Key Events

• The Fall of the Bastille Was the start of the French Revolution
• The Committee of Public Safety Began the Reign of Terror
• Napoleon Bonaparte Created the French Empire
• Allied Forces Defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo
Background to the Revolution

- Inequality Led to the Revolution in France
  - France was Divided into Three Estates
    - First Estate - The Clergy, (About 130,000 people)
      - Clergy Was Exempt from Taxation
    - Second Estate - The Nobility (350,000 people)
      - The nobility held government positions and had special privileges
      - Nobility Sought to Increase their own power and influence at the expense of the monarchy
Background to the Revolution

◊ The French Third Estate
  ◊ Commoners that made up 98% of the French Population

◊ Divisions within the Third Estate
  ◊ Peasants - 80% of the Total Population
    ◊ This was a Relic of Feudalism Still Existing in France
  ◊ Artisans, Shopkeepers, & other Wage Earners
    ◊ Inflation in France Hurt these people because Wages could not keep up with the increase in prices
Background to the Revolution

Divisions within the Third Estate

- The Bourgeoisie (Middle Class) 8% of the Population
- The Bourgeoisie owned about 25% of the Property in France
- Made up of Professional People - Merchants, Teachers, Lawyers, etc.
  - They wanted their own special privileges
- Aristocrats and Bourgeoisie were influenced by the ideas of the Enlightenment
Background to the Revolution

- The French Government was in Economic Chaos
  - Government was near Collapse
  - One-Third of the Population Lived in Poverty
  - The Poor Lived in Deplorable Conditions
- As Conditions Worsened, Louis XVI and his Queen Marie Antoinette Continued to Spend on Wars and Luxuries
  - Louis XVI called for a meeting of the Estates General to Ask for money
Background to the Revolution

King Louis XVI of France

Queen Marie Antoinette
From Estates- outlaw to National Assembly

✩ Each of the Three Estates Was Represented in the Estates-General

✩ The Third Estate Wanted a Constitutional Government Ending the Privileges of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} Estates

✩ Each Estate had \textbf{One Vote} regardless of the number of people they represented

✩ Even though the Representation of the Third Estate was larger, They were outvoted 2 to 1
From Estates-General to National Assembly

- The Third Estate Began Calling Itself the National Assembly
  - They Decided to Draft a National Constitution for France
  - They were Locked out of their Meeting Place, and Forced to Relocate to a Tennis Court Next Door
From Estates-General to National Assembly

- The Tennis Court Oath
  - The Third Estate would continue to meet until they had drafted a National Constitution
From Estates-General to National Assembly

- The King Sought to Crush the Third Estate
  - Commoners Seized Control of the Bastille to Secure Weapons and free political prisoners
- The Storming of the Bastille marked the End of the King’s authority
- The “Great Fear” Swept across France in 1789
  - People Thought Foreign Troops Would be Used to Support the Monarchy
  - Across France, Militias were formed to Resist Invasion
Outbreak of Revolution

- July 14, 1789 a Mob Stormed the Bastille
  - The Bastille Was:
    - A State Armory
    - A Prison for Political Prisoners
  - “Liberty, Equality, & Fraternity” was the Rallying Cry of the French Revolution

The Storming of the Bastille Marked a New Political order in France
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- The National Assembly First sought to destroy the Relics of Feudalism (Aristocratic Privileges)
  - August, 1789- the Assembly Adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
  - Declaration Ended Exemption from Taxation
  - Guaranteed Equal Rights for all men
  - Offices in Government were to be based on Talent
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- Declaration of the Rights of Man
  - All Citizens could take part in the making of laws
  - Freedom of Speech and Press were Granted
  - The Declaration Stopped Short of Granting Women the Rights of Men
  - Women were encouraged to stay out of politics
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- Olympe de Gouges Sought Equal Rights for Women in France
- She Would Not Accept the Exclusion of Women from the Political Process
- She was instrumental in the role of the French Women in the Revolution

- Declaration of the Rights of Women and the Female Citizen
- Her Plea was ignored by the National Assembly
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- Louis XVI Refused to Recognize the Laws of the National Assembly
  - Thousands of Parisian Women Marched to Versailles
  - They forced the King to accept the new decrees
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- The Women Forced the Royal Family to Return to Paris
  - The Women Escorted the Royal Family to Paris
  - Some of the Women Got Kisses from Louis XVI
  - The Royal Family was Virtually Held Prisoner in Paris
- Louis Gave the Women Flour from the King’s Storeroom to help feed Starving Children
The National Assembly Called for the Nationalization of the Church in France

- Seized and held Church Property
- Bishops and Priests were to be Elected by the People and Paid by the Government
- Many Catholics Opposed Government Control of the Church, Thus they opposed the Revolution
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- French Constitution of 1791
  - Limited Monarchy
  - Legislative Assembly Made Laws
  - Men Over Age 25 Who Paid Significant Taxes Could Vote
  - Some People Were Hurt by these Reforms and Opposed the New Order
  - King Louis XVI tried to Flee France, but was Caught and Returned
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- Austria and Prussia Threatened to Come to Louis’ Aid
- The Legislative Assembly Declared War on Austria
- France Lost Battles, and Many Distrusted the Legislative Assembly
  - Defeat Led to New Political Demonstrations
  - Radicals from the Paris Commune Attacked the Legislative Assembly and Royal Palace
  - Louis XVI Was Captured, and They demanded an end to the Monarchy
The Destruction of the Old Regime

- French Revolution - The Radical Phase
  - Power Went to the Paris Commune and the “sans-culottes” (ordinary people)

- Sans-Culottes
  - Working People, the Poor, Merchants and Artisans
  - The name means “Without fancy clothes”
The Move to Radicalism

- **Georges Danton** - Leader of the *sans-culottes* oversaw the massacre of thousands of people who had supported the king.

- Radical Leader **Jean-Paul Marat** published “*Friend of the People*” encouraging the poor to take from the rich by violence.
The Move to Radicalism

- **The National Convention - 1792**
  - Both a Constitutional Convention and a Ruling body
  - National Convention Ended the Monarchy and Established the French Republic
- **What Should Happen to Louis XVI? (2 Factions)**
  - **Mountain** (from the Cities) - Wanted to Kill the King
  - **Girondins** (from the rural areas) - Wanted to Keep the King alive
- **Jean-Paul Marat was a Mountain, and was Assassinated for his views**
The Move to Radicalism

- Execution of Louis XVI
  - The Mountain faction won, and Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine on January 21, 1793
  - Parts of France Refused to accept the Rule of the Radical National Convention
  - Monarchs from all over Europe Were Outraged
  - The National Convention formed the 12 Member Committee of Public Safety

Execution of King Louis XVI
The Move to Radicalism

- Committee of Public Safety
  - The Committee was organized to meet the threat of foreign invasion and domestic disobedience
  - Maximilien Robespierre led the Committee
  - Called the “Incorruptible” he was a believer in Rousseau’s “Social Contract”
  - Anyone who violated the general will should be executed
The Reign of Terror

- The Reign of Terror was Led by the National Convention and the Committee of Public Safety (1793–1794)
  - 40,000 Enemies of the Revolution Were Killed during the Reign of Terror
    - Anyone who opposed the *sans-culottes* could be killed
    - Revolutionary Armies were sent to subdue Rebellious Cities
      - Lyon - 1,800 Citizens were Executed
      - Nantes - Citizens were Executed by drowning in the Loire River
The Reign of Terror

- The National Convention and the Committee of Public Safety
  - Most of the People Executed were Peasants and Bourgeoisie
  - Only 15% were Clergy and Nobles
  - Young people were Recruited to the Patriot Army in Support of the Revolution
  - Agents were sent throughout France to Implement the New Laws
  - France Called itself the “Republic of Virtue”
The Reign of Terror

- Attempts were made to “Dechristianize” France
  - The Word “saint” was removed from street names
  - Churches were closed
  - A new Calendar was adopted starting with September 22, 1792 (First day of the French Republic)
    - Sundays were eliminated, Each week was 10 days
  - The cathedral of Notre Dame was called the “temple of reason”
A Nation at Arms

- Committee of Public Safety Called for a Universal Mobilization in 1793
  - By 1794 the French Army was over 1 Million
  - Invading Armies Were Crushed – Warfare was changed forever (More destructive)
    - The New French Army was a “people’s army” fighting on behalf of the people of France
    - No longer were small armies fighting on behalf of the government
  - Robespierre was obsessed with ridding France of its Domestic enemies
Robespierre was feared by the National Convention and was Executed

With the death of Robespierre, the Reign of Terror Ended
The Directory

- The Directory 1795–1799
  - 5 Member Committee Acting as the Executive body in France (Elected by the Council of Elders)
  - The Constitution of 1795 Established two Legislative Chambers
    - Council of 500 – Lower House
    - Council of Elders – The Upper House (250 Members)
  - Only 30,000 People in France Could Vote due to Property Ownership Requirements
  - Under the Directory the Government was Corrupt
- 1799 – *coup d’état* Led by Napoleon Bonaparte toppled the Directory and Napoleon took power
The Rise of Napoleon

★ Napoleon dominated European History from 1799 to 1815
★ Napoleon was born in 1769 on the French Island of Corsica in the Mediterranean
★ He started his military training at age 4, and attended a Military school in France
★ He was commissioned as a lieutenant in the French Army in 1785
★ At age 24 He became a Brigadier General through his success in Italy
The Rise of Napoleon

★ Napoleon Became a hero in France
  ★ He combined intelligence, wit, charm, and decisiveness to gain the support of his soldiers

★ As the Ruler of France, Napoleon Held Absolute Power
  ★ The New Government was called the Consulate, and Napoleon was the First Consul
The Rise of Napoleon

★ Napoleon Controlled both the Military and the Government
★ 1802 - Made himself consul for life
★ 1804 - Crowned himself Emperor Napoleon I
Napoleon’s Domestic Policies

★ Napoleon Made Peace with the Church

★ 1801 - An agreement with the Pope made Catholicism the official religion of most of France

★ In return, Church lands were not returned to the Church

★ This gave Napoleon the support of both the Church and the revolutionaries
Napoleon’s Domestic Policies

★ Most Important domestic accomplishment was the Reform of the French Legal System

★ Napoleonic Code

★ Equality before the Law
★ Religious Toleration
★ People Could Choose their own Profession
★ Ended Feudalism in France
★ Outlawed Unions and Strikes
★ Undid Reforms that favored Women
Napoleon’s Domestic Policies

★ Government under Napoleon

★ Created a powerful central Government
★ Promotion was based on Ability
★ Napoleon Created a new aristocracy based on merit in the service of State
★ He created 3,263 Nobles between 1808 - 1814 Most from the military and the middle class
Napoleon’s Domestic Policies

Did Napoleon Preserve the Ideals of the French Revolution?

- Yes – His Civil Code recognized Equality before the law and Government Careers were opened to more people

- No – He was a Dictator
  - 60 of France’s 73 Newspapers were shut down
  - Government had to approve anything that was published
  - Government Police read people’s mail
Napoleon’s Domestic Policies

★ Anne-Louise-Germaine de Staël

★ Author who had a Salon for the powerful between 1790 and 1804

★ Denounced Napoleon as a Tyrant

★ He Banned her books and Exiled her

★ Napoleon felt that a woman’s role was to have children

Anne-Louise-Germaine de Staël
Napoleon’s Empire

★ Napoleon’s Conquests began in 1803
★ From 1805 – 1807 His Army Defeated the armies of Austria, Prussia, and Russia

★ His Grand Empire Had Three Parts
1. French Empire
2. Dependent States – Ruled by Napoleon’s Relatives
3. Allied States – Nations that Were defeated and forced to Join with France in War against England
Napoleon’s Empire

- Napoleon tried to spread the principles of the Revolution
  - Equality before the law, Religious Toleration, Economic Freedom
  - Tried to Destroy Feudalism - Nobility and Clergy Lost Privileges
  - Many of these reforms had a lasting impact on European nations
The European Response

- Two Factors Caused the Collapse of Napoleon’s Empire
  - The Survival of Great Britain
  - Force of Nationalism
- England Survived Because of their Sea Power
The European Response

★ Battle of Trafalgar - 1805
  ★ Britain Defeated a combined French and Spanish Fleet
  ★ Napoleon’s Dream of Invading England Ended
The European Response

★ Napoleon and the Continental System

★ A Blockade of European Ports Was Designed to Keep English Goods out of Europe

★ The Continental System Caused More Hardships on Continental Europe than on England

★ England Continued to Export to North America, Latin America, and the Middle East

★ Napoleon Lacked the Sea Power to Provide an Effective Blockade
The European Response

★ Nationalism - Cultural Identity of a people based on language, traditions, and national symbols

★ Often the French were viewed as the hated oppressors

Napoleon arrives in Berlin
The Fall of Napoleon

★ Napoleon’s Fall began With his Invasion of Russia

★ 1812 - Napoleon Led the Grand Army of 600,000 Men Into Russia

★ The Russians Refused to Fight
★ Retreated Using a “Scorched Earth” Tactic
★ They could afford to trade land for time
★ The French had greatly overextended their line of supply
★ Lacking Food Napoleon Retreated in October
The Fall of Napoleon

- The “Great Retreat” from Russia
- Terrible Winter Conditions
- Fewer than 40,000 made it back to Poland
European Nations Rallied to Attack the Crippled French Army

Paris Was Captured in 1814 and Napoleon was Exiled to Elba Island off the Italian Coast
The Fall of Napoleon

★ Napoleon’s Escape from Elba (The 100 Days Campaign)
  ★ Napoleon arrived on Elba on May 4, 1814
  ★ He Escaped With a Small army on February 26, 1815 and headed for Paris
  ★ He Entered Paris in Triumph on March 20, 1815
★ European Powers once again joined forces to defeat Napoleon
The Fall of Napoleon

- The Battle of Waterloo in Belgium in 1815 Napoleon was finally Defeated by a combined English and Prussian Army under the Duke of Wellington
The Fall of Napoleon

★ Napoleon Was Exiled to St. Helena in the Mid-Atlantic
★ His power Ended, He Died on St. Helena on May 5, 1821
★ He was 51 years old
The Fall of Napoleon

- Napoleon is Buried in Paris