turn violent with “plots and assassinations”
7. Threats Come From Abroad
   a. Many monarchs condemned the actions of the French and threatened to get involved
   b. They wanted to assist the royal family while also trying to put down revolutionary idea before it spread to their country
c. The King of Prussia (Antoinette’s Austrian brother) issued the Declaration of Pilnitz—threatened to intervene to protect the French Monarchy
d. The revolutionaries prepared for war

8. Radicals Fight for Power and Declare War
   a. Many working class people called **sans-culottes**, demanded a republic (government ruled by elected representation) and a living wage
   b. Called san-culottes—“without breeches” because they wore long trousers instead of the fancy kneed breeches that the upper-class men wore
   c. The **Jacobins**, mostly middle-class lawyers or intellectuals, agreed and began calling for more radical action

9. Factions grow within the Assembly:
   a. the conservatives (supported old ways) sat on the right,
   b. moderates in the center,
   c. liberals (supported new ideas) on the left

10. That National Assembly Declares War on Tyranny
    a. The left gained power and declared war on Austria in 1792, the fighting lasted until 1815

III. Radical Days of the Revolution (6-3)

I. The Monarch Is Abolished
   8. Tensions Lead to Violence
      a. The French were doing poorly against the Austrians, Royalist officers were deserting
      b. Revolutionaries who thought the King sided with enemies (notably Austria) killed the King’s guards but the King managed to escape
      c. A month later the “September massacres occurred—people attacked and killed the nobles and clergy that were being held in prison (about 1,200)
   9. Radicals Take Control and Execute the King
      a. Radicals took over the Assembly and demanded **suffrage**, the right to vote, for all male citizens not just property owners
      b. In 1792, the Assembly abolished the monarchy, produced a new constitution, and eliminated titles of nobility
      c. Many **émigrés** (nobles, clergy, and others) fled France fearing for their lives
      d. Louis XVI was put on trial as a traitor; he was found guilty by one vote and was beheaded in January 1793.
      e. Antoinette was executed in October, and their son died in a dungeon

J. Terror and Danger Grip France
   1. France in Conflict
      a. In 1793 France was at war with much of Europe including Britain, the Netherlands Spain and Prussia
      b. In the Vendee region of France, royalists and priests led rebellion against government
      c. In Paris, sans-culottes demanded relief from famine and inflation
      d. The Convention bitterly divided between Jacobins and the Girondins.
   2. The Convention Creates a New Committee
      a. The Assembly created a Committee of Public Safety, 12 men who were given almost absolute power in order to save the revolution
      b. Abroad France began to have success and at home they crushed peasant revolts
   3. Robespierre “the Incorruptible”
a. At home the government handled counter-revolutionaries under the guiding hand of Maximilien Robespierre, who quickly became the leader of the Committee of Public Safety.
b. Robespierre promoted religious toleration, abolishment of slavery—but he was inflexible with justice (“Liberty cannot be secured unless criminals lose their heads”).

4. Guillotine Defines the Reign of Terror
   a. Robespierre was the chief architect of the Reign of Terror—a year-long period when those who resisted the French Revolution were arrested or executed.
   b. 300,000 arrested; 40,000 people may have died.
   c. Many were victims of false accusations or mistaken identity.
   d. The guillotine—bladed execution device—was the new way enemies/prisoners were put to death.
   e. The Convention finally turned on the Committee of Public Safety and, once their heads fell, the killing slowed.
   f. In reaction to the Reign of Terror, moderates produced a 3rd constitution.
   g. It set up a five-man Directory and a two-house legislature elected by males of property.
   h. People again became discontent as prices rose.
   i. Politicians turned to a popular military hero, Napoleon Bonaparte, to advance their own goals.

K. Revolution Brings Change
6. Nationalism Spreads
   a. The culture of France changed in the 10 years of revolution.
   b. People gained a strong sense of national identity.
   c. Nationalism: is a deep feeling of pride and devotion for one’s country.
   d. From the port city of Marseilles, troops march to rousing new song urging nationalism (later named French National Anthem).

7. Revolutionary Push for Social Reform
   a. Elementary school became required and school became public.
   b. Slavery was abolished in some French colonies and religious toleration was extended.

IV. The Age of Napoleon (6-4)
L. Napoleon Rises to Power
   10. Napoleon was born on the French island of Corsica.
   11. He was 20 when the revolution broke out.
   12. Victories Cloud Losses
      a. He rose quickly in the Army as he led many successful battles (and censored his defeats).
      b. Moved from general to political leader—In 1799 he overthrew the weak Directory and set up a three-man governing board.
      c. Napoleon took the title of First Consul and in 1802 had himself named Consul for life.
   13. Napoleon Crowns Himself Emperor
      a. Two years later he took the title Emperor of the French.
      b. The Pope was invited to crown him.
      c. Napoleon took the crown from his hands and crowned himself.
      d. At each step on his rise to power, Napoleon held a plebiscite, or public vote, in which the French supported him.

M. Napoleon Reforms France
5. Napoleon consolidated his power by strengthening the central government—order, security, and efficiency replaced liberty, equality, fraternity.
6. He made peace with the Catholic Church—Concordat kept the Church under state control but recognized religious freedom for Catholics.
7. He created a popular law code, Napoleonic Code, that embodied the Enlightenment ideas of equality under the law, religious toleration, and advancement based on merit.

N. Napoleon Builds an Empire
1. Napoleon was a great military leader who valued rapid movements and made effective use of his large armies—his enemies never knew what to expect from him.
2. The Map of Europe is Redrawn
   a. Year after year Napoleon expanded the French Empire.
   b. Certain areas (Netherlands, Belgium, parts of Italy and parts of Germany) were annexed, incorporated into an empire, by France.
   c. Napoleon put friends and families on thrones throughout Europe.
   d. He divorced his wife, Josephine, and married the Hapsburg princess (niece of Marie Antoinette) so he could claim kinship with the ancient ruling families of Europe.
3. Napoleon Strikes Britain
   a. Britain, with their small army but powerful navy, alone remained outside Napoleon’s empire.
   b. Napoleon was planning to invade Britain, however, he changed his mind when the English navy destroyed the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar off the coast of Spain.
   c. Napoleon set up a Continental System, closing European ports to British goods.
   d. Britain responded with its own blockade of European ports.
   e. The British responded with a blockade, an attempt to cut off access, of ports controlled by Napoleon, both sides began to attack neutral ships they suspected of trading with the enemy.
      i. British attacks on US ships eventually triggered the War of 1812.

O. Napoleon’s Empire Faces Challenges
1. Nationalism Works Against Napoleon
   a. Nationalism helped spur the French armies to success but also created much nationalism in their enemies from Rome to Madrid to the Netherlands.
2. Spain Battle the French
   a. Spanish people resented (reforms that undermined the Spanish Catholic Church and Napoleon replaced the King of Spain with his brother Joseph) and resisted French (increased feeling of nationalism).
   b. Spanish patriots conducted a campaign of Guerilla Warfare, hit and run attacks.
3. Austria Battle the French
   a. Spanish resistance encouraged Austria.
   b. Austria lost again at the Battle of Wagram and the peace agreement that followed forced Austria to surrender lands with more than three million people living on it.
4. The Russian Winter Stops the Grand Army
   a. Russia did not like the Continental System and Alexander I of Russia pulled out of alliance with France.
   b. Napoleon responded by forming an army of 20 nations—the Grand Army (600,000 soldiers) and attacked Russia.
   c. The Russians retreated eastward burning everything behind them (scorched-earth policy) leaving French troops hungry and cold.
d. Napoleon entered Moscow in September but could not feed and supply his troops and had to retreat
e. The retreat was devastating (cold winter and Russia attacking) with only 100,000 surviving, Napoleon’s reputation was ruined

P. Napoleon Falls From Power
1. Napoleon Abdicates Briefly
   a. Russia, Britain, Austria, and Prussia aligned and defeated a weakened France in the Battle of the Nations at Leipzig
   b. As his enemies closed in, Napoleon abdicated, stepped down from power, and was exiled to an island (Elba)
   c. Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI, became king
   d. Many feared a return to the old regime and remained loyal to Napoleon
   e. In 1815 Napoleon escaped exile and returned to Paris, his returned was cheered in the streets—Louis XVIII fled

2. Crushed at the Battle of Waterloo
   a. Annoyed with Napoleon’s return—allies assembled an army in 100 days and crushed the French at Waterloo in Belgium.

3. Napoleon’s Legacy
   a. Napoleon was once again exiled
   b. He died in exile in 1821
   c. France:
      i. Napoleonic Code, expanded suffrage, more citizens had rights to property, more citizens had rights to education
   d. World:
      i. He had spread many Enlightenment forms of government across Europe, He spread nationalism across Europe, Created a new Germany, His decision to sell the Louisiana Territory doubled the size of the United States

Q. Leaders Meet at the Congress of Vienna
1. Congress of Vienna
   a. European diplomats met in Vienna for 10 months to try to restore order after 25 years of war

2. Congress Strives for Peace
   a. Klemens von Metternich—foreign minister of Austria—most dominant figure at the Congress
   b. The goal was to protect the balance of power (no one threat) and the system of monarchies
   c. The diplomats redrew the map of Europe to contain France
   d. They promoted the principle of legitimacy, by recognizing the former monarchies

3. Congress Fails to See Traps Ahead
   a. They failed to see how new nationalism would affect Europe and failed to consider it when redrawing borders
   b. Another result of the Congress of Vienna was a system known as the Concert of Europe, in which the powers met to discuss problems affecting the peace of Europe
   c. The Concert did achieve its immediate goal, to keep peace in Europe
   d. There would not be another large scale war in Europe until 1914, but nationalism would challenge the order in Europe and Latin America throughout the 1800’s