FRENCH REVOLUTION

A Child of the Enlightenment

What was the Enlightenment?

After the Scientific Revolution, people began to question

HOW A RULER GOT HIS POWER

AND

WHY A GOVERNMENT WAS SET UP

The Key word to answer these questions:

REASON-

EVERY ANSWER HAD TO STAND THE TEST OF REASON-

PEOPLE DEMANDED A REASON TO EXPLAIN HOW A RULER GOT HIS POWER

AND

A REASON FOR WHY A GOVERNMENT WAS SET UP!



John Locke

 The reason a ruler got his power was that the people gave him that power:

"The Consent of the people (governed)"

The reason a government is set up is to:

"protect natural rights -Life, Liberty, and Property"

Jean Jacques Rousseau



 The reason a ruler got his power is that the majority of the people gave him that powercalled the "general will of the people"

 The reason a government was set up was to pass the laws that the majority wanted-

"majority vote of the people"



Montesquieu

It stands to reason that best way to set up a government is by

"separating the branches of government"

Enlightenment:

- > Reforms = People have a voice
- > Impact = revolution
- Use of reason = answers all questions
- Philosophers encourage revolution=
 question old systems of government
- ➤ Government derives powers from: consent of the governed (the people)
- ➤ Enlightenment thinkers describe government as a "social contract"

Absolute Monarchy

- King/Queen has total power over people and government
- 2 absolute monarchs =

Louis XIV France; Peter The Great-Russia

Factors (Causes) of French Revolution

1) High Taxes for 3rd estate- none for 1st & 2nd Old unequal social system: ancien regime

2) Out of touch monarchs- Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette

3) Bread prices high, wages low

Old Social System in France

- Social inequity= The Estate System
- "ancien regime" = The old Estate System
- 3 social groupings =
- 1. 1st Estate = Clergy
- 2. 2nd Estate = Nobles
- 3. 3rd Estate = peasants; urban workers, bourgeoisie

Complaints Against Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette



- Extravagant life style Versailles; Marie's "play peasant village"
- High Taxes on 3rd Estate
- No taxes on 1st & 2nd Estates
- Bread prices high
- Wages low

Marie Antoinette & Louis XVI



What is the Third Estate?





3 Stages of French Revolution

- 1st: Moderate, Liberal Stage:
 National Assembly (1789-1791) >
 Legislative Assembly (1791- 1792)
- 2nd: Radical Stage: National Convention "Reign of Terror" (1792-1795) under Robespierre as head of the Committee of Public Safety
- 3rd: *Reactionary, Consevative Stage*: The Directory (1795-1799)

French Revolution Erupts!



3 Stages of French Revolution

1st: National Assembly (1789-1791)

Legislative Assembly (1791-1792)

Adopted

Declaration of Rights of man

and the Citizen =

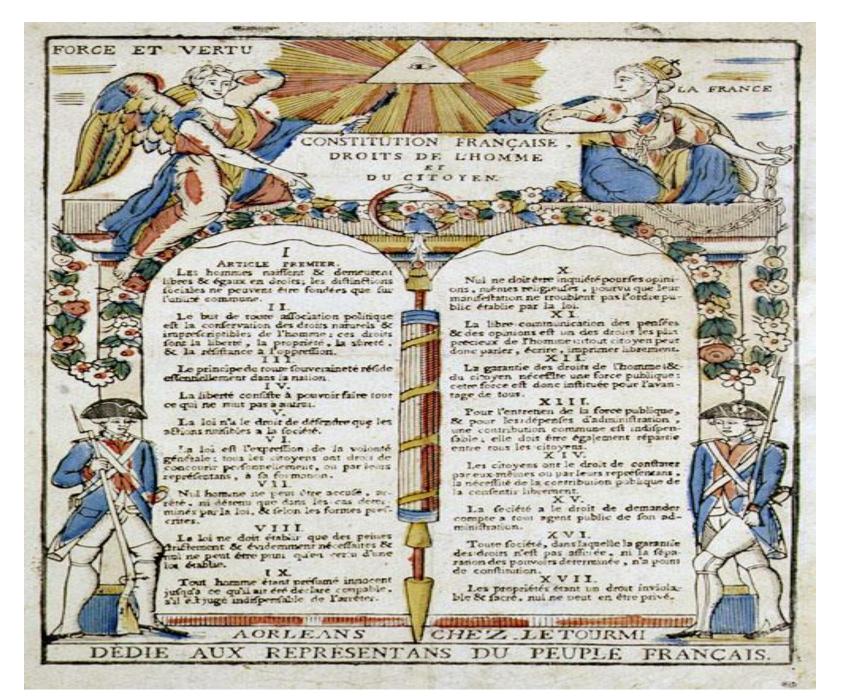
French Declaration of Rights

guaranteed:

Freedom of speech, press, religion,

property, voice in government



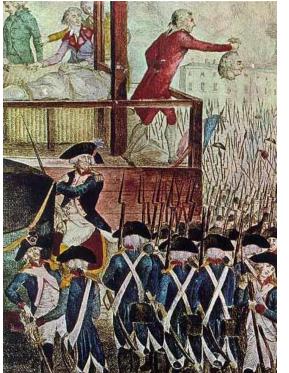


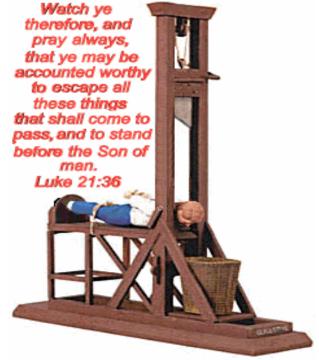
2nd National Convention

"Reign of Terror"

Robespierre =

Head of Committee of Public Safety
leader of Reign of Terror
(guillotine "reigned")

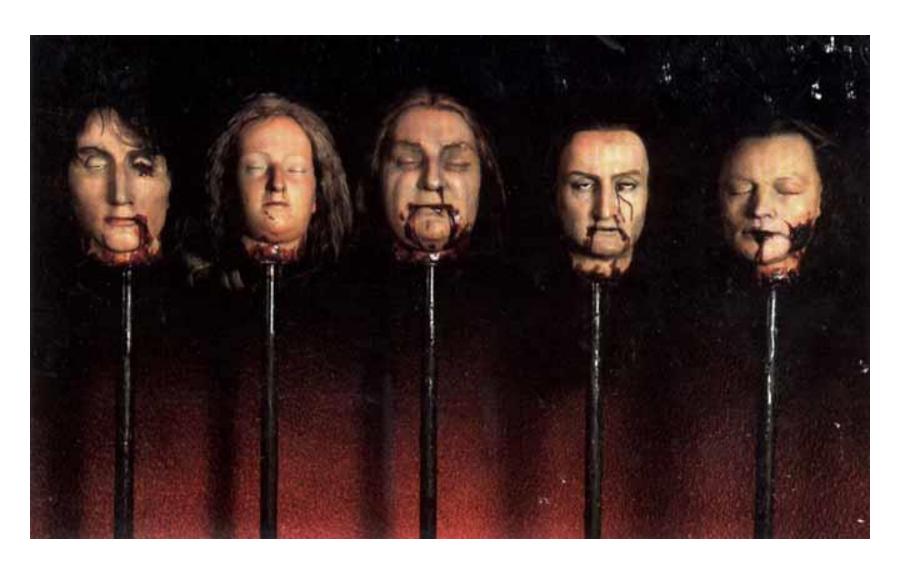








Madame Tussaud: Executed Head of Louis XVI and others



Marie Antoinette's Execution





3rd Directory

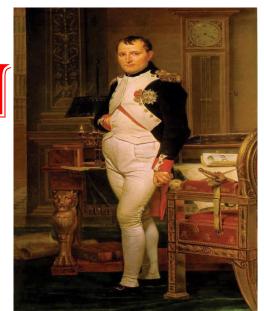
- Very Conservative reaction to Reign of Terror
- 5 man Directory runs France
- They are weak & easily bribed
- 1799 Napoleon overthrows them: a coup d'etat





NAPOLEON

Gained popularity as a military hero



- People supported him because
- he brought peace to France and reformed the government
- Code Napoleon = Unified (equal) set of laws for all French people
- **❖** Napoleon's Big Mistake:

Went too far when he crowned self emperor

and invaded Russia



NAPOLEON











Results of French Revolution

Political power passed to the bourgeoisie

➤ Bourgeoisie supported the revolution because they had no rights or voice under the ancien regime and paid all the taxes

A French Gentleman of the Court of Louis XVI. A French Gentleman of the Court of Egalité, 1799"

