

Enlightened Absolutism & The French Revolution

California Content Standards:

10.2 Students compare and contrast the Glorious Revolution of England, the American Revolution, and the French Revolution and the enduring effects worldwide on the political expectations for self-government and individual liberty

1. Compare the major ideas of philosophers and their effect on the democratic revolutions in England, the United States, France, and Latin America (e.g. biographies of John Locke, Charles-Louis Montesquieu, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Simon Bolivar, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison).
2. List the principles of the Magna Carta, the English Bill of Rights (1689), the American Declaration of Independence (1776), the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (1789), and the U.S. Bill of Rights (1791).
3. Understand the unique character of the American Revolution, its spread to other parts of the world, and its continuing significance to other nations.
4. Explain how the ideology of the French Revolution led France to develop from constitutional monarchy to democratic despotism to the Napoleonic Empire.
5. Discuss how nationalism spread across Europe with Napoleon but was repressed for a generation under the Congress of Vienna and Concert of Europe until the Revolutions of 1848.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE ANALYSIS SKILLS

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned.
2. Students analyze how change happens at different rates at different times; that some aspects can change while others remain the same; and understand that change is complicated and affects not only technology and politics but also values and beliefs.
3. Students use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, the frictions that develop between population groups, and the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations, and goods.
4. Students relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.

Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View

1. Students distinguish valid arguments from fallacious arguments in historical interpretations
2. Students identify bias and prejudice in historical interpretations.
3. Students evaluate major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past, including an analysis of authors' use of evidence and the distinctions between sound generalizations and misleading oversimplifications.

4. Students construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.

Historical Interpretation

1. Students show the connections, casual and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments.
2. Students recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations of determining cause and effect.
3. Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present day norms and values.
4. Students understand the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events while recognizing that events could have taken other directions.
5. Students analyze human modifications of a landscape, and examine the resulting environmental policy issues.
6. Students conduct cost/benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.

Read Spielvogel pp. 516 - 579

Social life of the 18th century

Society was divided into three classes

Peasants

some were free(West), some were serfs(East)
both were extremely poor
subject to large tax burdens, fees, tithes
villages were center of social life, religion, services
lived in extreme poverty with poor health and diet

Nobles

made up only 2 to 3 % of population
had numerous legal privileges
exempt from many laws, taxes
controlled the lives of most peasants
Nobles live off taxes from peasants and cities
Nobles continued to dominate military officer corps
Nobles were divided amongst extremely rich and poor
some nobles dropped titles due to expense
wealthy could still buy titles

Country Homes

many nobles began to physically separate from poor
built large homes/estates in the countryside
lavish grounds also became popular

The Grand Tour

children of nobles completed their education abroad
toured the major capitals of Europe
Paris, Venice, Florence, Rome, etc.
traveled could take a year/variety of experiences

Towns and City Dwellers

- about 15% of population lived in large towns
- 1 million in London, 600K in Paris
- cities were centers of consumption, production, education
 - peasants often resented cities drain on resources
- cities were often controlled by powerful families
 - nobles or wealthy merchants
- industry was still controlled by the guild system
- poor sanitary conditions lead to high death rates
- Poverty was extensive
 - 10-15% of population had no occupations
 - beggars and prostitutes

Social Change in the 18th Century

- Population began to rapidly expand
 - from 120 million in 1700 to 190 million in 1790
 - despite large numbers of colonists leaving
- death rates began to decline
 - improved quality and quantity of food?
 - last outbreak of plague was in 1720
 - infant mortality rates declined from 29 to 20%

European Armies and Warfare

- armies began to increase in size with population
- officers came from noble ranks
 - Prussia made military service obligatory
- rank and file came from lower classes, peasants
 - some countries hired soldiers from German princes
 - Britain and Dutch
- Britain and Dutch built large navies to protect colonies
- Since armies were very expensive, generals didn't waste
 - Siege warfare developed
 - armies retreated into forts
 - maneuvers to cut off supplies key
 - led to surrender

Family, Marriage, and Children

- fathers still had considerable control over families
 - decided marriages etc.
- attitudes toward children changed with Enlightenment
 - childhood seen as stage of development
 - not as little adults
 - children's fashions are first introduced
 - children's toys and books also introduced
 - infanticide still remained high despite illegality
- Nuclear family (parents and children) developed
 - most families had five or six children
 - helped on farm or in business

Enlightened Absolutism?

some historians believed that monarchs were influenced by Enlightenment
divine right was gradually being replaced by reason
see quote pg. 517

modern historians reject most of those ideas
monarchs were merely acted in their own interests

Great Britain

1707 - England and Scotland unified

Parliament and monarchs continue to compete for power
parliament controlled laws and taxes
monarchs controlled appointments and titles

“Democracy” was controlled by wealthy aristocrats
votes were often bought
voting districts based on tradition, not population

1714 - Queen Anne, last of the Stuarts dies

Hanoverian Dynast begins with King George I

Britain developed Prime Minister under Hanoverians
George I only spoke German, lived in Hanover
selected ministers to run government in his name
usually selected from majority party
will evolve into permanent system

1721-1742 - Robert Walpole is Prime Minister for George I&II

pursued peaceful foreign policy and no new taxes

William Pitt the Elder becomes P.M. in 1757

pursues more aggressive policy of building empire
brings Britain into Seven Years War
acquires Canada and India

1761 - George III replaces Pitt the Elder to run country personally

Enlightenment ideas lead to election and patronage reform
American Revolution threatened the empire and monarchy

George III selects William Pitt the Younger as new P.M.

supported by merchants, people, and king
keeps Britain balanced

Dutch Republic

House of Orange continued to clash with urban oligarchs
economic prosperity declined in relation to Great Powers

Civil war breaks out between Patriots and Orangists

Prussia intervenes to save Orangist relatives

Prussia

Frederick William I leads Prussia to greater heights

est. the General Directory to run the government
administered military, police, economy, finances
based on Enlightenment principles

est. highly loyal and efficient civil servants

personally supervised operations
see quote pg. 522

Social classes remained highly structured and separated
Junker nobles served in the military
Prussian army grows to 83,000 men
military values become Junker values
loyalty & obedience to state
peasants farmed and served long years in army
subject to harsh and cruel discipline
absolutely no rights
Frederick the Great(II) attempts to “enlighten” Prussia
father tried to train him as a soldier
see inset pg. 523
highly educated in Enlightenment philosophies
spent time at court with Voltaire
maintained efficiency of bureaucracy but demanded honesty
established a single code of laws
eliminated torture except in extreme cases
would not cross Junkers by eliminating serfdom
enlarged army to 200,000 men
used it in War of Austrian Succession and in 7 Years War
greatly increased territory of Prussia

Austria

The War of Austrian Succession(1740-48)
Emperor Charles VI had no male heirs
Pragmatic Sanction
spent most of his life signing treaties to keep throne
afraid other monarchs would attack his daughter
countries agree to let Maria Theresa have throne
Frederick II doesn't abide by his father's agreement
invades and seizes Silesia
Bavaria and France also invaded Austria
Great Britain sides with Austria to stop the French
war was fought in Europe, India, and Canada
1748 - Treaty of Aix-la Chapelle ends war
Prussia retains Silesia, all other territory returned

Maria Theresa becomes an effective ruler
revitalizes bureaucracy and army
still has to contend with nobles and nationalism
builds new alliance with France to oppose Prussia

Seven Years War(1756-1763)

Austria, France, and Russian attack Prussia
England sides with Prussia to preserve balance of power
war is once again fought on world wide scale
see map pg. 530
Frederick the Great was able to hold off combined armies
.but they gradually wore Prussia down from three sides
Czarina Elizabeth of Russia death bring Peter III to throne

Peter is a great admirer of Frederick
takes Russia out of war
guarantees stalemate
Pitt the Elder focuses British efforts in colonies
British navy cuts French off from supply
Britain acquires Canada and India from France
1763 - Peace of Hubertusburg/Paris ends war

Russia

the heirs of Peter the Great were dominated by palace guard
allowed Russia to stagnate and slowed development
Peter III was a particularly inept ruler
his wife was German princess named Catherine
she charmed the Imperial guard
convinced them to murder Peter and support her
Catherine the Great becomes czarina in 1762
very familiar with the philosophes
Diderot stayed at court, conversed w/Voltaire
spoke of agreement, but often acted ruthlessly
1767 - calls convention to rewrite Russian laws
disbands after 18 months of arguing
Reorganized Russian bureaucracy
put nobility in direct command of provinces
serfs put in even worse position of subservience
1773 - Pugachev's rebellion
Cossack peasant leads revolt against Catherine
urged peasants to revolt and kill nobles
promised liberty and reform
Pugachev is betrayed, captured, tortured, executed
Catherine expands Russia southward at expense of Turks

Partition of Poland

see maps pg. 527
Poland had never developed a strong monarchy or state
Austria, Prussia, and Russia all wanted to expand their territory
1772 - decide to partition part of Poland for first time
in order to avoid war amongst themselves
30% of Poland taken
1792 - Second Partition of Poland
Poland tried to est. monarchy independent of Russia
Russia, Prussia, and Austria invade and take more land
1795-6 - Third(and final) Partition of Poland
Poles rebel against the three European powers
revolt is put down and Poland is destroyed

The French Revolution

Louis XV

inherits the French throne from his great grandfather, Louis XIV
Duke of Orleans served as regent

drunk and immoral ruler
Cardinal Fleury later replaced him
promoted growth in industry, peace abroad
1743 - Louis XV decides to rule himself upon Fleury's death
extremely weak and lazy
influenced by ministers and mistresses
Loses empire and territory during Seven Years War

Louis XVI

inherits the throne from his father
poor ruler who lacks intelligence and desire to reform France
married to Marie Antoinette of Austria
both of them extremely spoiled and out of touch
"let them eat cake"

American Revolution

has a tremendous impact upon France
Declaration of Independence resonates with Frenchmen
see inset pg. 553
France sides with Americans to defeat rival British
thousands of Frenchmen go to colonies to fight the British
1789 - United States adopts the Constitution
very influential on French thinkers

Estates General

France's society was reflected by divide of legislature

First Estate

clergy

less than 1% of population, own 10% of land
exempt from many taxes

Second Estate

nobility

approximately 2% of population, own 30% of land
held most Gov., military, and judicial appointments
held legal privileges and were exempt from taxes

Third Estate

peasants, merchants, professionals, and urban dwellers
97% of the population, own 60% of land
only the poorest land was left

intellectuals and merchants upset at political slavery
most reside in Paris, center of revolution

France had several other problems that led to revolution

food shortages led to rising prices and unemployment in cities
bourgeois wanted more political freedom and reform
France was on the verge of financial collapse

constant warfare and failure to est. national bank

Summer, 1789 - Louis XVI calls the Estates General into session

wanted them to pass new taxes against the peasants
had not met since 1614

was counting on 1st and 2nd Estates to out vote the 3rd Estate
The 3rd Estate wanted to discuss the issues facing France
large percentage of members were lawyers
see Abbe Sieyes quote, pg. 558

National Assembly

June 17, 1789 - 3rd Estate votes to form the National Assembly
will meet to devise a new constitution for France

June 20 - locked out of meeting hall by the King's guards
Tennis Court Oath

representatives vow to continue until finished

Louis XVI sides with the 1st and 2nd estate

wants to disband the national assembly

afraid of using the army in case they revolt

begins exploring hiring Swiss mercenaries

July 14, 1789 - Storming of the Bastille(Bastille Day)

rumors in Paris that Louis will disband the National Assembly

Parisian mob wants to arm themselves to protect NA

surround the Bastille, royal armory in Paris

guards fire on the crowd

army units mutiny, attack and seize the Bastille

August 26, 1789 - Declaration of Rights of Man published

see pg 561

statement of goals for the coming constitution

first document for equal representation in European government

no equal rights for women

Louis XVI laid low at Versailles hoping problems would blow over

forced to return to Paris by the mob

National Assembly seizes most of the church's property to finance Gov.

angers Catholics throughout Europe

The Great Fear

rumors swept through France of all sorts of horrors

nobles and peasants clash in many panics

many nobles flee France for relative's estates in other countries

1791 - National Assembly finishes the new French constitution

constitutional monarchy with Louis XVI at the head

Legislative Assembly will have significantly more power

Political Spectrum

conservatives - supported monarchy

didn't want to go too far in reform

liberals - wanted middle ground of constitutional monarchy

radicals - wanted to overthrow the monarchy

wished to established a more direct democracy

The Jacobins

Louis and Marie Antoinette attempt to flee the country for Austria

Hoped that they could raise a foreign army to retake power

captured near the French border

confidence in the new government is destroyed
the radicals will eventually come to power

The First Coalition

1792 - Emperor Leopold II of Austria wants nations to attack France
afraid of example being set by revolutionaries

France declares war on Austria

hopes war will lead to solidarity

accusations of treachery made against king and generals

Paris Commune takes power in government(National Convention)

radicals also known as sans-culottes

“patriots without fine clothes”

Jan 21, 1793 - Louis XVI is executed

Austria, Prussia, Britain, Spain, Portugal attack France

countries see opportunity to gain power/revenge

France will raise the first European “citizen army”

see quote pg. 566

650, 000 respond to the call to defend France

Levee En Masse

advantages: well motivated, promote through talent

disadvantages: poor organization/leadership to start

army will be successful defending French soil, not on offense

nationalism

Reign of Terror

During 1st Coalition crisis, Committee of Public Safety takes power

Maximilien Robespierre chairman

radical who thought he knew “truth” of revolution

see inset pg. 569

will become first modern dictator

courts were formed to find and execute “enemies of the state”

very loose standards of evidence were used

up to 50,000 people were executed

guillotine

victims included Marie Antoinette

Revolutionary armies enforced compliance of all France

Robespierre sought to establish a “Republic of Virtue”

seized economic control of France

reformed the administration of the county

sought to eliminate all Christianity from France

wanted to replace with reason

extremely moralistic, bans crime and vice

military success led to questions as to need for Terror

executes leading members of Paris Commune

July 28, 1794 - radicals have Robespierre executed

brings end to radical phase of the revolution

The Directory

five moderates were selected by National Convention to rule

period of stagnation, no leadership from committee
Directory was very corrupt, materialistic
People of France want true leadership
sets the stage for Napoleon Bonaparte

Napoleon Bonaparte

Born in 1769 in Corsica
joins military at age 16
rises through ranks during first coalition wars
1795 - saves National Convention from Paris mob
1796-97 - given command in Italy
uses artillery, terrain, spies, psychology to defeat enemies
see inset on pg. 574
earns nickname "little corporal"
Austria and Prussia bow out
1797 - returns to Paris as hero
given command of army in Egypt
leaves when supplies are cut off by British navy
liberator or conqueror?

Napoleon seizes power

Directory was corrupt
1799 - Napoleon's troops occupy the legislature
Votes to end directory
Why bother?
Napoleon is named one of three consuls

Second Coalition - 1800

Britain organizes with Austria and Russia
Napoleon victorious again in Italy
Treaty of Amiens - 1802

1800 - Napoleon named First Consul

approved by the voters
1802- voted consul for life
Dec 2, 1804 - pope crowns him emperor

Napoleon established many reforms

balanced the budget
established national bank
encouraged nobility to return
made merit the measure of success
Catholic church allowed to return
Napoleonic Code
Equal rights for all
began to build a large French navy

Empire is extended

Third Coalition
Britain, Austria, Russia, and Prussia
see map pg. 577

Battle of Ulm

- Napoleon captures Vienna
- Battle of Austerlitz
 - Napoleon defeats Russians and Austrians
 - Austria sues for peace
- Battle of Jena
 - French defeat Prussians
- Battle of Friedland
 - French defeat Russians
 - czar Alexander I in command of Russian troops
 - Treaty of Tilsit
- Battle of Trafalgar
 - British navy under Horatio Nelson defeats French
 - No invasion of Britain possible
- Britain vs. France
 - Continental System
 - Napoleon orders all countries to boycott British goods
 - not in the best interest of Europeans
 - Britain survives through smuggling, colonies
 - trade actually triples thanks to world-wide trade
 - War of 1812
 - Spain revolts
 - Napoleon attempts to put his brother on Spanish throne
 - Spanish rebel with guerrilla warfare
 - Britain lands army to assist
 - Duke of Wellington
 - nationalism has been exported Spain
- Napoleon invades Russia - 1812
 - Alexander I breaks CS to buy British grain for starving Russians
 - The Grand Army
 - 600,000 man French army
 - many non-French
 - Napoleon seizes horses and supplies throughout Europe
 - Alexander I employs scorched-earth policy in defense of Russia
 - trades land for time by drawing Napoleon into Russia
 - burns all supplies army can't carry with them
 - burns Moscow to the ground
 - severe Russian winter devastates French army
 - Russians counterattack
 - Napoleon is forced to retreat
 - only 10,000 make it back to France
- Fall of Napoleon
 - Grand Alliance
 - Britain, Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Sweden
 - Battle of Leipzig
 - April 1814, Napoleon surrenders
 - Exiled to Elba

Louis XVIII is made new king
Napoleon returns in March of 1815
Hundred Days
Duke of Wellington defeats him at Waterloo
June 18, 1815
Napoleon exiled to St. Helena
Dies in 1821