French Revolution

**French Revolution Assignment 2**

**Pg. 586-593**

1789: The French Revolution

-turning point in European History—legitimate governments require written constitutions, powerful legislatures, and elections

-demanded equality before the law for all people and uniform institutions

Origins of the Revolution

-revolutionaries saw themselves as rebelling against a tyrannical, despotic, government

-the French government had not changed in years

-Louis XIV-weak, indecisive, dumb

-preferred to hunt

-Marie Antoinette-frivolous, meddlesome

Cultural Climate

-philosophes questioned accepted beliefs—undermined the idea/confidence that traditional ways were the best

-still felt that educated property owners should make all decisions

-feared the uneducated masses

-wished elites were more enlightened and open to new ideas

-scandalous literature and court reports made the French elite seem decadent and ridiculous

Class Conflicts

-French Bourgeoisie (middle class) had been gaining wealth in the 1700s—resented the privilege of the nobility

-most leaders were lawyers, administrators and liberal nobles—not merchants and industrialists

-wealthy 3rd Estate and Noble 2nd Estate mixed socially

-gap between them and the poor much larger

-disruptive pressures in society—

-growing population-young without work

-new ideas in the media

-nobility and middle class wanted a say in the government

Fiscal Crisis and Political Deadlock

-when he took the throne, Louis XIV recalled parlements (sovereign law courts) that his father had banished—an attempt to make the elites happy

-Jacques Turgot—Louis’s controller general of finances opposed his reforms

The Failure of Reform

-Jacques Turgot wanted to encourage growth by a policy of Laissez Faire

-wanted to abolish all restrictions on trade in grain and abolish guilds

-new taxes on landowners would end the obligation for peasants to work on royal roads (corvee)

-viewed as a dangerous reformer

-Louis dismissed him

Deficit Financing

-new financial mam-Jacques Necker-a Geneva banker

-aid to American Revolution—loans

-1780s-royal finances in crisis

-direct tax on land (paid by peasants) levied unfairly and very high

-exemptions to taxes viewed as traditional liberties—attempts to get rid of them were seen as tyrannical

-taxes on commercial activity were regressive (hurt the poor)

-borrowing had reached its limit

-loan payments about ½ of the royal budget

Calonne and the Assembly of Notables

-king’s new controller general, Charles Calonne, warned France was near bankruptcy

-suggested a new tax-the territorial subvention—to be levied on all landowners without exemption

-wanted to convene provincial assemblies elected by large landowners to advise royal officials on collection and allocation of revenue

-convinced the king to assemble 150 influential men to approve reforms—Assembly of Notables

-Assembly of Notables refused to endorse proposed decrees

-denounced spending

-wanted to audit the monarchy

-King Louis then submitted Calonne’s proposal to the parlements

-they rejected it

-demanded that Louis call a meeting of the Estates General (representatives of all three estates)

-had not met since 1614

-Louis sent the parlements into exile—the outcry in Paris forced him to back down

-Estates General set to meet May of 1789

From Estates General to National Assembly

-great excitement in France

-king invited people to express their opinions—many did in pamphlet form

-liberal ideology opposed by traditionalists aristocrats

-top priority was the method of voting

-3rd estate had two times as many delegates as others

-voting was traditionally done by estate-each estate got 1 vote

-the third estate was always voted out

The Critique of Privilege

-1st and 2nd estates still (despite reforms) had all the power

-Emmanuel Sieyes wrote “What is the Third Estate?”

-defining and defending the Third Estate

-argued that they have the right to be in the government

-nobility held all of the productive positions in society while doing none of the work

-\*\*enemy of the revolution is no just absolutism, but privilege

-revolutionaries were thinking about a complete break with the past

-substituted REASON for TRADITION—made the French Revolution radical

Cahiers and Elections

-Cahier-grievance petitions drafted in parishes all over France

-people elected delegates to local assemblies

-in rural areas, cahiers complained of local problems and high taxes— expressed confidence that the king would address problems

-in cities-expressed natural rights and popular sovereignty

-demanded that France have a written constitution

-Cahiers encouraged expectations for change

-local elections were democratic all adult male tax payers could vote

-chose electors who chose representatives to the Estates General

-most representatives were lawyers or officials—not peasants

-in the 1st Estate-Parish Priests, not church nobles made up the representatives

-in the 2nd Estate, about 1/3 were liberal nobles or patriots

-2/3 were traditionalists

Deadlock and Revolution

-Estates General met on May 5, 1789

-Necker and Louis XVI spoke to them—left open the question of whether they would vote by estate or by head

-3rd Estate went against the system

-June 17—formed the National Assembly

-more than 1/3 of the clergy joined them

-king locked them out of the meeting hall until he could present his own program

-deputies moved to an indoor tennis court—swore to give France a constitution—The Tennis Court Oath

-the king ignored them

-June 23, 1789-Louis XVI addressed all three estates

-promised equal taxation, civil liberties, regular meetings of the Estates General at which voting would be by estate

-France would have a constitution

-ordered all three estates to their meeting halls, the Third Estate refused to move

-the king backed down-recognized the National Assembly and ordered deputies from all three estates to join it

-French Revolution began as a non-violent “legal” revolution

-estates each represented their districts

-the king represented the whole nation

-estates claimed to be the sovereign power in France—King did not contest it

-the king ordered troops to Paris—to arrive in July

The Convergence of Revolutions

-many French citizens also mobilized over issues

-price of flour doubled winter/spring 1788-1789

-Parisians saw the food shortages and troops in Paris as a plot to intimidate people and a plot against the National Assembly

The Fall of the Bastille

-Louis XVI dismissed Necker on July 11

-Parisians assumed that at counter revolution was in the works

-July 14-laid siege to the Bastille in search of weapons

-Royal prison and gun powder store

-several citizens died—became martyrs for the Revolution

-guards heads put on pikes and marched around the city

-urban revolutions occurred all over Paris

-gave the National Assembly a popular dimension

-Louis traveled to Paris on July 17

-wore a Tri-color ribbon-white (monarchy) red and blue (Paris)

Peasant Revolt and August 4 Decree

-Peasants were poor, hungry, and hopeless

-all over France they sacked the houses of nobles and burned documents that recorded feudal obligations

-August 4-some nobles and clergy renounced their ancient privileges

-National Assembly-abolished feudalism and ended church tithes, sale of royal offices, regional tax privileges, and all social privileges

-insured that property rights were maintained

-peasants had to pay seigniorial dues until they compensated their landlords

-most refused to pay, fees were abolished in 1793

**French Revolution Assignment 3**

**Pg. 593-mid 601 and Documents**

The Reconstruction of France

-the National Assembly worked to reconstruct French society and institutions

-adopted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

-attempted to draft a constitution, determine voting rights (women?), reorganize public life, and determine the future of the clergy

-Austria and Prussia invaded France in 1792

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

-ended the Old Regime

-stated individual liberties and responsibilities of citizenship—obedience to the law

-enumerated NATURAL RIGHTS-freedom of expression and religion-stated that they could be limited by law

-set out criteria for a legitimate government—representation and separation of powers

-new government was based on REASON not history or tradition

-Edmund Burke (very conservative)

- Reflections on the Revolution in France, condemned the anarchy, violence, and commitment to reason

-argued that if something was natural, it was the result of a long historic development

-Mary Wollstonecraft-challenged Burke

-Vindication of the Rights of Man

-Vindication of the Rights of Women

-Thomas Paine-The Rights of Man-1792

The New Constitution

Representative Government

-1789-1791-the National Assembly was a constituent assembly-wrote a constitution

-proclaimed equal rights for all

-in reality, gave political power to property owners

-1790 nobles lost their titles and became normal citizens

-created a limited monarchy with clear separation of powers

-sovereignty belonged to the people

-single house legislature-elected with an indirect system of voting

-king named his own ministers, but they only held the power to delay legislation

-if the Assembly passed a bill three times, it became a law even without royal approval

-every adult male who satisfied tax requirements and lived in a home could vote (about 2/3)

-higher qualifications existed to serve as an elector

-more democratic than Britain

-voting was a civic function, not a natural right—excluded women

Women in the Revolution

-the fact that they debated women’s rights was revolutionary

-Olympe de Gouges wrote Declaration of the Rights of Women-1791

-supported women’s suffrage

-most people believed women were too emotional and easily influenced to be independent and vote

-believed that women used sex to influence the Old Regime (Marie Antoinette)

-believed that women should devote themselves to the domestic sphere

-the Revolution created a public space for women

-participated in debates over religious policy

-agitated over food prices—October 1789 demanded bread a Versailles

-pushed authorities into action

-spoke publicly and wrote in support of the Revolution

-dramatic advances in domestic laws (1789-1794)

-lessened paternal power of children

-lowered the age of majority

-equalized status for men and women in property rights

-marriage-a contract between a free man and a woman

-right of divorce given to both spouses

-daughters could inherit an equal share

-universal free education-1794

Race and Slavery

-gave civil and political equality to Jews

-planters and traders did not want equality given to blacks—worried slavery would be abolished (especially in the colonies)

-National Assembly accepted this idea

-Mulattoes rebelled-ignited a slave rebellion in Haiti led by Toussaint L’Ouverture

-Haiti became independent

-1794-slavery abolished in all French colonies

Unifying the Nation

-did away with the historic provinces and divided France into 83 departments of roughly equal size

-each was to have exactly the same institutions

-each district subdivided-citizens in each division elected representatives

-political power was decentralized

-representatives implemented national policy

-court system was based on departments—judges were elected

-juries only used in felony cases

-people were given the right to counsel

-system encouraged arbitration and mediation

-goal was to make the administration of justice faster and more accessible

Economic Individualism

-attempts to open the economic system-laizze-faire

-abolished gilds—anyone could join a trade

-government no longer regulated wages or quality

-banned worker associations and strikes—forced workers to bargain as individuals in the marketplace

The Revolution and the Church

-revolutionaries believed the church could no longer operate as a separate estate

-nationalized all church property (10% of France)

-state became responsible for the upkeep of the church

-issued paper notes-assignets-backed by the value of national lands

-property was sold at auction—favored bourgeoisie and rich peasants with cash available

-almost impossible for the poor to get land

-consequences—ended the need for more borrowing

-people who purchased land gained a vested interest in the Revolution-if the changes were reversed they could lose their land

-1792-during the war with Austria and Prussia, assignets became the national currency—printed more than the value of the land-inflation

Religious Schism

-the revolution tried to get rid of inequalities that separated Church and people

-Civil Constitution of the Clergy-1790 restructured the Church in France

-reduced the number of bishops from 130 to 83

-redrew diocesan borders to match departments

-bishops and parish priests chosen by election and paid a uniform salary scale—favored those at the lower end

-clergy had to take an oath of loyalty to the constitution

-Clergy was against it-imposed on them by the National Assembly

-many refused to take the oath—split the Church

-people had to decide if they would remain loyal to their priest or follow the new priest (constitutional clergy)

-oath linked the Revolution with impiety and the church with counter revolution

Counter Revolution, Radicalism, and War

The Kings Flight

-Louis XVI’s relatives left France shortly after July 14-the first émigrés (political exiles)

-over the next three years, thousands more left France—plotted to overthrow the Revolution

-June of 1791-Louis XVI and his family flex Paris

-hoped to get help from Austria

-captured and returned to Paris

-moderates hoped that the king would cooperate with the Revolution—he was needed to make a constitutional monarchy work

-radicals felt the king was the enemy

-Jean Paul Marat

-The National Assembly reestablished the position of the king while the radicals continued the agitate

The Outbreak of War

-Legislative Assembly (newly elected) met on October 1, 1791

-King felt that defeat in war would discredit the new government and restore the king’s powers

-members of the Jacobin clubs-radical political groups-hoped the war would end support for the émigrés and defeat the counter revolutionaries

-Francis II became king of Hapsburgs March 1792

-influenced by the émigré-made ware likely

-determined to assist Marie Antoinette (his aunt) and a make territorial gains

-April 1792-France went to war with Austria, Prussia, and the émigrés

-each side expected a quick victory

-invading armies crossed into France

-Legislative Assembly called the National Guard troops to protect Paris and arrest refractory clergy

-Louis refused both orders, his last act as king

-the Legislative Assembly called for volunteers to defend France and the Revolution

The Fall of the Monarchy

-commander of Prussian forces, the Duke of Brunswick, threatened to level Paris if the city resisted or harmed the Royal family

-Louis XVI published the Brunswick Manifesto—seen as in league with the enemy

-the Legislative Assembly refused to act

-Jacobin clubs organized an insurrection

-August 10, 1792-armed protesters stormed into the Royal Palace at Tuileries—drove the king from the throne

-the Legislative Assembly was forced to declare Louis XVI suspended

-that night many Legislative Assembly members left Paris

-the Assembly had lost legitimacy

-remaining deputies ordered new elections for a National Convention—would decide the kings fate, write a new constitution, and govern France

-by August 10, 1792-the Old Regime was destroyed

**French Revolution Assignment 4**

**Pg. 601-611 and Documents**

The Second Revolution

-since 1789 France had big changes

-constitutional government, legislative representation, and some local self-government

-end of absolutism and privilege

-established civil equality and uniform institutions across France

-ended religious persecution and feudal obligations

-the old order had not given up—encouraged their allies in France to resist

-the revolutionaries were divided—radical and those disillusioned with the Revolution

-the Revolution was threatened by military defeat and counter revolution

-opposition drove the Revolution to a more radical path

-Jacobins became allied with the sans-culottes

-drove France to another Revolution—more democratic

-at the same time started a dictatorship

The National Convention

-insurrection of August 10, 1792 left a power vacuum until the National Convention was elected

-the revolutionary Paris Commune could not control even its own domain

-prisons overflowed with political prisoners and ordinary criminals—feared plots to open the prisons

-September Massacres-groups of Parisians invaded prisons and set up “popular tribunals” and slaughtered more than 2,000 prisoners

-French Army found success

-won the Battle of Valmy September 20 which halted the invasion

-November they defeated the allies at Jamappes in the Austrian Netherlands, now occupied by the French

-The National Convention convened and declared France a Republic

-found the king guilty of treason-divided over what to do with him

-voted 387 to 334 to execute him

-January 21, 1793 Louis XVI was executed by guillotine

-shows that the National Convention would not compromise with the counter revolution

Factional Conflict

-Girondins –wanted provincial liberty and laissez faire economics

-hostile to the radicals in Paris-expelled from or left the Jacobin Clubs

-electors in Paris chose radical Jacobins-Danton, Robespierre, and Marat

-Parisian groups known as the Mountain occupied the upper branches of the National Convention’s hall

-Girondins denounced the Mountain and blamed them for the September Massacres

-those in the middle (the Plain) were committed to the Revolution, but did not know which path to follow

Revolutionary Crisis

-Spring of 1793-National Convention had big problems-economic crisis, civil war, and invasion

-Austrian and Prussian alliance strengthened by the addition of Spain, Portugal, and Britain

-the National Convention instituted a draft—rebellion in western France by peasants

-priests and nobles helped to organize people into the Catholic and Royalist Army

-massacred patriots

-threated the port of Nantes—British troops could have landed

-by early 1793 the assignat had lost 50% of its value

-poor harvest, food shortages, hoarding, and profiteering

-government could not supply its army

The Purge of the Girondins

-Sans Collutes demanded that the National Convention purge the Girondins and start a program of public safety-price controls on basic items and execution of hoarders and speculators and forced requisition of grain

-threatened an insurrection

-lacked a government that could deal with public pressure

-June 2 the Sans Culottes mounted an armed demonstration—centrists went along

-the National Convention expelled 23 Girondins—tried for treason and executed

-moderates all over France struggled against Jacobin/Sans Culottes and the other radicals

-the National Convention suppressed moderates with armed forces

-Jacobins felt to defy the Conventions authority was betraying France

The Jacobin Dictatorship

-radicals had taken over the National Convention

-who would dominate-the Mountain or the Sans Collutes

-September 5-mass demonstrations in Paris

-the National Convention responded with the law of the Maximum

-imposed general price controls

-Law of Suspects—Revolutionaries could imprison citizens whose loyalty they suspected

Revolutionary Government

-June-the Mountain had drafted a new democratic constitution for the French Republic-approved by a referendum of the French people

-the National Convention laid the constitution aside

-elections, local self-government, and guarantees of individual liberty were suspended until the Republic defeated its enemies within and outside of France

-Committee of Public Safety created

-12 men

-responsible for military, economic, and political policy

-controlled local officials

-centralized power

-Maxmillian Robespierre-led the Committee

-had dominated the Paris Jacobin Club since 1793

-part of the National Assembly

-placed the Revolutions survival above all else

-local political clubs became an important part of the Revolutionary government

-nominated citizens for jobs

-watched officials

-served as “arsenals of public opinion”

-fostered ideas of equality

-supported the war effort

-saw as their duty to denounce any unpatriotic behavior

-Jacobins allowed no dissent or freedom of expression

-anyone who questioned the Convention, Jacobins, or Revolution were guillotined

-Jacques-Rene Herbert—felt that the National Convention was too lenient against enemies of the people—ultra revolutionary

-George-Jacques Danton—leading member of the Jacobins

-argued for a relaxation of the laws

-arrested and guillotined

The Reign of Terror

-government attempted to avoid anarchic violence like the September Massacres

-saw threats and plots everywhere

-focused on those thought to be enemies of the Revolution—refractory priests and émigrés banned from France on pain of death

-Law of Suspects—incarceration of 300,000 citizens for opinion, past behavior or social status

-thousands executed—priests, upper classes

-mostly used as examples

The Sans Culottes: Revolution from Below

-mostly artists, shop keepers, and workers

-shared a sense of local community

Popular Attitudes

-focused on the price of bread—they faced scarcities and high prices

-believed in property rights

-believed people should not miss use property (hoarding)

-Law of Maximum—price controls

-part of the new constitution

-regulated the economy

-anti-aristocratic

-simple dress and manners

-denounced prostitution and gambling as vices of aristocrats

-drinking (common persons vice) was tolerated

-eliminated all signs of royalty in France

-names of streets/places

-people changed their names

-all people called citizen

-new republican calendar—dated from the establishment of the Republic

Popular Politics

-the National Convention believed in representative democracy

-during the emergency, it declared a centralized dictatorship

-made thousands feel like they had political power (even though they did not)

-Society of Revolutionary—Republican women founded in Paris in 1793—female radicalism

-women were citizens of Revolutionary France

-agitated for price controls and mandatory use of Republican symbols

-irritated the Jacobins—denounced as enrages

-October-government arrested many of them and closed down the society

-accused the women of neglecting their maternal duties

-Robespierre felt that direct democracy was too much like anarchy

-feared the unpredictability of disorder

-wanted to engage the people, but control them

-1794 weakened the societies—took away their base of support

The Revolutionary Wars

-fate of the Revolution rested with the armies

-National Assembly had said peace and staying out of foreign affairs was the best foreign policy for a free society

-got involved in wars anyway-

-expand French frontiers

-spread Revolutionary principles—right of the people for self determination

French Revolutionaries and French Armies

-the French Revolution rekindled feelings of rebellion against monarchs in other European countries

-rebels looked to French for assistance

-refugees flooded into France

-December 1792-the National Convention decided that where French armies won, feudal privilege would be abolished

-liberated people would pay taxes and supply the French troops

-By 1794-French army had a foothold in Belgium-annexed territory to the Republic

-Robespierre felt liberty in France had to be secure before it could be exported

Citizen Soldiers

-The National Assembly in 1789 had kept the professional army, but opened the officers corps to ordinary soldiers

-most of the officers from the Old Regime had resigned or emigrated

-the idea of a citizen solider introduced as a national guard-they had elected officers

-when war began in 1792 the army enrolled over 100,000 volunteers

-huge reforms to the army in 1793

-August mass levy (levee en masse)

-draft of able bodied men between 18 and 25

-300,000 joined the army, 200,000 fled France

-merged citizen soldiers with professionals-professionals could teach citizens

Revolutionary Warfare

-new recruits lacked the training to fight in formations

-instead used mass columns—moved fast, little training

-new attitudes toward military life:

-civilian control

-discipline the same for officers and troops

-wounded soldiers get veteran benefits

-economic mobilization to supply the massive army

-late 1793-1794 French armies started to win battles

-huge success for the Revolution