

RADICAL DAYS

The Monarchy Abolished

Outbreaks of Violence - the Tuileries (royal palace in Paris) was invaded by Parisians on Aug. 10, 1792 - king's guards were slaughtered, royal family fled to Legislative Assembly

- September massacres - citizens killed imprisoned nobles and priests accused of political offenses, along with many ordinary criminals

The French Republic - radicals in the Assembly called for the election of a legislative body called the National Convention - suffrage (the right to vote) would be extended to all male citizens - Convention voted to abolish the monarchy, declare France a republic, seize lands of nobles, abolish tithes of nobility - Jacobins controlled the Convention

Death of the King and Queen - Louis XVI was put on trial as a traitor to France, found guilty and sentenced to death, beheaded by guillotine - Jan. 1793

- Marie Antoinette also executed - Oct. 1793 - their son, the uncrowned Louis XVII, died of unknown causes in the dungeons of the revolution

The Convention Defends the Republic

The Committee of Public Safety - 12-member committee that had almost absolute power as it battled to save the revolution - committee prepared country for all-out war, required all citizens to contribute to the war effort

Maximilien Robespierre - member of the Jacobins, a politician and a lawyer - became leader of the CPS - he supported Rousseau's idea of the general will, promoted religious tolerance, sought to abolish slavery - said that "liberty cannot be secured unless criminals lose their heads"

The Reign of Terror - July 1793 - July 1794 - led by Robespierre

- about 40,000 people were executed by guillotine

- 15% were nobles/clergy, 15% were middle-class citizens, 70% were peasants who revolted against the republic
- many of those executed were victims of mistaken identity and false accusations - the guillotine became a symbol of horror and an efficient method of execution
- Convention claimed that Robespierre's methods were too extreme, forced him to stop
- he was arrested and executed by guillotine on July 28, 1794

Reaction and the Directory

- moderates wanted to move away from the violence of the Reign of Terror - drafted the Constitution of 1795: govt. would consist of a five-man Directory and a two-house legislature
- directors abused their power, few problems were solved - Directory held power from 1795 to 1799

Women in the Revolution

- women from all classes participated, but Dec. of the Rights of Man didn't give equal citizenship to women
- some rights were gained: govt. made divorce easier (aimed at weakening the Church's power), women could inherit property - these reforms were short-lived (would be abolished by Napoleon)

Changes in Daily Life - nationalism (a strong feeling of pride in and devotion to one's country) spread across France

- Social Reform - rev. govt. set up state schools, abolished slavery, de-Christianized France
- The Arts - classical Roman style of artist Jacques Louis David became popular
- he painted many portraits of Napoleon and scenes of the revolution

THE AGE OF NAPOLEON BEGINS

Napoleon's Rise to Power - Napoleon Bonaparte was born on French-ruled island of Corsica - family were minor nobles - as a boy, he was sent to France for a military career

Early Successes - rose quickly in the army during the revolution

- 1799 - moved from victorious general to political leader
- helped overthrow the Directory, set up a 3-man governing board, the Consulate
- he took title of First Consul, and in 1802, named himself consul for life

A Self-Made Emperor - 1804 - took the title of Emperor of the French - crowned emperor by Pope Pius VII at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (actually, Napoleon took the crown from the pope's hands and crowned himself)

- he set up plebiscites - ballots in which voters say yes or no to an issue - each time, voters strongly supported him

France Under Napoleon

Reforms - regulated economy to control prices, encouraged new industry, built roads and canals, promoted system of public schools under strict govt. control

- he backed off from some social reforms of the rev.
- Concordat of 1801 - kept Church under state control, but recognized religious freedom of Catholics
- won support across class lines - support from peasants and middle class (bourgeoisie benefited most from the rev.)
- only royalists (right-wing) and republicans (left-wing) opposed him

The Napoleonic Code - also known as the Civil Code - embodied Enlightenment principles: 1. equality of all (male) citizens before the law 2. religious toleration 3. advancement based on merit

- Code undid some reforms of the rev. - women lost most of their newly gained rights
- under Napoleon, they were considered minors who couldn't exercise the rights of citizenship - male heads of households regained complete authority over their wives and children
- Napoleon valued order and authority over individual rights

Building an Empire

The Grand Empire - Napoleon annexed (added outright) some areas to France (Netherlands, Belgium, parts of Italy and Germany), abolished the Holy Roman Empire, created a 38-member Confederation of the Rhine under French control, cut Prussia in half, turning part of old Poland into the Grand Duchy of Warsaw

- leaders of Austria, Prussia, and Russia reluctantly signed treaties with him, who they called the "Corsican upstart"
- put his family and friends on the thrones of Europe (his brother Joseph became king of Spain)
- divorced his wife Josephine (didn't give him a son), married Marie Louise of Austria (a Hapsburg princess), niece of Marie Antoinette

France vs. Britain - Battle of Trafalgar - 1805 - fought off SW coast of Spain - French vs. British navy - his attempt to invade Britain by sea failed - Horatio Nelson - British admiral who smashed the French fleet - died in battle, became a British war hero

- Napoleon tried to attack Britain's economy through the Continental System - a blockade which closed European ports to British goods

- Britain responded with their own blockade - they (and the French) seized neutral ships suspected of trading with the enemy - British attacks on U.S. ships sparked the War of 1812

- Continental System failed - British exports declined, but their navy kept open vital trade routes to the Americas and India
- restrictions on trade hurt Europe - goods became scarce, prices soared
- many European merchants ignored Napoleon's ban on British goods, smuggling was widespread
- resentment against French power intensified

THE END OF AN ERA

Challenges to Napoleon's Empire - French armies backed liberal reforms in the lands they conquered - helped install rev. gots. that abolished tithes of nobility, ended Church privileges, opened careers to men of talent, ended serfdom & manorial dues

Impact of Nationalism - Napoleon's successes contained the seeds of defeat - Europeans who welcomed French rev. ideas saw French armies as oppressors - all over Europe, nationalism unleashed revolts against France

Resistance in Spain - French brutally repressed Spanish nationalists who fought to expel French forces - Spanish patriots used guerrilla warfare, or hit-and-run raids, against the French (*guerrilla* means "little war") - Britain eventually sent an army (under the Duke of Wellington), to help the Spanish fight France

War With Austria - 1805 - Battle of Austerlitz - Napoleon won a crushing victory against an Austro-Russian army of superior numbers - beat Austria again at Battle of Wagram - 1809 - in treaty, Austria forced to turn over land to France

- 1810 - Napoleon divorced his wife, Josephine (she hadn't given him a male heir)
- married Austrian princess, Marie Louise (daughter of Austrian emperor, great-niece of Marie Antoinette)

Defeat in Russia - Czar Alexander I of Russia was disturbed by Napoleon's alliance with Austrian royal family, unhappy with economic effects of the Cont. Sys., Napoleon's Grand Duchy of Warsaw bordered Russia - when the czar pulled Russia out of the Cont. Sys., Napoleon assembled his Grand Army

- 1812 - over 400,000 soldiers from France and other countries invaded Russia - Russians retreated, using "scorched earth" policy as they went (burned crops and villages) - this left French troops cold and hungry when winter came

- French troops began to retreat in Oct., brutal winter weather hit - French soldiers starved, froze, deserted, some killed by Russian troops - only 10,000 soldiers of the Grand Army remained - invasion had been a disaster

Downfall of Napoleon

Exile and Return - 1814 - Napoleon abdicated (stepped down from power), exiled to Med. island of Elba - Louis XVIII (brother of Louis XVI) took the throne - Napoleon escaped the island, returned to France - March 1815 - Louis XVIII fled, Napoleon reclaimed position as emperor

Battle of Waterloo - June 18, 1815 - Napoleon's army met armies led by Duke of Wellington (Britain) and General Blucher (Prussia) at Waterloo, Belgium

- French forces were crushed in a day-long battle
- Napoleon forced to abdicate again, forced by Britain into exile on remote Atlantic Ocean island of St. Helena - he died there in 1821

Legacy of Napoleon - he had a profound impact on France and Europe: Napoleonic Code consolidated many changes of the rev., France became a centralized state with a constitution, elections were held with expanded (and limited) suffrage, citizens had more property rights and access to education - some rights promised by republicans during the Convention were lost

- ideas of rev. spread as a result of his conquests - nationalist feeling spread across Europe - 1803- his sale of France's Louisiana Territory (Louisiana Purchase) ushered in an era of American expansion

The Congress of Vienna

Gathering of Leaders - leaders of Austria, Russia, Britain, and France met for 10 months (Sept. 1814-June 1815) - faced the task of restoring stability and order to Europe after years of revolution and war

Goals of the Congress: 1. create a lasting peace by establishing a balance of power and protecting the system of monarchy 2. Prince Clemens von Metternich of Austria wanted to restore the *status quo* of 1792 3. Czar Alexander I of Russia urged for a "holy alliance" of Christian monarchs to suppress future revolutions 4. Lord Robert Castlereagh of Britain wanted to prevent a revival of French military power

Balance of Power - peacemakers redrew the map of Europe, ringed France with strong countries, added Belgium and Luxembourg to Holland to create the kingdom of the Netherlands, gave Prussia lands along the Rhine River, allowed Austria to reassert control over northern Italy

Restoration of Monarchs - peacemakers promoted legitimacy, restoring hereditary monarchies that the French Rev. or Napoleon had unseated

Problems of the Peace - Austria, Russia, Prussia and Britain formed the Quadruple Alliance, pledging to act together to maintain the balance of power and to suppress revolutionary uprisings

- Vienna peacekeepers achieved their immediate goals, but failed to see how forces like nationalism would shake the foundations of Europe
- Europe would not see war on a Napoleonic scale until 1914 (start of World War I)