

>> England had a vast trading network that included its thirteen North American colonies. This image shows the busy port of Charleston, South Carolina.

 Interactive Flipped Video

TEKS

1.E, 9.D, 19.B, 20.B, 20.C, 21.B, 21.C, 22.F

>> Objectives

Describe how Britain became a global power.

Understand the events and ideas leading up to the American Revolution, including the impact of the Enlightenment.

Summarize key events of the American Revolution.

Identify the political and legal ideas in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

>> Key Terms

George III
Stamp Act
George Washington
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
popular sovereignty
Yorktown, Virginia
Treaty of Paris
James Madison
federal republic
checks and balances

12.5

By the 1770s, Britain was a major power in Europe with territories around the globe. Although upheavals in the 1600s had created a limited monarchy, a new king was eager to recover powers the crown had lost.

The American Revolution

Britain Becomes a Global Power

Trade and Commerce Britain's rise to global prominence had multiple causes. England's location and long seagoing tradition placed it in a position to build a vast trading network. By the 1600s, England had trading outposts and colonies in the West Indies, North America, and India. A new merchant class expanded trade and competed vigorously with Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch traders.

During the 1700s, thousands of settlers sailed to North America to build colonies. At the same time, British merchants expanded into the profitable slave trade, carrying enslaved people from West Africa to the Americas.

Britain's economic policies added to its prosperity. England offered a climate favorable to business and commerce. It put fewer restrictions on trade than some of its neighbors, such as France.

Territorial Expansion In the 1700s, Britain was generally on the winning side in European conflicts. In the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the War of the Spanish Succession, France gave Nova Scotia and Newfoundland to Britain. As a result of the French and Indian

War, Britain gained all of French Canada, as well as rich islands in the Caribbean in 1763.

At home, England grew by merging with neighboring Scotland. In 1701, the Act of Union united the two countries in the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The union brought economic advantages.

Free trade between both lands created a larger market for farmers and manufacturers. The United Kingdom also included Wales, and in 1801 Ireland would be added to Great Britain.

George III Takes Power In 1760, **George III** began a 60-year reign. Unlike his German father and grandfather, the new king was born in England. He spoke English and loved Britain. But George was eager to recover the powers the crown had lost since the Glorious Revolution. Following his mother's advice, "George, be a king!" he set out to reassert royal power. He wanted to end Whig domination, choose his own ministers, dissolve the cabinet system, and make Parliament follow his will.

Gradually, George found seats in Parliament for "the king's friends." With their help, he began to assert his leadership. Many of his policies, however, would prove disastrous. He angered colonists in North America, leading 13 English colonies to declare independence.

Britain's loss of its American colonies discredited the king. Increasingly, too, he suffered from bouts of

mental illness. By 1788, cabinet rule was restored in Britain.

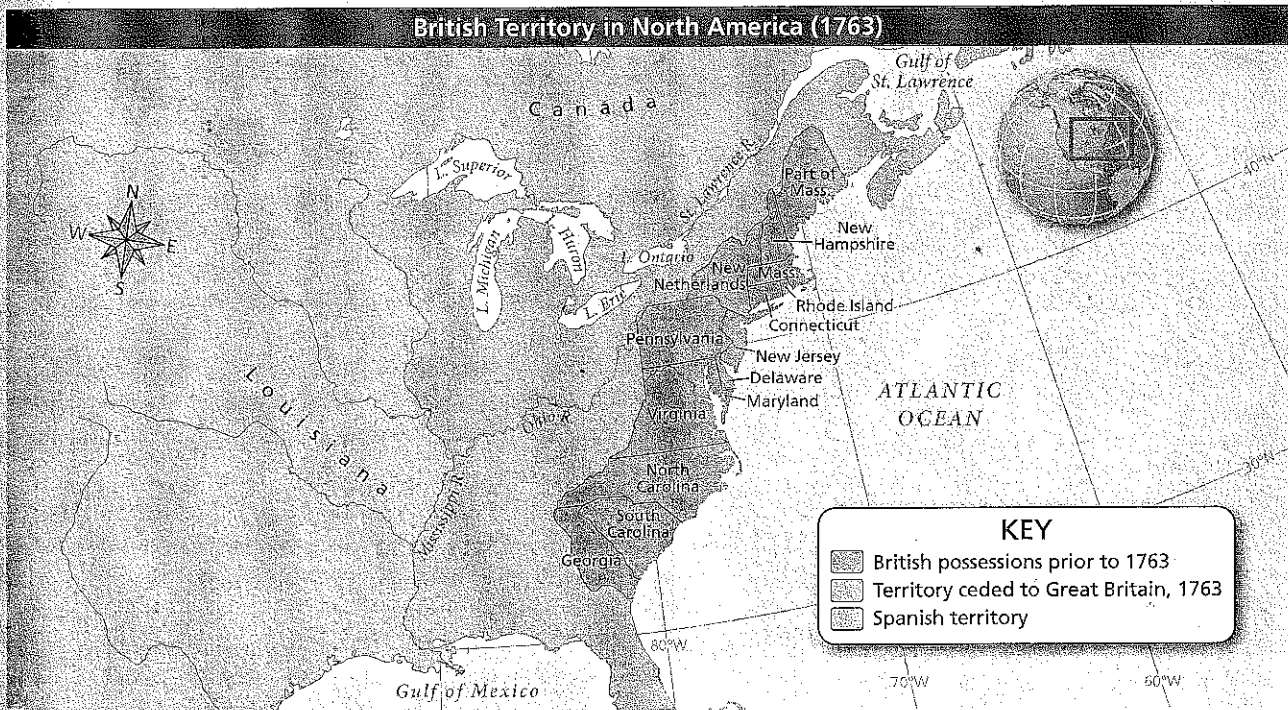
ANALYZE INFORMATION What were some of the elements that led to Britain's rise to global prominence in the 1700s?

ELPS ELPS 4.C.4 Read the first paragraph under the heading "George III Takes Power" and locate the quotation marks in the paragraph. Then complete the activity as instructed.

The British Colonies in America

By 1750, a string of prosperous colonies stretched along the eastern coast of North America. They were part of Britain's growing empire. Colonial cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were busy commercial centers that linked North America to the West Indies, Africa, and Europe. Colonial shipyards produced many vessels for this trade.

Britain applied mercantilist policies to its colonies in an attempt to strengthen its own economy by exporting more than it imported. To this end, in the 1600s, Parliament had passed the Navigation Acts to regulate colonial trade and manufacturing. For the most part, however, these acts were not rigorously enforced.



>> **Analyze Maps** What do all of the colonies on this map have in common?

Therefore, activities like smuggling were common and not considered crimes by the colonists.

By the mid-1700s, the colonies were home to diverse religious and ethnic groups. Social distinctions were more blurred than in Europe, although wealthy landowners and merchants dominated government and society. In politics, as in much else, there was a good deal of free discussion.

Colonists felt entitled to the rights of English citizens, and their colonial assemblies exercised much control over local affairs. Many also had an increasing sense of their own destiny separate from Britain.

DESCRIBE Why did Americans believe they had the same rights as English citizens?

Discontent in the Colonies

The French and Indian War had drained the British treasury. George III and his advisors insisted that colonists pay the costs of their own defense, including troops still stationed in frontier posts.

Growing Tensions Parliament passed new taxes on the colonies. The Sugar Act of 1764 taxed imports, while the **Stamp Act** of 1765 taxed items such as

newspapers and pamphlets. Although the new taxes were not burdensome, colonists bitterly resented them as an attack on their rights. "No taxation without representation," they protested. Since they had no representatives in Parliament, they believed that Parliament had no right to tax them. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, but asserted its right to tax the colonists.

A series of violent clashes intensified the colonists' anger. In March 1770, British soldiers in Boston opened fire on a crowd that was pelting them with stones and snowballs. Colonists called the death of five protesters the Boston Massacre.

Then, in December 1773, a handful of colonists hurled a cargo of recently arrived British tea into the harbor to protest a tax on tea. The incident became known as the Boston Tea Party. When Parliament passed harsh laws to punish Massachusetts, other colonies rallied to help Massachusetts.

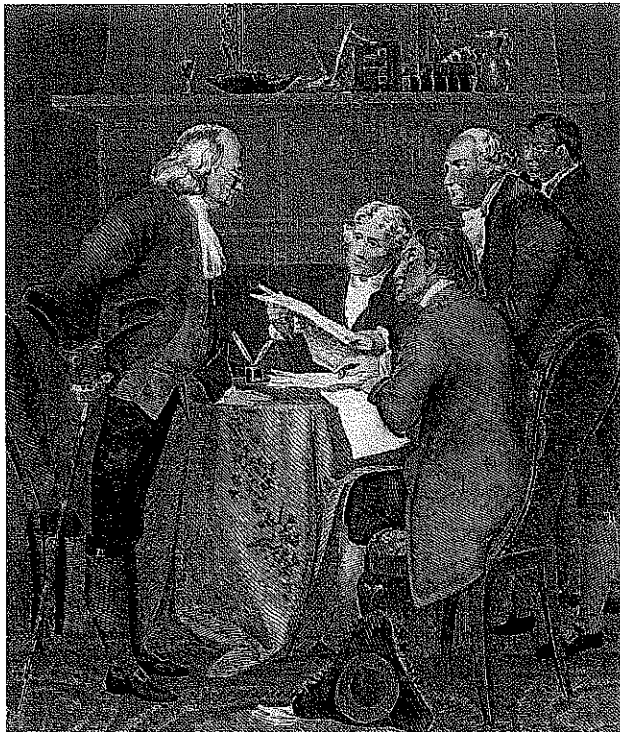
As tensions rose, representatives from 12 colonies gathered in Philadelphia in 1774. At the First Continental Congress, representatives discussed how to respond to Britain's harsh moves against Massachusetts.

Among the participants were the radical but fair-minded John Adams, the Virginia planter and soldier **George Washington**, and **Benjamin Franklin**, a leading figure of the American Enlightenment.

Declaring Independence In April 1775, the crisis between the colonists and the British exploded into war. At the battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, colonists clashed with British troops—the opening shots of the American Revolution. Soon after, the Second Continental Congress met and set up a Continental Army with George Washington in command.

In 1776, Congress took a momentous step, voting to declare independence from Britain. Young **Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia was the principal author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson's political philosophy was heavily influenced by Enlightenment thinkers, especially John Locke. The document clearly reflects Locke's political and legal ideas, including the idea of natural law. It announced that people have "certain inalienable rights, that among them are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

In the Declaration, Jefferson further stated that people had the right "to alter or to abolish" unjust governments, echoing Locke's ideas about the right to revolt. He then carefully detailed the colonists' grievances against Britain, such as imposing taxes without consent, dissolving colonial legislatures at will, and depriving many colonists of their legal right to trial by jury. Because Parliament had trampled colonists'



>> Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman served as the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence.

Interactive Illustration

natural rights, he argued, the colonists had the right to rebel and set up a new government to protect them.

The document spelled out the political principle of **popular sovereignty**, the idea that all government power comes from the people. Aware of the risks involved, on July 4, 1776, American leaders signed the Declaration, pledging "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the cause of the United States of America.

Religion and the Revolution From the start, religion played a role in the events leading to the American Revolution. As early as 1750, Boston minister Jonathan Mayhew preached an influential sermon arguing that resistance to tyranny was justified by the Bible. Many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were deeply religious men and one—John Witherspoon of New Jersey—was a practicing Presbyterian minister. Throughout the Revolution, many clergy preached or wrote pamphlets in favor of independence, and some even took up arms.

At the same time, the Revolution caused a split in some churches. Anglicans were torn because the King was the official head of the Church of England, and Anglican ministers had taken an oath of loyalty to the king. Later, the Bill of Rights would prohibit the establishment of a state-supported church like the Church of England.

2 DRAW CONCLUSIONS Why did the colonists object so strongly to the idea of taxation without representation?

The American Revolution

At first, the American cause looked bleak. The colonists themselves were divided. About one third of the American colonists were Loyalists, or those who supported Britain. Many others refused to fight for either side.

Military Strengths and Weaknesses The colonists faced severe military disadvantages as well. The British had a large number of trained soldiers, a huge fleet, and plentiful money. They occupied most major American cities. The Americans lacked military resources, had little money to pay soldiers, and did not have a strategic plan.

Still, the colonists had some advantages. They were battling for their own independence on their own familiar home ground. Although the British held New York and Philadelphia, colonists controlled the countryside. And they had a strong, inspiring military leader in George Washington.



>> George Washington encouraged his men to fight on despite heavy odds.

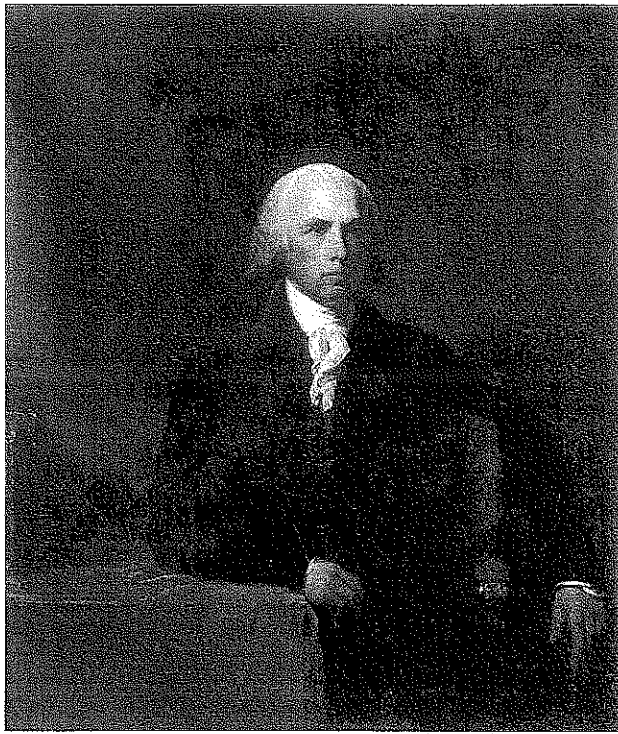
As the war unfolded, the British relied on Loyalists as well as Native American groups, some of whom sided with them. The British also sought support among African Americans held in slavery. They offered freedom to any who would join their side.

Alliance with France The first turning point in the war came in 1777, when the Americans triumphed over the British at the Battle of Saratoga. This victory persuaded France to join the Americans against its old rival, Britain. The alliance brought the Americans desperately needed supplies, trained soldiers, and French warships. Spurred by the French example, the Netherlands and Spain added their support.

Hard times continued, however. In the brutal winter of 1777–1778, Continental troops at Valley Forge suffered from cold, hunger, and disease. Throughout this crisis and others, Washington was patient, courageous, and determined. He held the ragged army together.

Victory for the Americans Finally, in 1781, with the help of a French fleet, Washington forced the surrender of a British army at **Yorktown, Virginia**. With that defeat, the British war effort crumbled.

Two years later, American, British, and French diplomats signed the **Treaty of Paris**, ending the war. Britain formally recognized the independence of



>> James Madison is known as the father of the U.S. Constitution because he was instrumental in drafting the document.

the United States of America. Britain also accepted the new nation's western frontier as the Mississippi River.

GENERATE EXPLANATIONS Why was the selection of George Washington as head of the American army essential to the ultimate success of the American Revolution?

The United States Constitution

The Articles of Confederation was the new nation's first constitution. It proved to be too weak to rule effectively. To address this problem, the nation's leaders gathered once more. Among them were George Washington, **James Madison**, and Benjamin Franklin. During the hot summer of 1787, they hammered out the Constitution of the United States. This framework for a strong, flexible government has remained in place for more than 200 years.

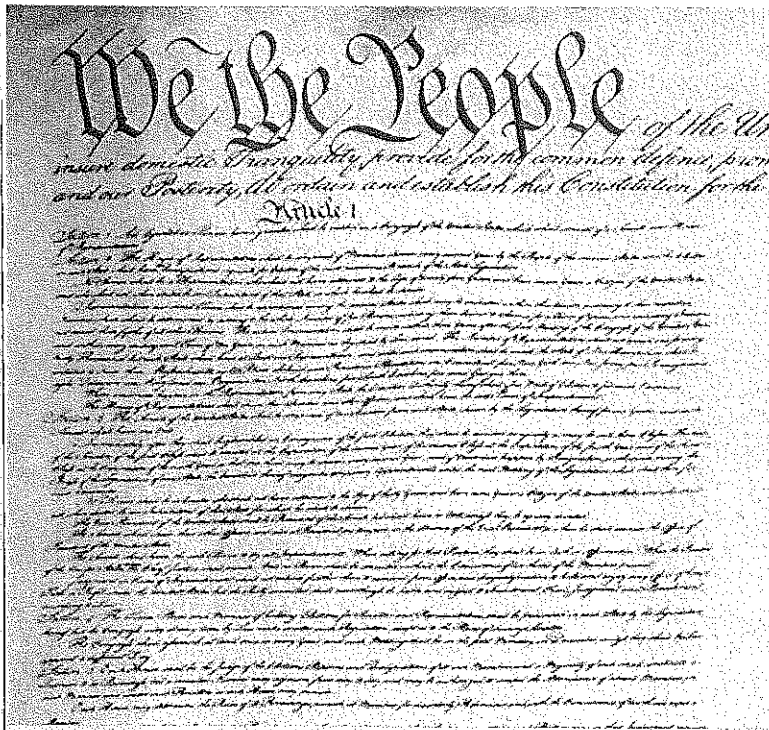
The Impact of the Enlightenment The Framers of the Constitution had absorbed the ideas of Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. Like Rousseau, the framers saw government in terms of a social contract among members of the community. A central feature of the new federal government—the separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches—was borrowed directly from Montesquieu.

The framers were also influenced by the ideas of an English legal scholar of the 1700s, William Blackstone, who shared many of Locke's ideas. Blackstone's writings greatly informed the legal ideas contained in the Constitution and a good portion of American law to the present day. For example, his famous statement that “the law holds it better that ten guilty persons escape, than that one innocent party suffer” is reflected in the Constitutional rights given to people accused of crimes.

A Framework of Government The Constitution created a **federal republic**, with power divided between the federal, or national, government and the states. It provided for both an elected legislature and an elected president.

To prevent any branch of government from becoming too powerful, the Constitution set up a series of **checks and balances**. Under this system, each branch of the government has the right to monitor and limit each of the other branches.

The Bill of Rights, or the first ten amendments to the Constitution, recognized the idea that citizens have



>> The U.S. Constitution, shown here, set up a series of checks and balances in which each branch of government can limit the powers of the other branches.

Interactive Chart

basic rights that the government must protect. These included freedom of religion, speech, and the press.

It also affirmed legal ideas, such as the right to trial by jury and the principle that no one may be forced to testify against him- or herself. The Bill of Rights, like the Constitution, put Enlightenment ideas into practice.

Symbol of Freedom From the start, the new republic was a symbol of freedom for many. The Declaration of Independence, along with the Bill of Rights, put forth the idea that there are certain rights that belong to everyone.

In 1789, most countries in Europe were ruled by hereditary absolute monarchs. The United States stood out as a beacon to Europeans who took up the cry for liberty and freedom.

Demands for written constitutions and a limit to royal power would bring great changes to Europe by the decades ahead. Revolutionaries in Latin America were also inspired by the example of the United States.

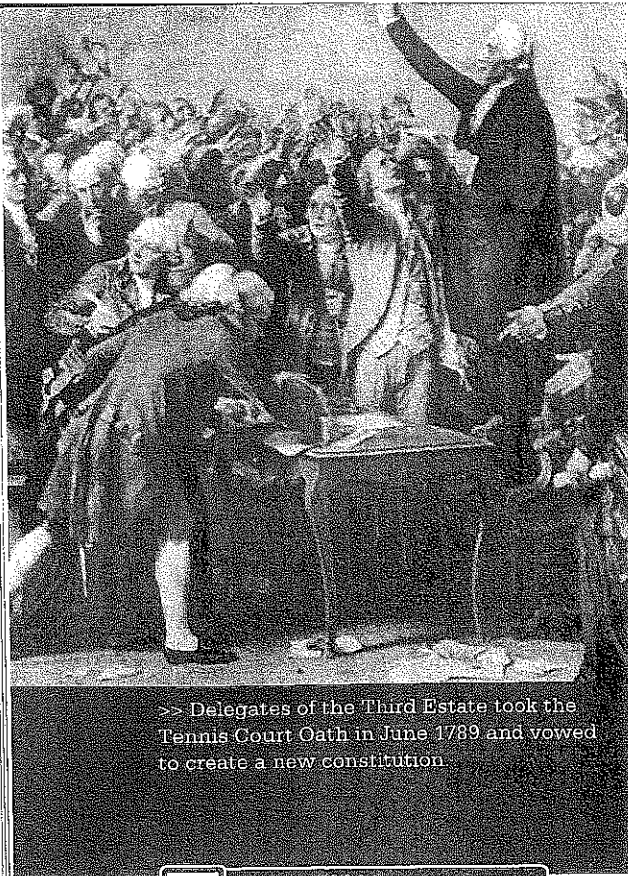
Under the Constitution, citizens enjoy many rights, but they also have many responsibilities. They are expected to vote, sit on juries, and keep informed on topics of local and national interest. Noncitizens who reside in the United States also enjoy its constitutional rights and protections and have responsibilities such

as paying taxes and abiding by local, state, and federal laws.

ANALYZE CONTEXT How did the ideas of the Enlightenment influence the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

ASSESSMENT

1. **Identify Main Ideas** How did trade play a role in Britain's becoming a global power?
2. **Identify Cause and Effect** Why did North America's geography make it difficult for the British to win the war?
3. **Check Understanding** Why did colonists wait to declare independence from Britain?
4. **Hypothesize** Why do you think many countries over time have emulated the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution?
5. **Describe** In what way does the Bill of Rights put the ideas of the Enlightenment into practice?



>> Delegates of the Third Estate took the Tennis Court Oath in June 1789 and vowed to create a new constitution.

 Interactive Flipped Video

TEKS

1.E, 9.A, 9.D, 20.B

>> Objectives

Describe the social divisions of France's old order.

Trace the causes of the French Revolution.

Identify the reforms enacted by the National Assembly, including the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.

>> Key Terms

ancien régime
estates
bourgeoisie
deficit spending
Louis XVI
Jacques Necker
Estates-General
cahiers
Tennis Court Oath
Bastille
faction
Marquis de Lafayette
Olympe de Gouges
Marie Antoinette

12.6

On April 28, 1789, unrest exploded at a Paris wallpaper factory. A rumor had spread that the factory owner was planning to cut wages even though bread prices were soaring. Enraged workers vandalized the owner's home and then rioted through the streets.

The French Revolution Begins

The Old Regime in France

The rioting reflected growing unrest in Paris and throughout France. In 1789, France faced not only an economic crisis but also widespread demands for far-reaching changes. By July, the hungry, unemployed, poorly paid people of Paris were taking up arms against the government, a move that would trigger the French Revolution.

In 1789, France, like the rest of Europe, still clung to an outdated social system that had emerged in the Middle Ages. Under this **ancien régime**, or old order, everyone in France belonged to one of three social classes, or **estates**. The First Estate was made up of the clergy; the Second Estate was made up of the nobility; and the Third Estate comprised the vast majority of the population.

First Estate: the Clergy During the Middle Ages, the Church had exerted great influence throughout Christian Europe. In 1789, the French clergy still enjoyed enormous wealth and privilege. The Church owned about 10 percent of the land, collected tithes, and paid no direct taxes to the state. High Church leaders such as bishops and abbots were usually nobles who lived very well. Parish priests,



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however, often came from humble origins and might be as poor as their peasant congregations.

The First Estate did provide some social services. Nuns, monks, and priests ran schools, hospitals, and orphanages. But during the Enlightenment, *philosophes* targeted the Church for reform.

They criticized the idleness of some clergy, the Church's interference in politics, and its intolerance of dissent. In response, many clergy condemned the Enlightenment for undermining religion and moral order.

Second Estate: the Nobility The Second Estate was the titled nobility of French society. In the Middle Ages, noble knights had defended the land. In the 1600s, Richelieu and Louis XIV had crushed the nobles' military power but had given them other rights—under strict royal control. Those rights included top jobs in government, the army, the courts, and the Church.

At Versailles, ambitious nobles competed for royal appointments while idle courtiers enjoyed endless entertainments. Many nobles, however, lived far from the center of power. Though they owned land, they received little financial income. As a result, they felt the pinch of trying to maintain their status in a period of rising prices.

Many ambitious nobles came to hate absolutism and resented the royal bureaucracy that employed middle-class men in positions that once had been reserved for them. They feared losing their traditional privileges, especially their freedom from paying taxes.

Third Estate: From Middle Class to Peasantry

The Third Estate was the most diverse social class. At the top sat the **bourgeoisie** (boor zhwah ZEE), or middle class. The bourgeoisie included prosperous bankers, merchants, and manufacturers, as well as lawyers, doctors, journalists, and professors.

The bulk of the Third Estate, however, consisted of rural peasants. Some were prosperous landowners who hired laborers to work for them. Others were tenant farmers or day laborers.

Among the poorest members of the Third Estate were urban workers. They included apprentices, journeymen, and others who worked in industries such as printing or cloth making.

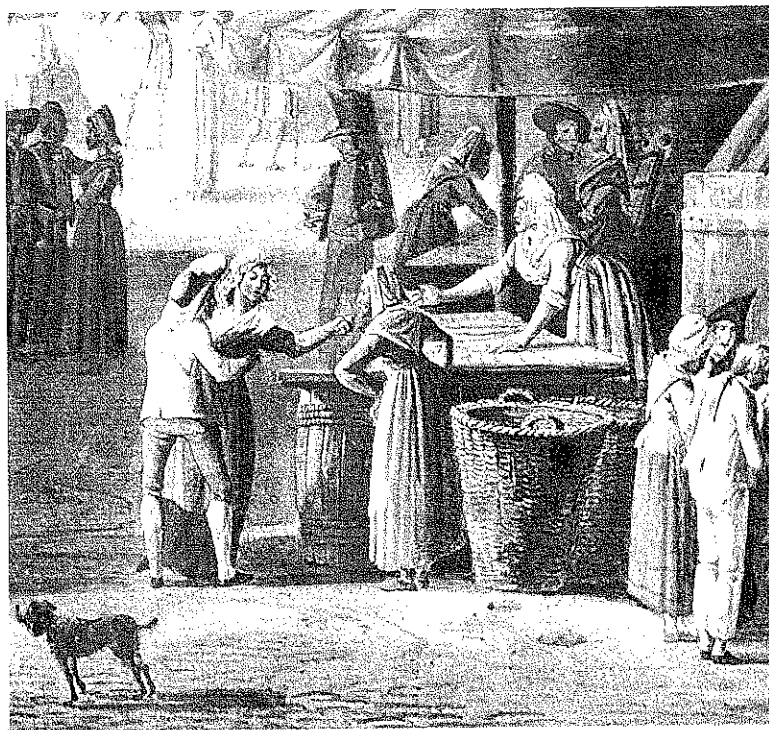
Many women and men earned a meager living as servants, construction workers, or street sellers of everything from food to pots and pans. A large number of the urban poor were unemployed. To survive, some turned to begging or crime.

Widespread Discontent From rich to poor, members of the Third Estate resented the privileges enjoyed by



>> Analyze Political Cartoons What does this cartoon say about the relationship between the three social classes in France?

 Interactive Cartoon



>> Merchants were among the bourgeoisie, France's middle class.

their social "betters." Wealthy bourgeois families in the Third Estate could buy political office and even titles, but the best jobs were still reserved for nobles. Urban workers earned miserable wages. Even the smallest rise in the price of bread, their main food, brought the threat of greater hunger or even starvation. In 1775, before the French Revolution, peasants rioted over the high price of bread in an event called the "Flour War."

Because of traditional privileges, the First and Second Estates paid almost no taxes. Peasants were burdened by taxes on everything from land to soap to salt. Though they were technically free, many owed fees and services that dated back to medieval times, such as the *corvée* (*kawr VAY*), which was unpaid labor to repair roads and bridges.

Peasants were also incensed when nobles, hurt by rising prices, tried to reimpose old manor dues. In towns and cities, Enlightenment ideas about equality led people to question the inequalities of the old regime. Why, people demanded, should the first two estates have such great privileges at the expense of the majority? Throughout France, the Third Estate called for the privileged classes to pay their share.

2 CONTRAST How did the lives of the Third Estate differ from the lives of clergy and nobles?

ELPS ELPS 4.D.1 Examine the political cartoon about the three estates in the text *The Old Regime in France* to understand the relationships between the three estates.

France's Economic Crisis

Along with social unrest, France faced economic woes, especially a mushrooming financial crisis. The crisis was caused in part by years of **deficit spending**. This occurs when a government spends more money than it takes in.

A Nation in Debt Louis XIV had left France deeply in debt. The Seven Years' War and the American Revolution strained the treasury even further. Costs generally had risen in the 1700s, and the lavish court soaked up millions. To bridge the gap between income and expenses, the government borrowed more and more money. By 1789, half of the government's income from taxes went to paying the interest on this enormous debt.

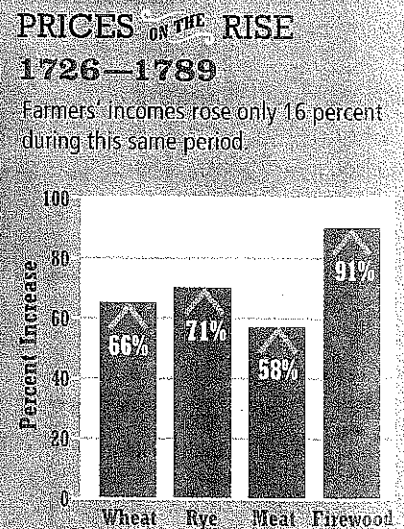
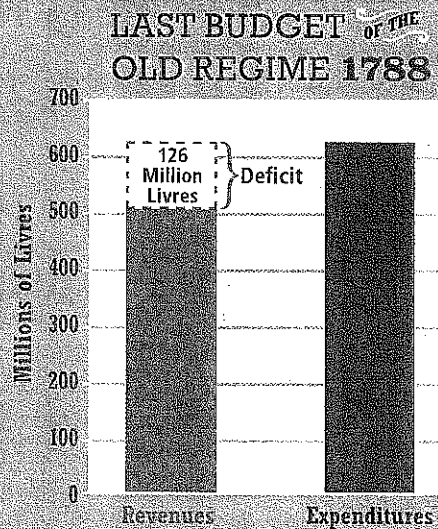
To solve the financial crisis, the government would have to increase taxes, reduce expenses, or both. However, the nobles and clergy fiercely resisted any attempt to end their exemption from taxes.

A Crumbling Economy Other economic woes added to the crisis. A general economic decline began in the 1770s. Then in the late 1780s, bad harvests set food prices soaring and brought hunger to poorer peasants and city dwellers.

Hard times and lack of food inflamed these people. In towns, people rioted, demanding bread. In the

FRANCE IN ECONOMIC CRISIS

By 1788, France's royal treasury was deeply in debt, while people were paying higher prices for food and other goods. These charts illustrate the dire economic conditions of pre-revolutionary France.



>> **Analyze Charts** As France's deficit grew, so did the suffering of the poor. How much did the price of firewood rise between 1726 and 1789?

countryside, peasants began to attack the manor houses of nobles.

Failure of Reform The heirs of Louis XIV were not the right men to solve the economic crisis that afflicted France. Louis XV, who ruled from 1715 to 1774, pursued pleasure before serious business and ran up more debts.

The next king, **Louis XVI**, was well-meaning but weak and indecisive. He did wisely choose **Jacques Necker**, a financial expert, as an advisor. Necker urged the king to reduce extravagant court spending, reform government, and abolish burdensome tariffs on internal trade. When Necker proposed taxing the First and Second Estates, however, the nobles and high clergy forced the king to dismiss him.

As the crisis deepened, the pressure for reform mounted. The wealthy and powerful classes demanded, however, that the king summon the **Estates-General**, the legislative body consisting of representatives of the three estates, before making any changes. No French king had called the Estates-General for 175 years. They feared that nobles would try to recover the feudal powers they had lost under absolute rule.

To reform-minded nobles, the Estates-General seemed to offer a chance of carrying out changes like the ones the English had achieved through the Glorious Revolution. They hoped to bring the absolute monarch under the control of nobles and guarantee their own privileges.

2 DESCRIBE What were some of the main reasons France was in serious economic trouble in the late 1700s?

Louis XVI Calls the Estates-General

As 1788 came to a close, France tottered on the verge of bankruptcy. Bread riots were spreading, and nobles, fearful of taxes, were denouncing royal tyranny. A baffled Louis XVI finally summoned the Estates-General to meet at Versailles the following year.

The Cahiers In preparation, Louis had all three estates prepare **cahiers** (kah YAYZ), or notebooks, listing their grievances. Many cahiers called for reforms such as fairer taxes, freedom of the press, or regular meetings of the Estates-General. In one town, shoemakers denounced regulations that made leather so expensive they could not afford to make shoes. Servant girls in the city of Toulouse demanded the right to leave service when they wanted and insisted that "after a girl has



>> The poor made up the majority of the Third Estate. Here, they are shown rioting during the "Flour War," a brief 1775 uprising brought on by higher bread prices.

served her master for many years, she receive some reward for her service."

The cahiers testified to boiling class resentments. One called tax collectors "bloodsuckers of the nation who drink the tears of the unfortunate from goblets of gold." Another one of the cahiers condemned the courts of nobles as "vampires pumping the last drop of blood" from the people. Yet another complained that "20 million must live on half the wealth of France while the clergy . . . devour the other half."

The Tennis Court Oath Delegates to the Estates-General from the Third Estate were elected, though only propertied men could vote. Thus, the delegates were mostly lawyers, middle-class officials, and writers. They were familiar with the writings of Voltaire, Rousseau, and other *philosophes*, as well as with the complaints in the cahiers. They went to Versailles not only to solve the financial crisis but also to insist on reform.

The Estates-General convened in May 1789. From the start, the delegates were deadlocked over the issue of voting. Traditionally, each estate had met and voted separately. Each group had one vote.

Under this system, the First and Second Estates always outvoted the Third Estate two to one. This time, the Third Estate wanted all three estates to meet in a

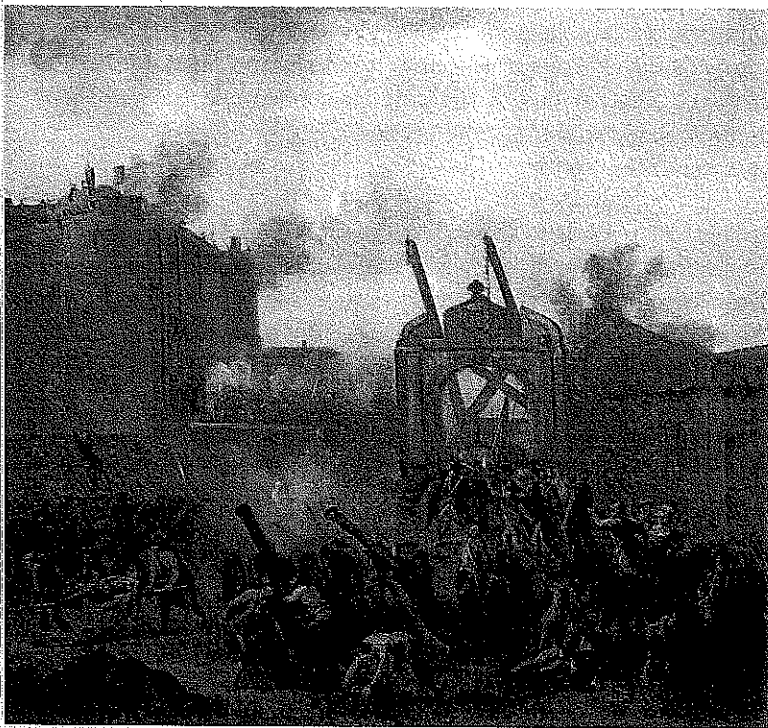
single body, with votes counted "by head." After weeks of stalemate, delegates of the Third Estate took a daring step. In June 1789, claiming to represent the people of France, they declared themselves to be the National Assembly. A few days later, the National Assembly found its meeting hall locked and guarded. Fearing that the king planned to dismiss them, the delegates moved to a nearby indoor tennis court.

As curious spectators looked on, the delegates took their famous **Tennis Court Oath**. They swore "never to separate and to meet wherever the circumstances might require until we have established a sound and just constitution." When reform-minded clergy and nobles joined the Assembly, Louis XVI grudgingly accepted it.

At the same time, though, royal troops gathered around Paris. Rumors spread that the king planned to dissolve the Assembly.

2 DESCRIBE Why did the Third Estate want the Estates-General to meet as a single body?

ELPS 3.H.3 Explain why members of the Third Estate wanted to vote at the same time as the First and Second estates.



>> The storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, was the opening event of the French Revolution.

Storming the Bastille

On July 14, 1789, the city of Paris seized the spotlight from the National Assembly meeting in Versailles. The streets buzzed with rumors that royal troops were going to occupy the capital. More than 800 Parisians assembled outside the **Bastille**, a grim medieval fortress used as a prison for political and other prisoners. The crowd demanded weapons and gunpowder believed to be stored there.

The commander of the Bastille refused to open the gates and opened fire on the crowd. In the battle that followed, many people were killed. Finally, the enraged mob broke through the defenses. Thomas Jefferson was at the time American minister to France and described the scene as one of chaos and violence.

The people rushed against the place, and almost in an instant were in possession of a fortification, defended by 100 men, of infinite strength, which in other times had stood several regular sieges and had never been taken. . . . They took all the arms, discharged the prisoners and such of the garrison as were not killed in the first moment of fury, carried the Governor and Lieutenant governor to the Greve (the place of public execution), cut off their heads, and set them through the city in triumph to the Palais royal.

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Jay, July 14, 1789

The mob killed the commander and five guards and released the handful of prisoners who were being held there. However, they found no weapons.

For the French, the Bastille was a powerful symbol of the tyranny, inequalities, and injustices of the old order. The storming of the Bastille signaled the end of the absolute monarchy and a step toward freedom. It also marked the beginning of the French Revolution. Today, July 14 is a national holiday when the French celebrate the birth of modern France.

2 IDENTIFY CENTRAL IDEAS What was the main motivation behind the Parisians' attack on the Bastille?

Revolts in Paris and the Provinces

The political crisis of 1789 coincided with the worst famine in memory. Starving peasants roamed the countryside or flocked to towns, where they swelled the ranks of the unemployed. As grain prices soared, even people with jobs had to spend as much as 80 percent of their income on bread.

The “Great Fear” In such desperate times, rumors ran wild and set off what was later called the “Great Fear.” Tales of attacks on villages and towns spread panic. Other rumors asserted that government troops were seizing peasant crops.

Inflamed by famine and fear, peasants unleashed their fury on nobles who were trying to reimpose medieval dues. Defiant peasants set fire to old manor records and stole grain from storehouses. The attacks eventually died down, but they clearly showed peasant anger with the injustice of the old order.

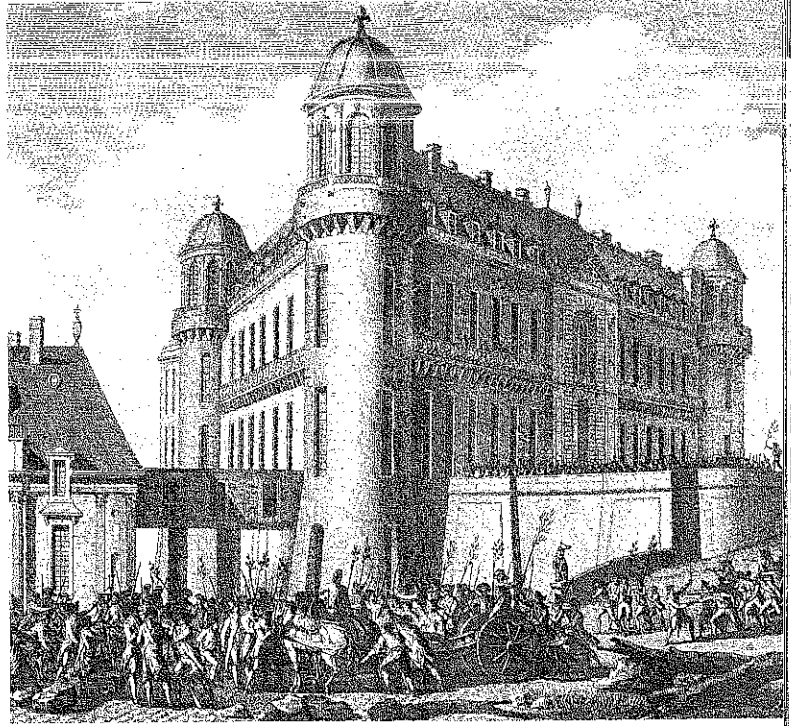
Paris in Arms Paris, too, was in turmoil. As the capital and chief city of France, it was the revolutionary center. A variety of factions competed to gain power. A **faction** is a group or clique within a larger group that has different ideas and opinions than the rest of the group.

Moderates looked to the **Marquis de Lafayette**, the aristocratic “hero of two worlds” who had fought alongside George Washington in the American Revolution. Lafayette headed the National Guard, a largely middle-class militia organized in response to the arrival of royal troops in Paris. The Guard was the first group to don the tricolor—a red, white, and blue badge that was eventually adopted as the national flag of France.

A more radical group, the Paris Commune, replaced the royalist government of the city. It could mobilize whole neighborhoods for protests or violent action to further the revolution. Newspapers and political clubs—many even more radical than the Commune—blossomed everywhere.

Some demanded an end to the monarchy and spread scandalous stories about the royal family and members of the court.

IDENTIFY MAIN IDEAS What stoked the “Great Fear”?



>> Peasant rebellions during the Great Fear began amid rumors that the king and other aristocrats wanted to overthrow the Third Estate.

The National Assembly

Peasant uprisings and the storming of the Bastille stampeded the National Assembly into action. On August 4, in a combative all-night meeting, nobles in the National Assembly voted to end their own privileges. They agreed to give up their old manorial dues, exclusive hunting rights, special legal status, and exemption from taxes.

An End to Special Privilege “Feudalism is abolished,” announced the proud and weary delegates at 2 A.M. As the president of the Assembly later observed, “We may view this moment as the dawn of a new revolution, when all the burdens weighing on the people were abolished, and France was truly reborn.”

Were nobles sacrificing much with their votes on the night of August 4? Both contemporary observers and modern historians note that the nobles gave up nothing that they had not already lost. In the months ahead, the National Assembly turned the reforms of August 4 into law, meeting a key Enlightenment goal—the equality of all male citizens before the law.

Declaration of the Rights of Man In late August, as a first step toward writing a constitution, the Assembly issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man



>> The ideals of the Enlightenment inspired the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.

 **Interactive Illustration**



>> On October 5, 1789, thousands of women marched on the royal palace at Versailles hoping to draw attention to their poor living conditions.

and the Citizen. The document was modeled in part on the American Declaration of Independence, written 13 years earlier. All men, the French declaration announced, were “born and remain free and equal in rights.” They enjoyed natural rights to “liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.” Like the writings of Locke and the *philosophes*, the declaration insisted that governments exist to protect the natural rights of citizens.

The declaration further proclaimed that all male citizens were equal before the law. Every French man had an equal right to hold public office “with no distinction other than that of their virtues and talents.”

It affirmed the legal idea that no person could be arrested, tried or imprisoned except according to the law. In addition, the declaration asserted freedom of religion and called for taxes to be levied according to ability to pay. Its principles were captured in the enduring slogan of the French Revolution, “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.”

Some women were disappointed that the Declaration of the Rights of Man did not grant equal citizenship to them. In 1791, **Olympe de Gouges** (oh LAMP duh GOOZH) demanded equal rights in her Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen. “Woman is born free,” she proclaimed, “and her rights are the same as those of man.” She called for all citizens, men or women, to be equally eligible for all public offices. De Gouges and other women who pushed the cause of women’s rights were often ridiculed or sometimes imprisoned and executed.

Women March on Versailles Louis XVI did not want to accept the reforms of the National Assembly. Nobles continued to enjoy gala banquets while people were starving.

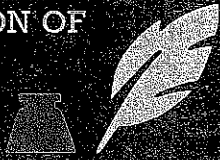
By autumn, anger again turned to action. On October 5, about six thousand women marched 13 miles in the pouring rain from Paris to Versailles. “Bread!” they shouted. They demanded to see the king.

Much of the crowd’s anger was directed at the queen, **Marie Antoinette**. She was the daughter of Maria Theresa of Austria. Ever since she had married Louis, she had come under attack for being frivolous and extravagant. She eventually grew more serious and even advised the king to compromise with moderate reformers. Still she remained a source of scandal. “Death to the Austrian!” the women who marched on Versailles shouted.

Lafayette and the National Guard eventually calmed the crowd. Still the women refused to leave Versailles until the king met their most important demand—to return to Paris. Not too happily, the king agreed. The next morning, the crowd, with the king and his family

THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION OF 1791

- BASED IN PART ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
- CURTAILED ROYAL POWER
- PREFACED BY THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN



Gave citizens the right to hold jobs based on talent

Prohibited the Government from making laws curtailing civil and natural rights

Gave citizens the right to move about freely



Taxed citizens equitably



Gave tax-paying males the right to elect or choose their own ministers

Created a new Legislative Assembly that had the power to make laws and collect taxes

Allowed citizens to speak, publish, and write ideas without fear of government censorship

Allowed citizens to gather peaceably

>> **Analyze Charts** The Constitution of 1791 turned France upside down by destroying the old order. What powers did the Legislative Assembly now have?

in tow, set out for the city. At the head of the procession rode women perched on the barrels of seized cannons. Crowds along the way cheered the king, who now wore the tricolor.

In Paris, the royal family moved into the Tuileries (TWEH luh reez) palace. For the next three years, Louis was a virtual prisoner.

DESCRIBE Why did the women who marched on Versailles want King Louis XVI to return to Paris?

Reforms of the National Assembly

The National Assembly soon followed the king to Paris. Its largely bourgeois members worked to draft a constitution and to solve the continuing financial crisis.

Controlling the Church To pay off the huge government debt—much of it owed to the bourgeoisie—the Assembly voted to take over and sell Church lands. In an even more radical move, the National Assembly put the French Catholic Church under state control. Under the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, issued in 1790, bishops and priests became elected, salaried officials. The Civil Constitution ended papal authority

over the French Church and dissolved convents and monasteries.

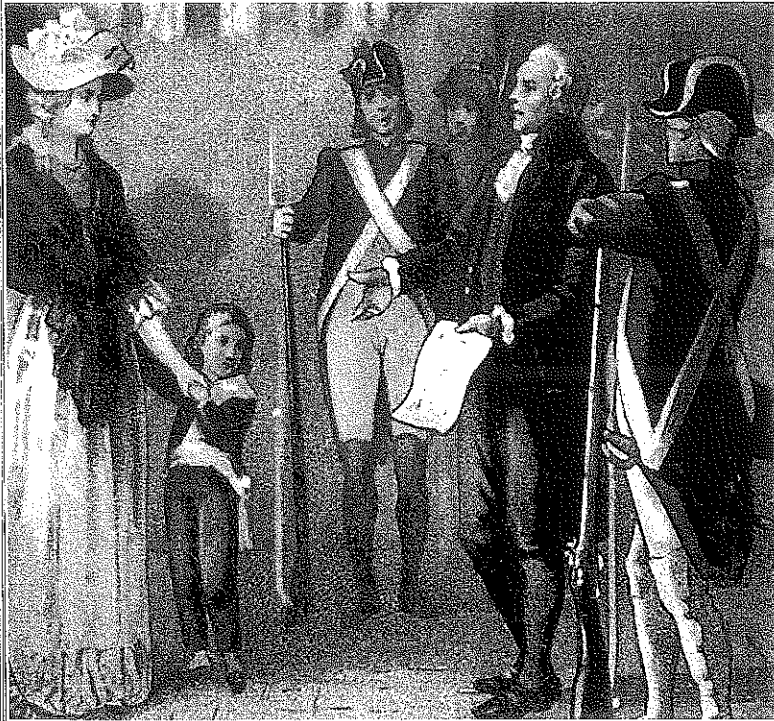
Reaction to the Civil Constitution was swift and angry. Many bishops and priests refused to accept the document while the pope condemned it.

Large numbers of French peasants, who were conservative concerning religion, also rejected the changes. When the government punished clergy who refused to support the Civil Constitution, a huge gulf opened between revolutionaries in Paris and the peasantry in the provinces.

The Constitution of 1791 The National Assembly completed its main task by producing a constitution. The Constitution of 1791 set up a limited monarchy in place of the absolute monarchy that had ruled France for centuries. A new Legislative Assembly had the power to make laws, collect taxes, and decide on issues of war and peace. Lawmakers would be elected by tax-paying male citizens over age 25.

To make government more efficient, the constitution replaced the old provinces with 83 departments of roughly equal size. It abolished the old provincial courts, and it reformed laws.

To moderate reformers, the Constitution of 1791 seemed to complete the revolution. Reflecting Enlightenment goals, it ensured equality before the law for all male citizens and ended Church interference



>> Revolutionaries captured King Louis XVI as he tried to escape.

in government. At the same time, it put power in the hands of men with the means and leisure to serve in government.

The Royal Family Tries to Escape Meanwhile, Marie Antoinette and others had been urging the king to escape their humiliating situation. Louis finally gave in. One night in June 1791, a coach rolled north from

Paris toward the border. Inside sat the king disguised as a servant, the queen dressed as a governess, and the royal children.

The attempted escape failed. In a town along the way, Louis's disguise was uncovered by someone who held up a piece of currency with the king's face on it. A company of soldiers escorted the royal family back to Paris, as onlooking crowds hurled insults at the king. In place of the old shouts of "Long Live the King!" people cried, "Long Live the Nation." To many, Louis's dash to the border showed that he was a traitor to the revolution. As new crises arose, the French Revolution entered a new, more radical phase.

2 DESCRIBE How did the National Assembly try to reform the French Catholic Church?

ASSESSMENT

- 1. Apply Concepts** How did France's social divisions in the late 1700s contribute to the revolution?
- 2. Draw Conclusions** Why was the conflict between the clergy and the Third Estate the most divisive in the course of the revolution?
- 3. Compare** How might the complaints of a peasant and a merchant compare during the revolution?
- 4. Identify Cause and Effect** What characteristics of the Third Estate helped fuel the Revolution?
- 5. Connect** What did the Tennis Court Oath foretell about the coming events of the French Revolution?

The outbreak of the French

Revolution stirred debate all over

Europe and the United States.

Supporters of the Enlightenment,

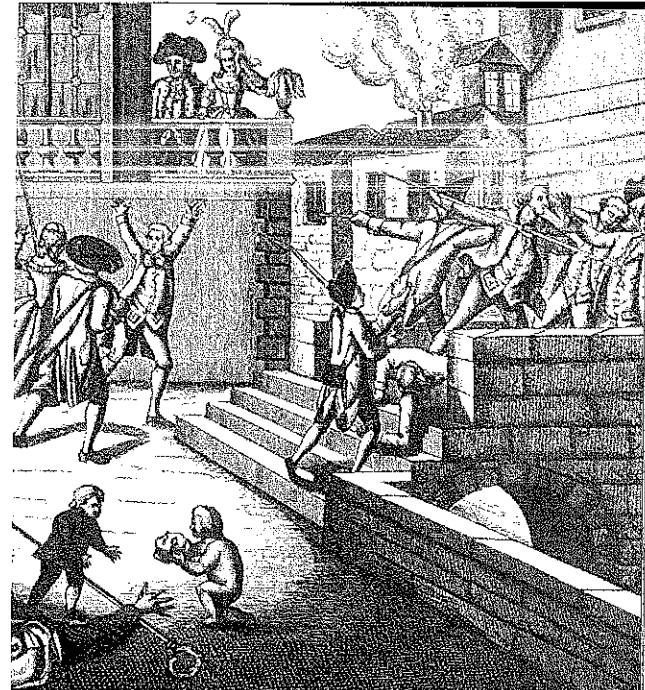
such as Thomas Jefferson, saw the

French experiment as the dawn of

a new age for justice and equality.

European rulers and nobles, however,

denounced the French Revolution.



>> The September massacres lasted six days and resulted in more than 1,368 deaths.

Interactive Flipped Video

TEKS
9.A, 9.D

A Radical Phase

Radicals Gain Strength

ear of the "French Plague" European rulers were horrified by the French Revolution, which threatened absolute monarchy. They increased border patrol to stop the spread of the "French plague." Feeling those fears were the horror stories that were told by émigrés (M ih grayz)—nobles, clergy, and others who had fled France. Émigrés reported attacks on their privileges, their property, their religion, and even their lives. Even "enlightened" rulers turned against France. Catherine the Great of Russia burned Voltaire's letters and locked up artists.

Edmund Burke, a British statesman who earlier had defended the American Revolution, bitterly condemned revolutionaries in Paris. He predicted all too accurately that the revolution would become more violent. "When ancient opinions and rules of life are taken away," he warned, "we have no compass to govern us."

reats from Abroad The failed escape of Louis XVI brought further hostile rumblings from abroad. In August 1791, the king of Prussia and the emperor of Austria—who was Marie Antoinette's brother—issued the Declaration of Pillnitz. In this document, the two monarchs threatened to protect the French monarchy.

>> Objectives

Explain why the French Revolution entered a more radical phase.

Understand how radicals abolished the French monarchy.

Analyze the causes and course of the Reign of Terror.

Describe France under the Directory.

Identify how the French Revolution changed life in France.

>> Key Terms

- émigré
- sans-culottes
- Jacobin
- suffrage
- Maximilien Robespierre
- Reign of Terror
- guillotine
- Napoleon Bonaparte
- Nationalism
- Marseilles

The declaration may have been mostly a bluff, but revolutionaries in France took the threat seriously and prepared for war. The revolution was about to enter a new, more radical phase.

Radicals Seek Power In October 1791, the newly elected Legislative Assembly took office. Faced with crises at home and abroad, it survived for less than a year. Economic problems fed renewed turmoil.

Assignats (AS ig nats), the revolutionary currency, dropped in value, causing prices to rise rapidly. Uncertainty about prices led to hoarding and caused additional food shortages.

In Paris and other cities, working-class men and women, called **sans-culottes** (sanz koo LAHTS), pushed the revolution into more radical action. Sans-culottes means “without breeches.” Men wore long trousers instead of the fancy knee breeches that men of the upper class wore. By 1791, many sans-culottes demanded an end to the monarchy and the creation of a republic. They also wanted the government to guarantee them a living wage.

Within the Legislative Assembly, several hostile factions competed for power. The sans-culottes found support among radicals, especially the Jacobins. A revolutionary political club, the **Jacobins** were mostly

middle-class lawyers or intellectuals. They used pamphleteers and sympathetic newspaper editors to advance the republican cause.

Opposing the radicals were moderate reformers and officials who wanted no more reforms at all. The radicals soon held the upper hand in the Legislative Assembly.

War Breaks Out In April 1792, the war of words between French revolutionaries and European monarchs moved onto the battlefield. Eager to spread the revolution and destroy tyranny abroad, the Legislative Assembly declared war first on Austria and then on Prussia, Britain, and other states. The great powers expected to win an easy victory against France, a land divided by revolution. In fact, the fighting that began in 1792 lasted on and off until 1815.

The war abroad heightened tensions in Paris. Well-trained Prussian forces were cutting down raw French recruits. In addition, royalist officers were deserting the French army, joining émigrés and others hoping to restore the king’s power.

CITE EVIDENCE How did the monarchs of Europe react to the French Revolution?

The Monarchy Is Abolished

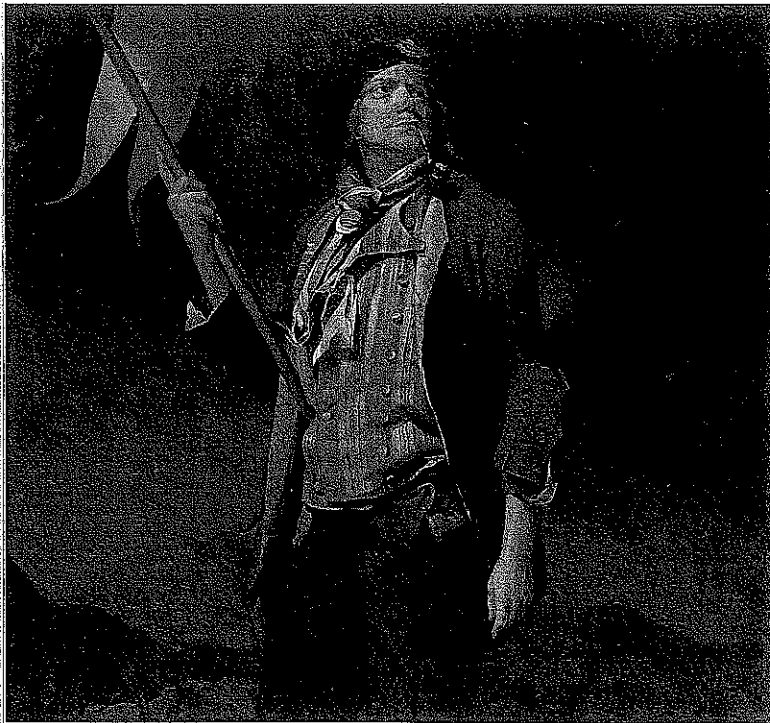
In 1793, the Revolution entered a radical phase. For a year, France experienced one of the bloodiest regimes in its long history as determined leaders sought to extend and preserve the Revolution.

New Outbreaks of Violence Battle disasters overseas quickly inflamed revolutionaries in Paris. They thought the king was in league with the enemies. On August 10, 1792, a crowd of Parisians stormed the royal palace of the Tuileries and slaughtered the king’s guards. The royal family fled to the Legislative Assembly.

A month later, citizens attacked prisons that held nobles and priests accused of political offenses. More than 1,000 prisoners were killed, including many ordinary criminals.

Historians disagree about the people who carried out these “September massacres.” Some call them bloodthirsty mobs. Others describe them as patriots defending France. In fact, most were ordinary citizens fired to fury by real and imagined grievances.

The National Convention Backed by Paris crowds, radicals then took control of the Assembly. Radicals called for the election of a new legislative body called



>> The sans-culottes were working-class men and women who became the heart of radical France. The men wore long pants instead of the knee breeches that upper-class men wore.

the National Convention. **Suffrage**, the right to vote, was to be extended to all male citizens, not just to property owners.

The Convention that met in September 1792 was a more radical body than earlier Assemblies. It voted to abolish the monarchy and establish a republic. Deputies then drew up a new constitution. The Jacobins, who controlled the Convention, set out to erase all traces of the old order. They seized lands of nobles and abolished titles of nobility. All men and women were called "Citizen." Louis XVI became Citizen Capet, from the dynasty that ruled France during the Middle Ages.

Execution of a King and Queen During the early months of the Republic, the Convention also put Louis XVI on trial as a traitor to France. The king was convicted by a single vote and sentenced to death.

On a foggy morning in January 1793, Louis mounted a scaffold in a public square in Paris. He started to speak, "Frenchmen, I die innocent. I pardon the authors of my death. I pray God that the blood about to be spilt will never fall upon the head of France. . . ." Then a roll of drums drowned out his words. Moments later, the king was beheaded. The executioner lifted the king's head by its hair and held it before the crowd.

In October, Marie Antoinette was also executed. The popular press celebrated her death. The queen, however, showed great dignity as she went to her death. Her son, who might once have become Louis XVII, died of unknown causes in the dungeons of the Revolution.

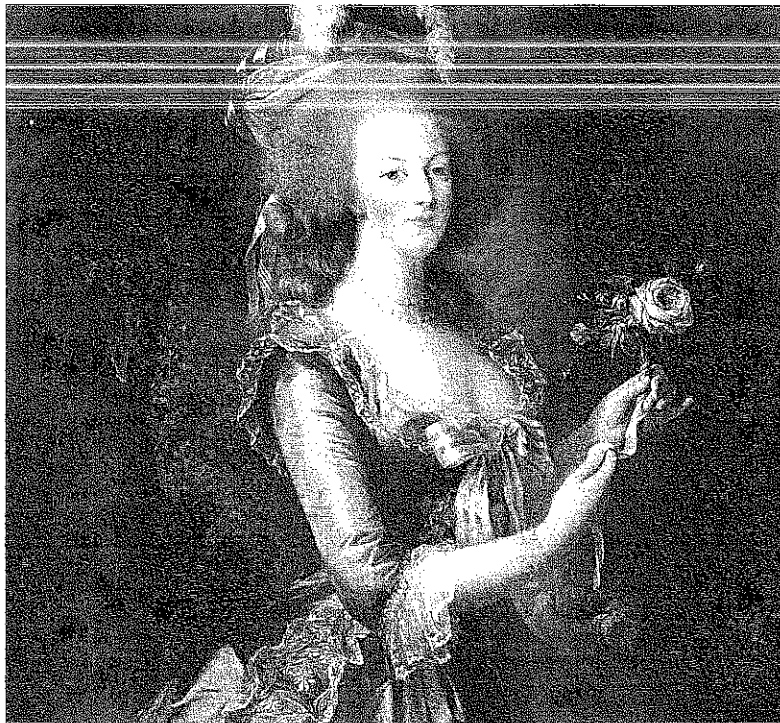
CONTRAST What was the main difference between earlier Assemblies and the National Convention, which met in September 1792?

The Reign of Terror

By early 1793, danger threatened France on all sides. The country was at war with much of Europe, including Britain, the Netherlands, Spain, and Prussia. In the Vendée (vahn DAY) region of France, royalists and priests led peasants in rebellion against the government.

In Paris, the sans-culottes demanded relief from food shortages and inflation. The Convention itself was bitterly divided between Jacobins and a rival group, the Girondins.

Committee of Public Safety To deal with the threats to France, the Convention created the Committee of Public Safety. The 12-member committee had almost absolute power. Preparing France for all-out war, it ordered all citizens to contribute to the war effort. They



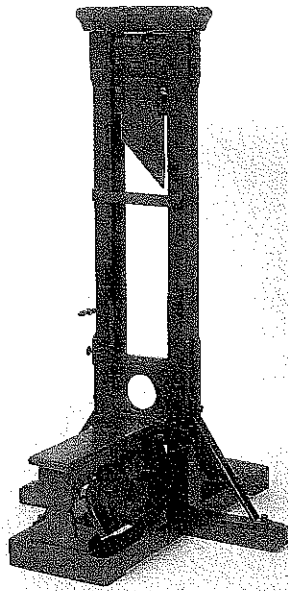
➤ Marie Antoinette's lavish lifestyle and disregard for the masses contributed to her unpopularity and later execution.

urged young men to go into battle, women to make tents or serve in hospitals, and children to turn old lint into linen.

Spurred by revolutionary fervor, recruits marched off to defend the republic. Young officers developed effective tactics to win battles with masses of ill-trained but patriotic forces. Soon, French armies overran the Netherlands. They later invaded Italy. At home, they crushed peasant revolts. European monarchs shuddered as the revolutionaries carried "freedom fever" into conquered lands.

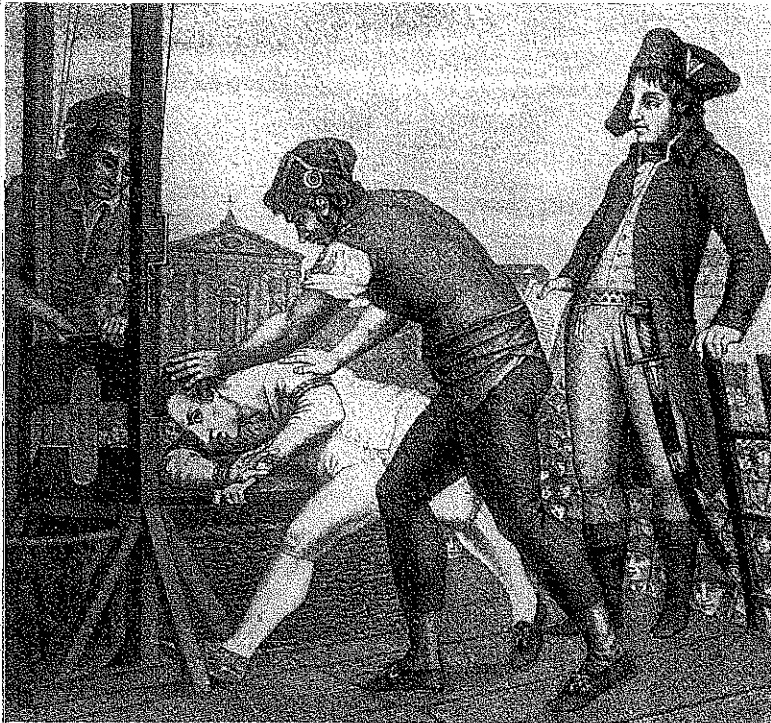
Robespierre, the incorruptible At home, the government battled counterrevolutionaries under the guiding hand of **Maximilien Robespierre** (ROHBZ pyehr). Robespierre, a shrewd lawyer and politician, quickly rose to the leadership of the Committee of Public Safety. Among Jacobins, his selfless dedication to the revolution earned him the nickname "the incorruptible." His enemies called him a tyrant.

"Death to the Traitors" Robespierre was one of the chief architects of the **Reign of Terror**, which lasted from September 1793 to July 1794. Revolutionary courts conducted hasty trials. Spectators greeted death sentences with cries of "Hail the Republic!" or "Death to the traitors!" In a speech given on February 5, 1794,



>> Thousands of citizens were beheaded by the guillotine.

 **Interactive Gallery**



>> Robespierre was beheaded on July 28, 1794, a victim of the Terror he helped create.

Robespierre explained that the terror was necessary to protect the Revolution and achieve its goals.

During the Reign of Terror, about 300,000 citizens were arrested. About 17,000 were executed. They included nobles and clergy, peasants, and sans-culottes, along with middle-class citizens who had once supported the Revolution.


It is necessary to stifle the domestic and foreign enemies of the Republic or they will perish with them. . . . The first maxim of our politics ought to be to lead the people by means of reason and the enemies of the people by terror.


—Maximilien Robespierre

Many were victims of mistaken identity or were falsely accused by their neighbors. Many more were packed into hideous prisons, where deaths from disease were common.

The engine of the Terror was the **guillotine** (GIL-teen). Its fast-falling blade extinguished life instantly. A member of the legislature, Dr. Joseph Guillotin (GOSH-TAN), had introduced it as a more humane method of beheading than the uncertain ax. Still, the guillotine quickly became a symbol of horror.

Within a year, the Terror consumed those who initiated it. Wary of bloodshed and fearing for their own lives, members of the Convention turned on the Committee of Public Safety. On the night of July 17, 1794, Robespierre was arrested. The next day he was executed. After the heads of Robespierre and other radicals fell, executions slowed dramatically.

 **DRAW CONCLUSIONS** How did radicals such as Robespierre justify the use of terror?

 **ELPS 4.E.1** Use a translation of the text or a bilingual dictionary to help you understand the content covered in *The Reign of Terror*.

Reaction and the Directory

In reaction to the Terror, the Revolution entered a third stage. Middle class and professional people dominated this stage of the Revolution.

Moving away from the excesses of the Convention, moderates produced another constitution, the third since 1789. The Constitution of 1795 set up a five-member Directory and a two-house legislature elected by middle-class citizens of property. The Directory held power from 1795 to 1799.

Weak, but willing to use force against its enemies, the Directory faced many challenges. Although France made peace with Prussia and Spain, the war continued with Austria and Great Britain. Corrupt leaders lined their own pockets but failed to solve pressing problems. When rising bread prices stirred hungry sans-culottes to riot, the Directory quickly suppressed them.

Another threat to the Directory was the revival of royalist feeling. Many émigrés were returning to France, and devout Catholics, who resented measures that had been taken against the Church, were welcoming them. In the election of 1797, supporters of a constitutional monarchy won the majority of seats in the legislature.

Despite its failings, the Directory consolidated many reforms of the National Convention. It set up a system of elite schools and helped the French economy to recover from the upheavals of the Terror. During the Directory, France had strengthened its armies and won several important battles.

As chaos threatened, politicians turned to **Napoleon Bonaparte**, a popular military hero who had won a series of brilliant victories against the Austrians in Italy. The politicians planned to use him to advance their own goals. To their dismay, however, before long Napoleon would outwit them all to become ruler of France.

2 IDENTIFY CAUSE AND EFFECT Why did Catholics welcome the return of the émigrés?

The Revolution Transforms France

By 1799, the 10-year-old French Revolution had dramatically changed France. It had dislodged the old social order, overthrown the monarchy, and brought the Church under state control.

New symbols such as the red “liberty caps” and the tricolor confirmed the liberty and equality of all male citizens. The new title “citizen” applied to people of all social classes. Elaborate fashions and powdered wigs gave way to the practical clothes and simple haircuts of the sans-culottes.

Nationalism Spreads Revolution and war gave the French people a strong sense of national identity. In earlier times, people had felt loyalty to local authorities. As monarchs centralized power, loyalty shifted to the king or queen. Instead, the government rallied sons and daughters of the Revolution to defend the nation itself.

Nationalism, a strong feeling of pride in and devotion to one’s country, spread throughout France.



>> The French Revolution began with the burning of the Bastille in 1789 and continued through the Reign of Terror. After the Terror, it moved into a third phase in which the government was headed by a five-man Directory.

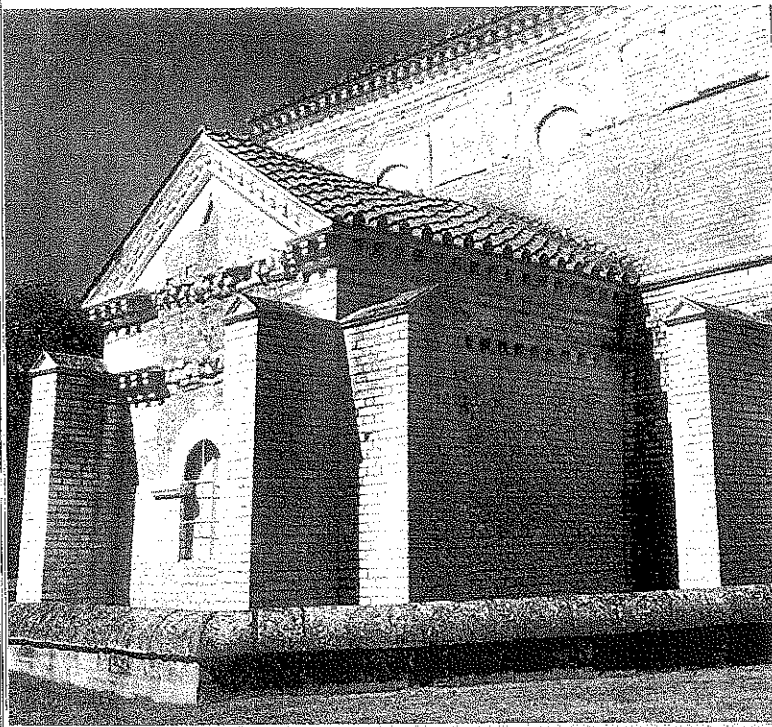
Interactive Timeline

The French people attended civic festivals that celebrated the nation and the Revolution. A variety of dances and songs on themes of the Revolution became immensely popular.

By 1793, France was a nation in arms. From the port city of **Marseilles** (mahr say), troops marched to a rousing new song. It urged the “children of the fatherland” to march against the “bloody banner of tyranny.” This song, “La Marseillaise” (mahr say ez), would later become the French national anthem.

Social Reform Revolutionaries pushed for social reform and religious toleration. They set up state schools to replace religious ones and organized systems to help the poor, old soldiers, and war widows. With a major slave revolt raging in the colony of St. Domingue (Haiti), the government also abolished slavery in France’s Caribbean colonies.

Religion and the Revolution During the Revolution, different governments pursued different policies toward religion. The Civil Constitution of the Clergy put the Catholic Church under state control. Unlike the United States whose Constitution forbade the establishment of



>> During the radical phase of the French Revolution, many Christian churches were renamed Temples of Reason. Religious symbols were covered. On some churches, the revolutionary motto "Liberté, égalité, fraternité" was inscribed on the stone facade.

any official state church, France supported the French Catholic Church by paying the salaries of the clergy.

Many revolutionaries embraced the ideas of religious toleration. Yet this Enlightenment ideal often fell victim to politics. During the radical phase, leaders banned public religious worship and removed the names of saints from streets and buildings. Any who opposed these moves faced persecution or death. This effort to de-Christianize France had little popular support. In the end, the Catholic Church was restored with limited rights.

Comparison with the American Revolution The French Revolution came on the heels of the American Revolution. The two revolutions had both similarities and differences.

Both grew out of Enlightenment ideals such as liberty, freedom, and the rights of citizens. Both began with calls for reform, but ended up with a complete change of government. In the colonies and in France, people rose up against oppressive monarchies and high taxes. Each revolution broke out after years of increasing discontent with powerful rulers who imposed their will on the people.

Historians have compared the causes of the American and French Revolutions, and emphasized the role of the ideas behind the Glorious Revolution in helping to inspire both later events. Although the political traditions and social climate of France and the colonies differed, both the French and American colonists wanted a government that was responsible to its people. The colonists saw themselves as citizens of Britain, entitled to the same rights. The British people had won these rights by limiting the power of their monarch through the Magna Carta in 1215 and the Glorious Revolution of 1688. The violation of these rights by Parliament, over 70 years later, was one cause of the American Revolution.

France was an absolute monarchy, but here too the ideas behind the Glorious Revolution played a role. The Glorious Revolution had confirmed the supremacy of Parliament over the monarch in Britain. French revolutionary leaders were influenced by this political development, as well as by the ideals behind the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution.

In both countries, the people set up a republican form of government. In France, the first republic did not last, but in the United States, it has lasted until the present.

In both England and pre-revolutionary France, the state supported an official church. In America, although many of the leaders of the Revolution were deeply religious, the First Amendment to the Constitution forbade the establishment of any state-supported church. In France, a state-supported Catholic Church remained a powerful force for more than a century.

2 ANALYZE INFORMATION Describe several ways the Revolution changed French society.

ASSESSMENT

- 1. Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast the views of France's radical revolutionaries to the views of its moderates.
- 2. Check Understanding** Why was the Committee of Public Safety allowed to terrorize France during the Reign of Terror?
- 3. Describe** How did the Directory's actions ultimately lead to the rise of Napoleon?
- 4. Describe** What actions did the French take after the Revolution to show their patriotism?
- 5. Identify Cause and Effect** What was it about the nature of the French Revolution that led to political and social reform?

9.8 From 1799 to 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte dominated France and Europe. A hero to some, an evil force to others, he gave his name to the final phase of the French Revolution—the Age of Napoleon.



>> Napoleon was a military genius who dominated Europe for more than a decade.

 Interactive Flipped Video

TEKS
9.8

The Age of Napoleon

Napoleon on the Rise

Early Years Napoleon was born in Corsica, a French-ruled island in the Mediterranean. At age nine, he was sent to France to be trained for a military career. When the revolution broke out, he was an ambitious 16-year-old lieutenant, eager to make a name for himself.

Napoleon favored the Jacobins and republican rule. However, he liked the conflicting ideas and personalities of the French Revolution. He wrote to his brother in 1793: "Since one must take sides, might as well choose the side that is victorious, the side which conquers, loots, and burns. Considering the alternative, it is better to be eaten."

Military Success During the turmoil of the Revolution, Napoleon rose quickly in the army. In December 1793, he drove British forces out of the French port of Toulon (too LOHN).

He then went on to win several dazzling victories against the Austrians, capturing most of northern Italy and forcing the Hapsburg emperor to make peace. Hoping to disrupt British trade with India, he led an expedition to Egypt in 1798. The Egyptian campaign proved to be a disaster, but Napoleon managed to hide stories of the worst aspects from his admirers in France.

>> Objectives

- Describe** how Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power.
- Explain** the impact of Napoleon and the Napoleonic Wars.
- Identify** the reasons for Napoleon's fall from power.
- Understand** how the Congress of Vienna tried to restore order to Europe.

>> Key Terms

- plebiscite
- Napoleonic Code
- Napoleonic Wars
- annex
- Continental System
- guerrilla warfare
- abdicate
- Congress of Vienna
- legitimacy
- Concert of Europe

Success fueled Napoleon's ambition. By 1799, he moved from victorious general to political leader. That year, he helped overthrow the weak Directory and set up a three-man governing board known as the Consulate. Another constitution was drawn up, but Napoleon soon took the title First Consul. In 1800, he forced Spain to return Louisiana Territory to France. In 1802, Napoleon had himself named consul for life.

Napoleon Crowns Himself Emperor Two years later, Napoleon had acquired enough power to assume the title Emperor of the French. He invited the pope to preside over his coronation in Paris. During the ceremony, however, Napoleon took the crown from the pope's hands and placed it on his own head. By this action, Napoleon meant to show that he owed his throne to no one but himself.

At each step on his rise to power, Napoleon had held a **plebiscite** (PLEB uh syt), or popular vote by ballot. Each time, the French strongly supported him, even after he had assumed absolute power as emperor. To understand why, we must look at his policies.

? **CITE EVIDENCE** How did Napoleon rise to power so quickly in France?



>> At Napoleon's coronation, he placed the crown on his own head to show that he was the source of his own power, not the pope.

Napoleon Reforms France

Napoleon consolidated his power by strengthening the central government. Order, security, and efficiency replaced liberty, equality, and fraternity as the slogans of the new regime.

Social and Economic Reforms To restore economic prosperity, Napoleon controlled prices, encouraged new industry, and built roads and canals. He set up a system of public schools under strict government control to ensure well-trained officials and military officers.

At the same time, Napoleon backed off from some of the Revolution's social reforms. He made peace with the Catholic Church in the Concordat of 1801. The Concordat kept the Church under state control but recognized religious freedom for Catholics. Revolutionaries who opposed the Church denounced the agreement, but Catholics welcomed it.

Napoleon won support across class lines. He encouraged émigrés to return, provided they take an oath of loyalty. Peasants were relieved when he recognized their right to lands they had bought from the Church and nobles during the Revolution.

The middle class, who had benefited most from the Revolution, approved of Napoleon's economic reforms and the restoration of order after years of chaos. Napoleon also opened jobs to all, based on talent, a popular policy among those who remembered the old aristocratic monopoly of power.

The Napoleonic Code Among Napoleon's most lasting reforms was a new code of laws, popularly called the **Napoleonic Code**. It embodied Enlightenment principles such as the equality of all citizens before the law, religious toleration, and the abolition of feudalism.

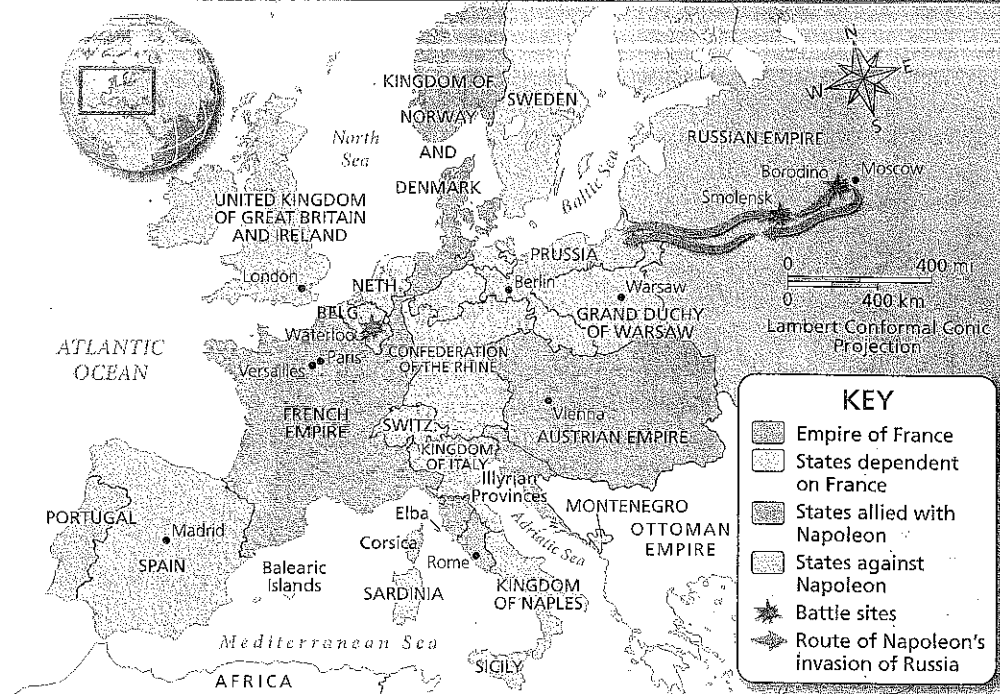
At the same time, the Napoleonic Code undid some reforms of the French Revolution. Women, for example, lost most of their newly gained rights and could not exercise the rights of citizenship. Male heads of households regained complete authority over their wives and children. Again, Napoleon valued order and authority over individual rights.

? **DESCRIBE** What were some of the reforms Napoleon introduced?

The Napoleonic Wars

From 1804 to 1812, Napoleon furthered his reputation on the battlefield. In a series of conflicts known as the **Napoleonic Wars**, he battled the combined forces of the greatest European powers. He took great risks and even suffered huge losses. "I grew up on the field

Napoleon's Europe (1804-1815)



>> **Analyze Maps** Napoleon reshaped the map of Europe with his military and political conquests. Who were Napoleon's allies?

Interactive Map

of battle," he once said, "and a man such as I am cares little for the life of a million men." By 1812, his Grand Empire reached its greatest extent.

As a military leader, Napoleon valued rapid movements and made effective use of his large armies. He developed a new plan for each battle so opposing generals could never anticipate what he would do next. His enemies paid tribute to his leadership. Napoleon's presence on the battlefield, said one, was "worth 40,000 troops."

Redrawing the Map of Europe As Napoleon created a vast French empire, he redrew the map of Europe. He **annexed**, or incorporated, into his empire the Netherlands, Belgium, and parts of Italy and Germany.

He also abolished the tottering Holy Roman Empire and created a 38 member Confederation of the Rhine under French protection. He cut Prussian territory in half, turning part of old Poland into the Grand Duchy of Warsaw.

Napoleon controlled much of Europe through forceful diplomacy. One tactic was placing friends and relatives on the thrones of Europe. For example, after unseating the king of Spain, he placed his own brother, Joseph Bonaparte, on the throne. He also forced alliances on European powers from Madrid to Moscow. At various times, the rulers of Austria, Prussia, and Russia

reluctantly signed treaties with the "Corsican ogre," as defeated monarchs called him.

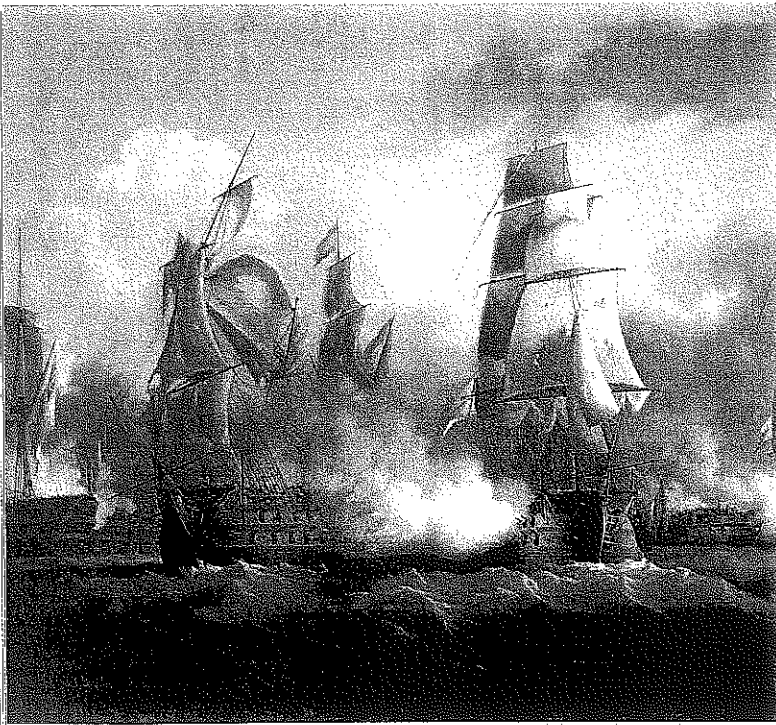
In France, Napoleon's successes boosted the spirit of nationalism. Great victory parades filled the streets of Paris with cheering crowds. The people celebrated the glory and grandeur that Napoleon had gained for France.

The Continental System Of all the major European powers, Britain alone remained outside Napoleon's European empire. With only a small army, Britain relied on its sea power to stop Napoleon's drive to rule the continent. In 1805, Napoleon prepared to invade England. But at the Battle of Trafalgar, fought off the southwest coast of Spain, British Admiral Horatio Nelson smashed the French fleet.

With an invasion ruled out, Napoleon struck at Britain's lifeblood, its commerce. He waged economic warfare through the **Continental System**, which closed European ports to British goods. Britain responded with its own blockade of European ports. A blockade involves shutting off ports to keep people or supplies from moving in or out.

During their long struggle, both Britain and France seized neutral ships suspected of trading with the other side. British attacks on American ships sparked

11
51



>> This painting depicts the Battle of Trafalgar, in which the British navy defeated the French on October 21, 1805.



>> Napoleon, shown here crossing the Alps on horseback, attempted to spread French culture across Europe.

 [Interactive Timeline](#)

anger in the United States and eventually triggered the War of 1812.

In the end, Napoleon's Continental System failed to bring Britain to its knees. Although British exports declined, Britain's powerful navy kept vital trade routes open to the Americas and India. Meanwhile, trade restrictions created a scarcity of goods in Europe, sent prices soaring, and intensified resentment against French power.

Impact of Napoleon's Conquests French armies under Napoleon spread ideas of the revolution across Europe. They backed liberal reforms in the lands they conquered. In some places, they helped install revolutionary governments that abolished titles of nobility, ended Church privileges, opened careers to men of talent, and ended serfdom and manorial dues. The Napoleonic Code, too, influenced countries in continental Europe and Latin America.

IDENTIFY CAUSE AND EFFECT How did Napoleon come to dominate most of Europe by 1812?

Challenges to the French Empire

In 1812, Napoleon continued his pursuit of European domination and invaded Russia. This campaign began a chain of events that eventually led to his downfall. Napoleon's final defeat brought an end to the era of the French Revolution.

Seeds of Defeat Napoleon's successes contained seeds of defeat. Although nationalism spurred French armies to success, it worked against them, too. Many Europeans who had welcomed the ideas of the French Revolution nevertheless saw Napoleon and his armies as foreign oppressors. They resented the Continental System and Napoleon's effort to impose French culture on them.

From Rome to Madrid to the Netherlands, nationalism unleashed revolts against France. In the German states, leaders encouraged national loyalty among German-speaking people to counter French influence.

Resistance in Spain Resistance to foreign rule bled French-occupying forces dry in Spain. Napoleon introduced reforms that sought to undermine the Spanish Catholic Church. But many Spaniards remained loyal to their former king and devoted to the Church. When the Spanish resisted the invaders, well-armed French forces responded with brutal repression.

Far from crushing resistance, however, the French response further inflamed Spanish nationalism. Efforts to drive out the French intensified.

Spanish patriots conducted a campaign of **guerrilla warfare**, or hit-and-run raids, against the French. (In Spanish, guerrilla means "little war.") Small bands of guerrillas ambushed French supply trains or troops before retreating into the countryside. These attacks kept large numbers of French soldiers tied down in Spain when Napoleon needed them elsewhere.

Austria Seeks Revenge Spanish resistance encouraged Austria to resume hostilities against the French. In 1805, at the Battle of Austerlitz, Napoleon had won a crushing victory against an Austro-Russian army of superior numbers. Now, in 1809, the Austrians sought revenge. But once again, Napoleon triumphed—this time at the Battle of Wagram. By the peace agreement that followed, Austria surrendered lands populated by more than three million subjects.

Napoleon Invades Russia Tsar Alexander I of Russia was once an ally of Napoleon. The tsar and Napoleon planned to divide Europe if Alexander helped Napoleon in his Continental System. Many countries objected to this system, and Russia became unhappy with the economic effects of the system as well. Yet another cause for concern was that Napoleon had enlarged the Grand Duchy of Warsaw that bordered Russia on the west.

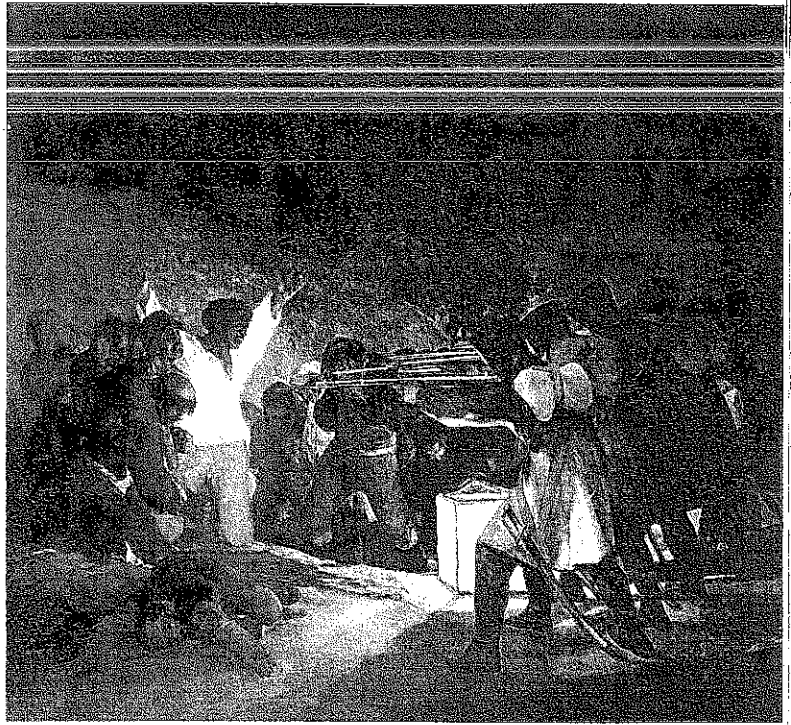
These and other issues led the tsar to withdraw his support from the Continental System. Napoleon responded to the tsar's action by assembling an army with soldiers from 20 nations, known as the Grand Army.

In 1812, with about 600,000 soldiers and 50,000 horses, Napoleon invaded Russia. To avoid battles with Napoleon, the Russians retreated eastward, burning crops and villages as they went. This scorched-earth policy left the French hungry and cold as winter came.

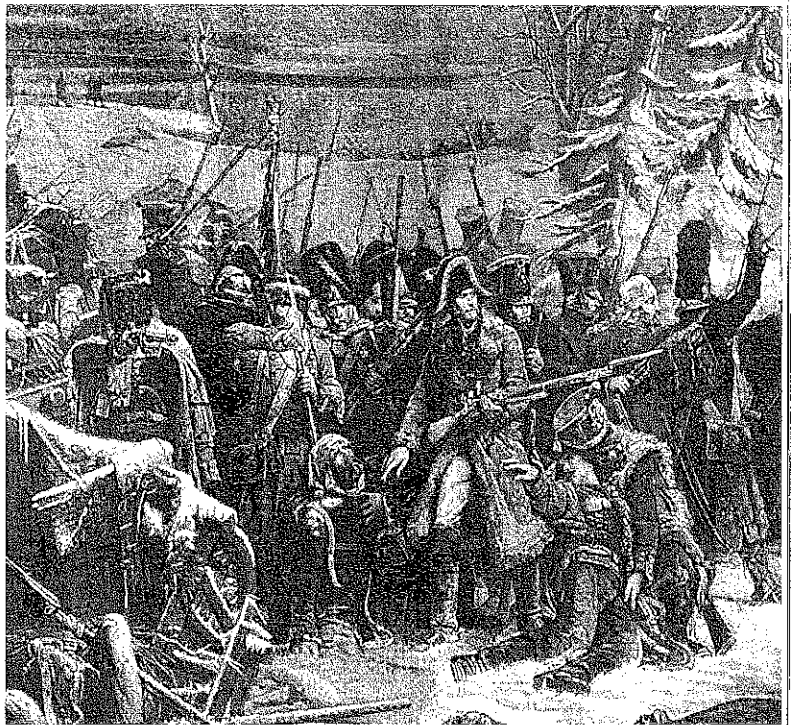
Napoleon entered Moscow in September. His triumph, however, was short-lived.

The Retreat from Moscow Even as French troops entered Moscow, Napoleon realized that he would not be able to feed and supply his army through the long Russian winter. In October, he turned homeward.

The 1,000-mile retreat from Moscow turned into a desperate battle for survival. Russian attacks and the brutal Russian winter took a terrible toll. Fewer than 20,000 soldiers of the once-proud Grand Army survived. Many died. Others deserted. French general Michel Ney sadly concluded, "General Famine and General



>> Spanish patriots bravely resisted French invaders. In his famous painting *Third of May 1808*, Spanish artist Francisco Goya shows the execution of Spanish resistance leaders by French troops.



>> The French invasion of Russia became a disaster when the lack of food and supplies combined with a hard winter to nearly destroy Napoleon's army.

Winter, rather than Russian bullets, have conquered the Grand Army.”

Napoleon rushed to Paris to raise a new force to defend France. His reputation for success had been shattered.

2 ANALYZE INFORMATION What led to Napoleon's disaster in Russia?

Napoleon Falls from Power

The disaster in Russia changed the course of the Napoleonic Wars. Russia, Britain, Austria, and Prussia formed a new alliance against a weakened France. In 1813, they defeated Napoleon in the Battle of the Nations at Leipzig.

Napoleon Abdicates Briefly The next year, Napoleon **abdicated**, or stepped down from power. The victors exiled him to Elba, an island in the Mediterranean. They then recognized Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI, as king of France.

The restoration of Louis XVIII did not go smoothly. He agreed to accept the Napoleonic Code and honor the land settlements made during the Revolution. However, many émigrés rushed back to France bent on revenge.



>> Once the scourge of Europe, Napoleon eventually fell from power. This painting shows Napoleon in exile.

An economic depression and the fear of a return to the old regime helped rekindle loyalty to Napoleon.

As the victorious allies gathered in Vienna for a general peace conference, Napoleon escaped his island exile and returned to France. Soldiers flocked to his banner. As citizens cheered Napoleon's advance, Louis XVIII fled. In March 1815, Napoleon entered Paris in triumph.

Napoleon Is Defeated at Waterloo Napoleon's triumph was short-lived. His star soared for only 100 days, while the allies reassembled their forces. On June 18, 1815, the opposing armies met near the town of Waterloo in Belgium. British forces under the Duke of Wellington and a Prussian army commanded by General Blücher crushed the French in an agonizing day-long battle. Once again, Napoleon was forced to abdicate and to go into exile on St. Helena, a lonely island in the South Atlantic. This time, he would not return.

Napoleon's Legacy Napoleon died in 1821, but his legend lived on in France and around the world. His contemporaries as well as historians today have long debated his legacy. Was he “the Revolution on horseback,” as he claimed? Or was he a traitor to the Revolution?

No one, however, questions Napoleon's impact on France and on Europe. The Napoleonic Code consolidated many changes of the Revolution. The France of Napoleon was a centralized state with a constitution. Elections were held with expanded, though limited, suffrage. Many more citizens had rights to property and access to education than under the old regime. Still, French citizens lost many rights promised so fervently by republicans during the Convention.

On the world stage, the Napoleonic Wars spread the ideas of the French Revolution. He failed to make Europe into a French empire. Instead, he sparked nationalist feelings across Europe. The abolition of the Holy Roman Empire would eventually help in creating a new Germany.

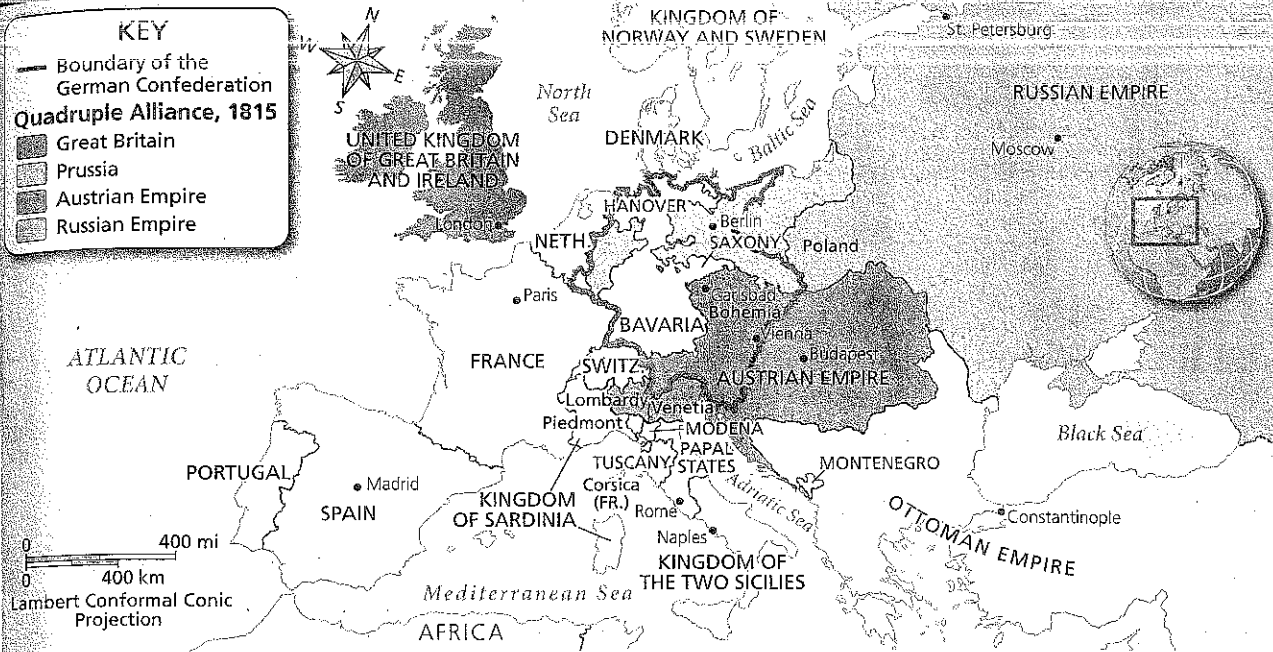
Napoleon's impact also reached across the Atlantic. In 1803, his decision to sell France's vast Louisiana Territory to the American government doubled the size of the United States and ushered in an age of American expansion.

2 ANALYZE INFORMATION Why were the French so eager for Napoleon to return to France after his escape from Elba?

Europe after the Congress of Vienna

KEY

- Boundary of the German Confederation
- Quadruple Alliance, 1815**
- Great Britain
- Prussia
- Austrian Empire
- Russian Empire



Analyze Maps Why did the Congress of Vienna enlarge some of the countries around France?

The Congress of Vienna

After Waterloo, diplomats and heads of state again sat down at the **Congress of Vienna**. They faced the monumental task of restoring stability and order in Europe after years of war.

The Congress met for 10 months, from September 1814 to June 1815. It was a brilliant gathering of European leaders. Diplomats and royalty dined and danced, attended concerts and ballets, and enjoyed parties arranged by their host, Emperor Francis I of Austria. The work fell to Prince Clemens von Metternich of Austria, Tsar Alexander I of Russia, and Lord Robert Castlereagh of Britain. Defeated France was represented by Prince Charles Maurice de Talleyrand.

Goals of the Congress The chief goal of the Vienna decision makers was to create a lasting peace by establishing a balance of power and protecting the system of monarchy. Each of the leaders also pursued his own goals. Metternich, the dominant figure at the congress, wanted to restore things to the way they were in 1792. Alexander I urged a "holy alliance" of Christian monarchs to suppress future revolutions.

Lord Castlereagh was determined to prevent a revival of French military power. The aged diplomat Talleyrand shrewdly played the other leaders against one another so France would be accepted as an equal partner.

Restoring Peace and Order The peacemakers redrew the map of Europe. To contain French ambitions, they ringed France with strong countries. In the north, they added Belgium and Luxembourg to Holland to create the kingdom of the Netherlands. To prevent French expansion eastward, they gave Prussia lands along the Rhine River. They also allowed Austria to reassert control over northern Italy.

To turn back the clock to 1792, the architects of the peace promoted the principle of **legitimacy**, restoring hereditary monarchies that the French Revolution or Napoleon had unseated. Even before the Congress began, they had put Louis XVIII on the French throne. Later, they restored "legitimate" monarchs in Portugal, Spain, and the Italian states.

Successes and Failures To protect the new order, Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Great Britain extended their wartime alliance. In the Quadruple Alliance, the four nations pledged to act together to balance power and suppress uprisings. They then set up the **Concert of Europe**, a loose organization whose goal was to preserve the agreements set up by the Congress of Vienna. The four great powers—and later France—worked to suppress any uprising inspired by the French Revolution. The Concert of Europe was the first modern international peace keeping organization.

The Vienna statesmen achieved their immediate goals in creating a lasting peace. Peace lasted in Europe for the next 100 years. Although smaller wars broke out, Europe would not see war on a Napoleonic scale until 1914. They failed, however, to foresee how powerful new forces such as nationalism would shake the foundations of Europe and Latin America in the future.

ANALYZE INFORMATION What was the chief goal of the Congress of Vienna?

ELPS **ELPS 4.F.1** Practice using special features in the text, like bolded headings and maps, to better understand the content that is presented.

ASSESSMENT

1. **Identify** What political views did Napoleon spread in Europe that angered monarchs?
2. **Describe** In what way was the Continental System an act of economic warfare? Why did it fail?
3. **Describe** In what way did Napoleon's actions doom his dream of creating a French empire in Europe?
4. **Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast the goals of Prince Clemens von Metternich of Austria and Britain's Lord Castlereagh during the Congress of Vienna.
5. **Draw Conclusions** Why might some of the French have resisted a return to a monarchy?

