

Chapter 17 - France: Road to Revolution

France Under Louis XIV - Louis the 14th

Nickname - the **Sun King**

- He was the epitome of an absolute ruler - "I am the state."
- Built Palace of Versailles
- Taxed the peasants heavily
- Colonized America
- Revoked Edict of Nantes & severely limited freedom of Huguenots - many fled to America (But not allowed in New France) It was said that *France drove out Christianity with the Huguenots*



French Presence in America

- Marquette & Joliet explored central Mississippi River
- La Salle claimed entire Mississippi Valley for France, naming it Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV
- French established fur trade in New World
- New France - Canada, Great Lakes Region, Mississippi Valley

War of the Spanish Succession under Louis XIV

- His grandson Phillip was named to throne of Spain & Grandpa Louis XIV recognized the claim
- The rest of Europe was against it because it would give the Bourbon royal family too much power and control in Europe
- War broke out when Louis XIV recognized his grandson's claim
- General John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (ancestor of Winston Churchill) & Battle of Blenheim victory

The Enlightenment & the American Revolution vs the French Revolution

The Enlightenment was a movement that promoted human reason as the sole criterion for truth

The Enlightenment believed that reason should be used for social engineering to create a "perfect society"

In their quest for a "perfect" society, the philosophers of the French Enlightenment denounced Christianity and attacked the traditional institutions of home, church, & government.

John Locke & Enlightenment in America

- His writings influenced Voltaire and Rousseau, as well as the American revolutionaries.
- His contributions to classical republicanism are reflected in the American Declaration of Independence.
- He argues that ownership of property is a natural right and it is derived from the application of labor.
- Karl Marx was a critic of his.

Voltaire - Father of the *Enlightenment*

- witty, intellectual writer who openly attacked Christianity in the name of reason

Jean-Jacques Rousseau - Father of French *Romanticism*

- believed that man is naturally good, but society is bad
- promoted the view that society is the corrupting influence on people who are born good
- promoted the myth of the "noble savage" - the idea that people in uncivilized societies are morally superior to civilized people
- The Social Contract - new order of society founded upon the "general will of the people"
- Helped formulate modern ideas about permissive child rearing and progressive education

American Revolution

George III - King of England

American War for Independence

- Revere & Dawes' Ride & Old North Church
- Lexington Green & Old North Bridge
- Continental Congress
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- Declaration of Independence
- Nathan Hale Executed without a trial for spying on British
- Crossing the Delaware
- Articles of Confederation
- Valley Forge



- Yorktown
- End of War
- United States Constitution

French Revolution

Louis XVI & his wife Marie Antoinette (Austrian princess who married him at age 14 to unite the kingdoms)

The Three Estates:

- First Estate - The Clergy
- Second Estate - The Nobility
- Third Estate - Everybody else - over 90% of the people - from lowest peasant to prosperous middle class

CHAIN OF EVENTS IN REVOLUTION:

- Third Estate discontent & highly taxed - for Nobility, taxes were optional
- Crop failure led to massive food shortage
- Louis XVI called the Estates-General (the French Parliament) which had not been called for over 170 years
- "Tennis Court Oath" that they would not leave until a new national constitution had been written
- The Fall of the Bastille - a prison used as an armory

Killed the officials who worked there - beheaded the chief official and put his head on a pole (Off to a very different start than American Revolution)

- Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
- Women's March Upon Versailles
- Royal Family moved to Tuileries Palace in Paris
- Assembly abolishes religious orders and aristocratic hereditary titles

Many nobles move to other European countries, including most military officers (allowing an untitled upstart named Napoleon to rise in the ranks)

- Pope condemns the revolution
- Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette and children try to escape
- Holy Roman Emperor Leopold II starts forming an alliance with European monarchs to come to Louis XVI's aid
- Conflict among the Revolutionaries was rising

The **Radical Jacobins** pushed for extreme social engineering and creation of their version of a "Republic"

Moderate Revolutionaries wanted a Constitutional Monarchy

- Warning sent to the Revolutionaries by the Austro-Prussian army!
- Power of Jacobin faction grows - Big name Jacobins: Robespierre (the Jacobin leader), Danton, Marat
- Robespierre calls for death of Louis XVI
- Assembly authorizes the round up and arrest of "enemies of the state" (anyone saying anything against the revolution)
- Assembly prohibits newspapers that are against the revolutionaries
- Marquis de Lafayette had originally helped the revolution, but now he flees to Austria to fight against it
- Austro-Prussian army invades France
- The September massacres
- Louis XVI tried and sentenced by one vote - sent to guillotine
- Committee of Public Safety established to root out their enemies - set policy of terrorizing enemies of revolution
- **Reign of Terror grows!**
- Charlotte Corday - peasant woman - assassinates Marat for the cause of bringing peace to France
- Revolts break out among the French people around the country to fight against the revolutionaries
- Marie Antoinette guillotined
- Revolutionaries begin turning on each other / Robespierre guillotines Danton and his Dantonites
- Festival of Supreme Being held by Robespierre who is losing credibility - people see he is "losing it"
- Robespierre and his followers guillotined
- Jacobin order is officially ended - end of Reign of Terror



Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon has been rising in military ranks

Napoleon stages a coup d'état making himself First Consul of the new Consulate

