



THE WESTERN HERITAGE

Chapter 18

The French Revolution



French Financial Crisis

- ✦ Deeply in debt due to Seven Years' War and American Revolution
- ✦ **Parlements** – French royal courts dominated by hereditary nobility
 - ◆ Made it difficult to tax the wealthy
 - ◆ Were abolished by **Louis XV** and reinstated by **Louis XVI**
 - ◆ Enjoyed positive public opinion because they opposed the monarchy

Jacques Necker

- ✦ Royal director-general of finances
- ✦ Argued that the economy was really not that bad
- ✦ Revealed a large portion of royal costs went to pensions for aristocrats
- ✦ Angered the aristocrats and as a result left office

Calonne's Reform Plan

- ✦ Calonne was minister of finance
- ✦ Wanted to introduce a new land tax that all landowners regardless of class would have to pay
- ✦ New local assemblies made up of landowners and based on land more than social status would determine any additional taxes

Assembly of Notables

- ✦ Aristocracy refused to accept Calonne's plan
- ✦ Called for the reappointment of Necker
- ✦ Claimed only the **Estates General**, a medieval institution not used since 1614, could consent to new taxes



Deadlock and the Estates General

- ✦ Calonne replaced by **Brienne**
- ✦ Brienne appealed to the Assembly of the Clergy to pay debts, but was refused
- ✦ Parlements wanted privileges of the early 17th century returned to them
- ✦ Brienne resigns and is replaced by Necker – reforms on the horizon

The Three Estates

✦ Three groups or estates existed in France:

- ◆ First Estate – clergy

- ◆ Second Estate – nobility

- ◆ **Third Estate** – everyone else including middle class

✦ Third Estate warned it would not let the first two estates rule the future of the nation

Debate over Estate Voting

- ✦ Assembly of Notables demanded each estate have an equal amount of representatives
- ✦ Parlement of Paris believed that each estate should have just one vote apiece
 - ◆ The First and Second Estates would automatically outvote the Third 2-1
 - ◆ Third Estate immediately bemoaned the arrogance of the aristocracy and now distrusted it

Third Estate Victory

- ✦ December 1788 – royal council announced Third Estate would elect twice as many representatives to the Estates General as either of the other two Estates
- ✦ Liberal nobles and clergy supported this move
- ✦ Method of voting had not been decided when the Estates General gathered at Versailles in May, 1789

The Cahiers de Doleances

- ✦ **Cahiers de doleances** – list of grievances registered by local electors to be presented to the king
- ✦ The grievances were not all that different from those of the Third Estate
 - ◆ Government waste
 - ◆ Indirect taxes
 - ◆ Church taxes
 - ◆ Corruption

The Cahiers de Doleances (cont.)



The cahiers wanted

- ◆ More equitable taxes
- ◆ Measures to facilitate trade and commerce
- ◆ Free press

The National Assembly

- ✦ Combination of the Third and Second Estate, along with some liberal nobles
- ✦ Officially declared on June 17, 1789

The Tennis Court Oath

- ✦ The National Assembly gathers in an indoor tennis court to draft a new constitution
- ✦ **King Louis XVI** – capitulates and orders the First and Second Estates to meet with the General Assembly
- ✦ The National Assembly renames itself the **National Constituent Assembly** and is composed of members of all three estates who shared goals of administrative, constitutional, and economic reform of the country



Overthrow of the Bastille

- ✦ Winter and spring 1788-1789 – high bread prices cause shortages
- ✦ July 11, 1789 – Louis XVI dismisses finance minister Necker
- ✦ July 14, 1789 – large crowds against Louis XVI go to the Bastille – a fortress that once held political prisoners – looking to arm the militia (98 Parisians, several troops, and the governor of the Bastille are killed)
- ✦ July 15, 1789 – the National Guard, led by **Marquis de Lafayette**, officially take over the Bastille. Louis XVI days later recognizes the new government

The “Great Fear”

- ✦ Peasant disturbances intensify in the countryside as the aristocrats' land is taken over
- ✦ August 4, 1789 – Several nobles and clergymen renounce their nobility rights at the National Constituent Assembly to quell the riots
- ✦ “Old Regime” is officially abolished

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

- ✦ New constitution drafted on August 27, 1789
- ✦ Very similar to the Declaration of Independence in proclaiming liberty, freedom, and natural rights
- ✦ Two most powerful ideas were civic equality and popular sovereignty
- ✦ Women not included

Vive le Roi, Vive la Nation.



Travoué ben Qu'jaurions not tour.

The Women's March on Versailles

- ✦ Women upset about bread prices
gather at Versailles – October 5, 1789
- ✦ King Louis XVI forced to go back to
Paris



A Versailles a Versailles. du 5. Octobre 1789.

The Political Reconstruction of France

- ✦ Constitution of 1791 - Legislative Assembly becomes main lawmaking body of France; monarch has limited powers
- ✦ Only active citizens – those paying annual taxes – could vote

The Political Reconstruction of France (cont.)

- ✦ **Olympe de Gouges** – she composes **Declaration of Rights of Women**, using the men's declaration to call for women to be treated as citizens
- ✦ Provinces and parlements replaced by **departments** – equally sized administrative units

The Economic Reconstruction of France

- ✦ Workers organizations forbidden by the **Chapelier Law**
- ✦ Land belonging to the Roman Catholic Church is confiscated and sold creating:
 - ◆ Further inflation
 - ◆ Religious schism
 - ◆ Civil war
- ✦ The **assignats** – government bonds from the sale of church property – used as currency, but used so often their value went down, raising inflation



FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY DEPARTMENTS AFTER 1789



REPUBLICQUE 10000. FRANCAISE

ASSIGNAT

de dix mille francs.

créé le 18 Nivôse l'an 3^{ème}. de la RÉPUBLIQUE.

Hypothéqué sur les DOMAINES NATIONAUX.

Mixellé

Numéro 153

10000

LA NATION RECOMPENSE
LE DÉNONCIATEUR.

Série 224.

LA LOI/PUNIT/DE MORT
LE CONTREFACTEUR.

10000

Usage des Nouvelles Mesures.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 le Litre (Pour la Pinte) | 4 l'Are (Pour la Toise) |
| 2 le Gramme (Pour la Livre) | 5 le Franc (Pour une Livre Bournois) |
| 3 le Mètre (Pour l'Aune) | 6 le Stere (Pour la Demie Voie de Bois) |

D'après le Règlement de la Convention An 4. - Approuvé par le Comité de la Convention le 10 Mars 1795.



15 mars 1900

The Civil Constitution of the Clergy (July, 1790)

- ✦ Transformed the Roman Catholic Church into a secular state
- ✦ Embittered relations between the church and the state
- ✦ **Pope Pius VI** condemns both the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

Counterrevolutionary Activity

- ✦ **Émigrés** – aristocrats who left France for bordering countries
- ✦ King Louis XVI attempts to flee France, but is caught
- ✦ **Declaration of Pillnitz** – **Emperor Leopold II of Austria** and **King Frederick William II of Prussia** announce that if another European power joins them they will intervene in France to protect the monarchy



A CORDÉE A M^r
 30 MILLE LIVRE
 20 MILLE LIVRE

Gardes nationaux qui ont bravé les menaces d'un détachement de hussards, qui avoit été commandé par le traître Bouille! M. Sauce, Procureur de la Commune, a invité le Roi d'entrer chez lui: &c de s'y reposer lui &c sa famille Le généreux citoyen de Varennes n'a point accepté les offres du Roi, disant qu'il levoit tout à sa patrie.

The Jacobins

- ✦ Club of politically like-minded people from the Third Estate who wanted a republic rather than a monarchy
- ✦ **Girondists** – part of the Jacobins that assumed leadership of the Assembly
 - ◆ Declared war on Austria
 - ◆ Forced Louis XVI and **Marie Antoinette** into imprisonment

The Convention and the *Sans-culottes*

✦ **The September Massacres** – 1,200 people murdered in prisons by Parisians

✦ **Convention** – September 21, 1792 – Legislative Assembly calls for universal male suffrage and for France to be a monarchy



✦ **Sans-culottes**

◆ Name comes from the long trousers of the working people



The Convention and the *Sans-culottes* (cont.)

Sans-culottes

- ◆ Led a Revolution more radical than the Girondists
- ◆ Anti-monarchical, republican, and wanted the people to make the decisions
-  Policies of the Jacobins – began to cooperate with sans-culottes despite not having a problem with wealthy
-  Execution of Louis XVI – beheaded on January 21, 1793



France at War with Europe

✦ Girondists at war with Great Britain,
Holland, and Belgium

Edmund Burke

- ✦ Wrote *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790) – said revolution will end in military despotism
- ✦ American Revolution hero **Thomas Paine** disagreed with him
- ✦ Other European nations agreed with Burke when France declared war on Austria

William Pitt

- ✦ Britain's prime minister during Revolution
- ✦ Approved acts suspending *habeas corpus*
- ✦ Certain ideas considered treasonous

Partitions of Poland, 1793 and 1795

✦ 1791, Polish Patriots issued a new constitution

- ◆ Elective monarchy with exclusive authority

- ◆ Bicameral diet

- ◆ Eliminated *liberum veto*

✦ Frederick William partitions Poland and abolishes reform constitution

✦ Prussia, Austria, Russia reclaim Poland after mutiny, partition again

The Reign of Terror

- ✦ There was a sense that the achievements of the revolution were in trouble
- ✦ Real and imagined enemies of revolution were arrested and executed (peasants, nobles, clergy, business people, and ex-revolutionary leaders)

The Republic Defended

- ✦ **The Committee of Public Safety** – carried out the duties of the executive branch in dictatorial fashion
- ✦ **The levee en masse** – led by **Lazare Carnot**, had military requisition on the entire population
 - ◆ Agreed to ceiling on prices in accordance with the sans-culottes
 - ◆ Carried out more executions

Maximilien de Robespierre

- ✦ Dominant figure of the National Assembly
- ✦ Had support of sans-culottes
- ✦ Called for an assault on all enemies of the Revolution

Repression of Republican Women

- ✦ All women's societies banned
- ✦ Barred from Convention
- ✦ Olympe de Gouges executed

De-Christianization

- ✦ New calendar adopted
- ✦ Churches destroyed
- ✦ Some clergy executed

Revolutionary Tribunals

Executions

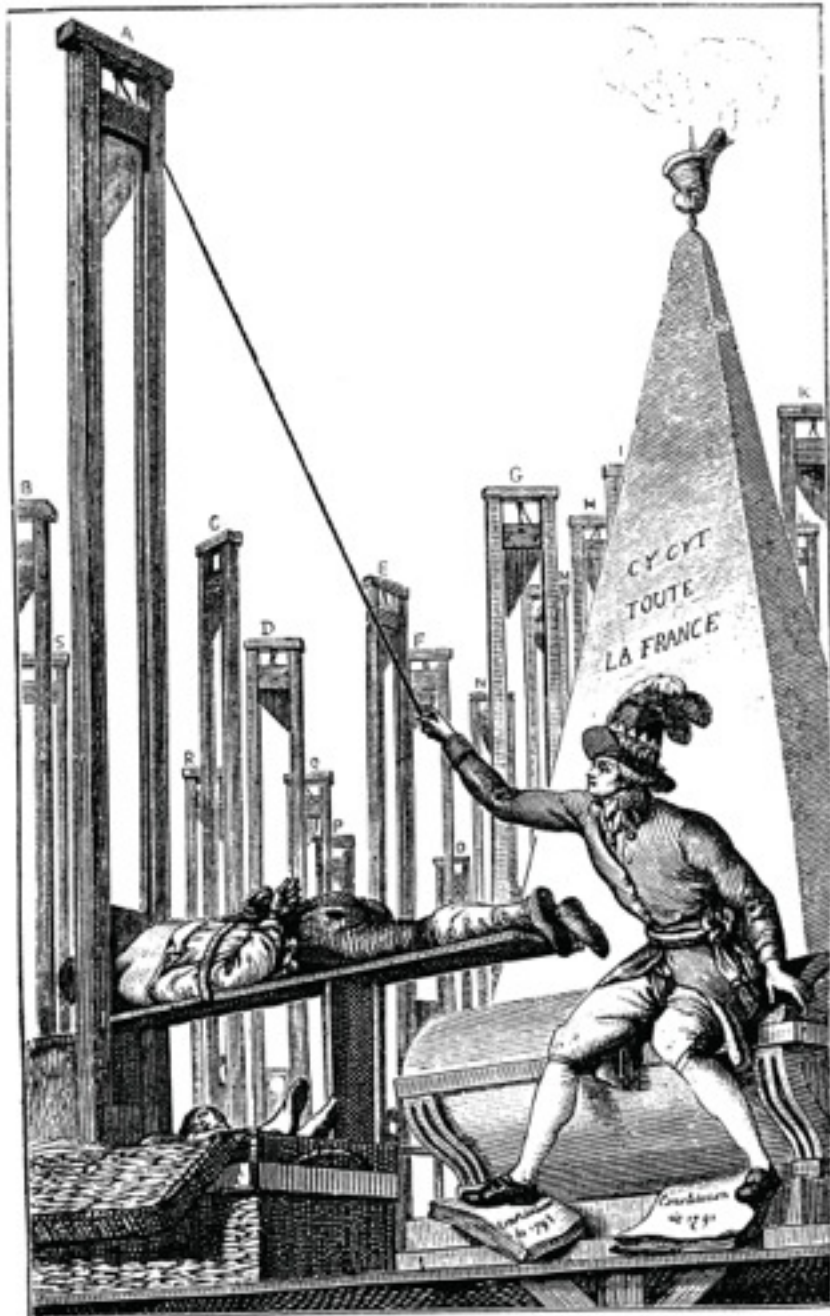
- ◆ Marie Antoinette and royal family
- ◆ Girondist politicians
- ◆ Peasants opposed to the Revolution
- ◆ Members of sans-culottes

 Executions carried out by guillotine, shooting, and drowning



The End of the Terror

- ✦ Robespierre turns on leaders both from the political left and right
- ✦ **Law of 22 Prairial** – tribunal could convict suspects without evidence against them
- ✦ Fearing he was turning into a dictator, Robespierre and 80 of his supporters are executed



The Thermidorian Reaction

- ✦ Influence of wealthy middle-class and professional people replaces sans-culottes
- ✦ Committee of Public Safety diminished

The Thermidorian Reaction (cont.)

- ✦ Law of 22 Prairial repealed
- ✦ Many Jacobin leaders executed
- ✦ Traditional roles of men and women in addition to the church reestablished



Constitution of Year III

- ✦ Rejected both constitutional monarchy and democracy
- ✦ Established two houses of the legislature and an executive branch
- ✦ Political system based on rank and birth replaced by system of civic equality and social status

End of *Sans-Culottes*

- ✦ *Sans-culottes* replaced by the **Directory**
- ✦ Peace treaties with Spain and Prussia
- ✦ **Gracchus Babeuf** attempts to overthrow Directory with the **Conspiracy of Equals**
 - ◆ Wanted to distribute property evenly among all citizens
 - ◆ Plot fails and Babeuf is executed

End of *Sans-Culottes* (cont.)



Directory weak due to

- ◆ Suppression of *sans-culottes*
- ◆ The Two-Thirds law – favored people already in office
- ◆ Catholic royalist revival
- ◆ Wars