

- French Revolution(s)
- First Stage: 1788-1789 – End of Absolute Monarchy
 - Aristocratic structure = “Old Regime”
 - 1st = Clergy
 - 2nd = Nobility
 - 3rd = Estate
 - Ineffective gov’t
 - The King – Louis XVI (1774-1792)
 - Huge handicap = wife – Marie Antoinette
 - Financial Emergency
 - Root = gov’t not cover expenses
 - Debt tripled
 - Gov’t continues deficit spending
 - Regional Parlements
 - 1786 - Crises begins
 - Banks refuse new advances to gov’t
 - de Calonne drafts five proposals
 - 1788 – Louis attempts action but retreats
 - Estates General summoned
 - Two mistakes – voting & agenda

- Grinds to standstill
 - Emmanuel Sieyès - *What is the Third Estate?*
 - “National Assembly” organizes
 - Louis tries to resist but NA continues
 - Louis locks hall = “Tennis Court Oath”
 - *Séance Royale* = more 2nd join NA
 - Louis flip-flops
 - NA begins new constitution; renames itself “National Constituent Assembly”
- 2nd Stage: 1789-1791 – Period of Reform
 - Riots erupted thruout FR
 - Triggers of Reform:
 - 1) The Great Fear
 - 2) Tensions in Paris
 - 3) October Days
 - Outcome of Summer of 1789
 - Assembly
 - 1) Appeases peasants
 - 2) Protects Religious Opinions & Speech
 - 3) Declaration of the Rights of Man & of the Citizen
 - Reforms = attitudes of bourgeoisie

— *Laissez faire* policies

- Economic legislation
 - Church reforms
 - Constitution of 1791
- Third Stage = 1791-94: shift to radicalism & “Second Revolution”
 - Radical minority appears
 - Society of the Friends of the Constitution – aka Jacobins
 - Jacobin = bottom – up takeover
 - *Émigrés*
 - King flees
 - Champ de Mars Massacre
 - Oct 1, 1791 – Legislative Assembly begins
 - Factions = Jacobins (left); Feuillants (right); unaligned (the Plain)
 - Left capture votes of the Plain
 - Girondins = radical nationalists
 - War declared on Austria; Prussia joins
 - War goes badly at onset
 - Girondins = blame game
 - French determination high
 - Opportunity for Jacobins

- Base = Sans-culottes
- Creation of First Republic & the Convention
 - Georges Danton
 - NOTE: Danton's "boldness" = September Massacres
- First French Republic
 - Convention dominated by Center
 - Initially factions unite
 - Girondians pause; Federalism
 - Mountain denounces federalism
 - Maximilien Robespierre
 - "Republic of Virtue"
 - "Citizen Louis Capet" guillotined
 - Girondins days numbered
 - Mountain ousts Girondins
- Reign of Terror
 - Robespierre = architect
 - Mountain imposes constitution; delays operation
 - Creates Committee of Public Safety
 - Works w/ Committee of General Security
 - Revolutionary Tribunal

- Scraps local self-government
- Creates new “revolutionary” army
- All resources seized
- Terror attacks society
- “Cult of Reason”
- Summer 1794 = Terror – loses support
 - Republic of Virtue = too violent
 - Robespierre presses too relentlessly
 - Religion = tide begins to turn
 - Supporters turn from Robespierre
 - Jacobins overthrown in coup
- Forth Stage 1795-99 – The Thermidorean Reaction
 - Domestic calm restored
 - Create new constitution
 - the Directory
 - System dominated by bourgeoisie
 - Potential instability lingers
 - Wars continue
 - Threat of revolt
 - Economy exhausted

- Fifth Stage – Era of Napoleon - Nov 10, 1799 – April 6, 1814
 - Napoleon seizes control of the Directory
 - Spearheads coup d'état
 - Drafts new Constitution - “Consulate”
 - Feb 1800 - plebiscite
 - Secures domestic stability
 - 1802 2nd plebiscite
 - Transforms legal code - Napoleonic Code
 - 1804 - Pichegru Conspiracy & 3rd plebiscite
 - Napoleon begins conquest of Europe
 - Unleashes *Grande Armee*
 - Can't defeat England
 - Response = “Continental System”
 - Invades Iberian Peninsula
 - Anti-French in Spain
 - Austria rebels; swiftly defeated
 - Alexander I withdraws Russia
 - Beginning of End
 - June 1812 - invades Russia
 - Russians = Fabian tactics

- Winter comes early
- Sixth Coalition formed
- Last *grand armee*
 - Defeated at Leipzig
- Treaty of Chaumont (1814)
 - Goal = coerce Napoleon to end war
 - Quadruple Alliance
 - Treaty = cornerstone of Congress
 - Napoleon rejects
 - Abdication & exile to Elba
- France accepts “armistice”
- Treaty of Paris 1814
- Congress of Vienna – met Sept 1814-Nov 1815
 - Goal = Settle all European turbulence
 - Dominated by Lord Castlereagh (Eng) & Metternich (Aus)
 - Design “Congress” System
 - 1st Congress ratifies = treaties of Chaumont & Paris
 - NOTE: Peace disrupted temporarily – the “Hundred Days”
 - Congress System peacefully settles 1st major crisis
 - Trigger = Rus & Pru want spoils

- FR negotiates secret treaty w/ Brit & Aus
 - Rus & Pru settle for less
- Congress System implodes 1822