

A Brief History of the World

Renaissance to the Modern Day



Understanding Who We Were

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Key Ideas

1. The American Revolution, French Revolution, Haitian Revolution, and Latin American Revolutions were all related to one another and yet had distinct characteristics.
 - a. All were related to certain Enlightenment ideas
 - b. Their results were largely dependent upon the vision of the leaders
 - i. The leaders were aware of each historical revolution, its processes and outcomes
 - c. All began as a rejection of unlimited governmental systems
2. Napoleon's control of France fundamentally shifted European society
 - a. New countries were created and destroyed
 - b. The European legal system was redefined based on Enlightenment ideas (in some ways)
3. Equal rights movements and ideology began to be applied more broadly
 - a. Abolitionism began in Britain and spread to other European nations
 - b. Women began to gain more legal rights
 - c. Minority religious groups gained the freedom to practice their religion

Key Academic Vocabulary Terms

Self-Govern, Dissent, Boston Tea Party, Boycott, Declaration of Independence, Revolution, Constitution, Versailles, Bastille, Estates General, Tennis Court Oath, Jacobin Club, Reign of Terror, Guillotine, Confiscation, Coup d'état, Coalition, Tactics, Anti-semitism, Propaganda, Abdicate, Exile, Waterloo, Abolitionism

Key People

George Washington, King George III, Thomas Jefferson, Louis XIV (14), Louis XVI (16), Maximilien Robespierre, Napoleon Bonaparte, Toussaint Louverture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Father Miguel Hidalgo, Simon Bolivar, Pope Francis, Granville Sharp, John Newton, William Wilberforce

The American Revolution

It would only take about 100 years for the same ideas which had inspired the British Civil War to influence their colonists, who would insist on the same rights that the Parliamentarians had fought for.



The land marked "ceded" was given to the British by the French and Spanish after the Seven Years' War. France was not happy about this, but since they lost the war, they had to give the British what they asked for.

American Colonial Beginnings

While the Spanish had focused on settling South and Central America, the British and French had colonized North America, specifically the land east of the Mississippi River. For a long time, the 13 British colonies had enjoyed **self-governing**, which meant that they made their own laws. This also meant that they controlled all of the taxes that were charged for different things.

Different groups of people came to the American colonies for different reasons and would then settle in a colony that made laws that favored their beliefs. Those who had settled in

the Northern colonies were religious **dissenters** who were opposed to the teachings of the Church of England. These Puritans wanted to purify the Church by being an example, or a "city on a hill."

The people in the Southern colonies were largely British citizens who had few opportunities in England. These homeless workers with little education or working skills moved to America looking for economic opportunities. In order to pay for their passage, these poor workers would often sell themselves as indentured servants for five to seven years. Many were treated like slaves, and over half died before their time of service was up.

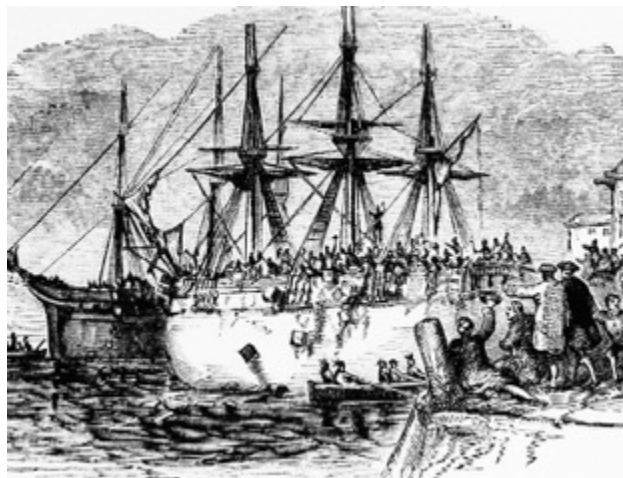
The middle colonies were settled by Dutch, German, French, and English people who moved for various reasons. Many were seeking religious tolerance and freedom, while others wanted economic opportunities.

Regardless of the specific reasons, the American colonists had several very important characteristics. First, many had come looking for economic and religious freedom, which meant that they were especially sensitive and opposed to government control of their daily lives. Second, many of them were strong supporters of the ideas of the British Civil War and Glorious Revolution, and had a strong belief that, as British citizens, they could only be taxed by their representatives. Related to this belief, most colonists, even those from other nations, saw themselves as British citizens. This would become significant



The Puritans who settled in New England were Protestants who wanted to Reform or "purify" the Church of England. When they weren't allowed to practice their beliefs in England, some moved to the New World.

as they began to demand the rights of citizens, rather than allowing themselves to be treated like a mercantilist colony.



Boston Tea Party

Road to Revolution

During the 1760's, England and France fought a war, called the Seven Years' War in Europe and the French and Indian War in the colonies. The war was actually the first European war to begin in the New World. American colonists had repeatedly raided French outposts to try to gain access to more land and resources. During this time, England had to spend a lot of money protecting the colonies, so they also decided to raise the taxes. This ended up being a big problem, because the colonists didn't want to pay their money directly to the king. Each colony was run by a locally elected group of citizens, and

since the legislative branch (Parliament) alone has the right to tax, the colonists claimed that, as British citizens, only their local assemblies had the authority to tax them.

One of the things that the colonists began to do was to smuggle goods in order to avoid paying the taxes on certain goods. Smuggling is illegally bringing goods into a country. Normally, countries charge a fee to import things into the country, that way the country makes money from trade as well. The problem is, when they paid the tax, the merchants ended up selling the good for more money, and things get more expensive. An alternative is to just not pay the tax, but obviously this is illegal. Conflict between the British tax collectors and colonial smugglers began, although often the colonists would bribe the officials to avoid paying the tax.

American Revolution

The most famous example of American protests during the time leading up to the American Revolution is called the **Boston Tea Party**. Britain had put a large tax on imports of tea, which made the price go up in the colonies. Upset about the tax, and wanting to make a statement, a group of Boston colonists dressed up like Indians in the middle of the night, broke into a ship in Boston harbor, and threw all of the tea overboard. This revolt, and others like it, led to harsher and harsher regulation, or control, of the colonies by the military. In a few years, these conflicts between authorities and small groups of colonists would become open war between organized armies.



The American colonists adopted the rattlesnake symbol because they felt that that represented their purpose. Rattlesnakes are not aggressive, but if they are threatened, they become deadly. Here, the rattlesnake (American colonies) present a gift to the French Ambassador.

Since the Stamp Act of 1765, the colonies had begun to work more closely with one another. The Stamp Act had put a special tax on all official documents, which required a stamp

that could only be purchased from the British government. The new tax was highly unpopular in all of the colonies, and they agreed to meet and organized a **boycott** of certain British goods. A



Battle on Lexington Green by William Barnes Wollen

boycott is refusing to buy something to protest a policy or product. In this case, by reducing the demand for certain British goods, the colonists also caused the price to fall, and British merchants lost money. Women played a key role in these boycotts, as they often had to find ways to supply their families without the boycotted goods. In 1774, the first Continental Congress met with representatives from the colonies, and agreed that beginning in the fall of 1775, they would refuse to

buy anything from the British until the King and Parliament recognized their right to choose their own taxes. The British responded by sending an army to occupy Boston.

In early 1775, the small battles of Lexington and Concord were fought between the colonists and the British outside of Boston. That summer, the Second Continental Congress met to discuss what should be done. George Washington (1732-1799) was appointed to be the commander of the colonial army and sent to Boston. After a siege of the city that lasted several months, the British army left Boston, but the fighting was far from over.

The following year, the leaders of the Continental Congress became convinced that reunion with the British government was impossible, and that they should declare their independence. Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) was selected to draft the **Declaration of Independence**, and with very few changes was officially adopted by all 13 colonies. Even after this Declaration of Independence, the fighting would last for five more years, with thousands of colonists and British soldiers killed.

The French were still unhappy about losing the Seven Years' War and were always interested in finding a way to reduce the power of the British Empire. Initially, helping the colonies would have risked a war with a weak ally, so the French did nothing for the first few years of the Revolution. After Washington won a key battle in Trenton in 1776 and Horatio Gates won at Saratoga in 1777, the French felt that the colonists were a strong enough ally that they could win. Originally the French mainly helped by providing supplies, but by the end of the war, they were also giving the colonists soldiers. The naval strength of the French needed to be taken seriously by the British, who were much more concerned about losing their colonies in the West Indies which supplied them with sugar, than the northern American colonies. Spain also declared war on the British, at which point what had begun as a colonial war for independence, became a European war for power and control. At the Treaty of Paris (1783), the British surrendered and signed a treaty with France, Spain, and the newly formed America. Spain and France gained much of the land they had lost in the Seven Years' War and America gained her independence.



The British commander, Lord Cornwallis, surrendering to the combined French (left) and American forces.

The French king at the time could not have known that the ideas that the colonists were using against the British would spread to his country, and in less than 15 years, he would also lose his crown (and head) because of the spread of the **revolution**.

New Government: Constitutional Republic

Even after the fighting stopped, the British Colonists had to decide what they were going to do to set up a new government. Many colonists, including Alexander Hamilton, favored



The Constitution begins “We the People” emphasizing that the powers being given to the government come from the consent of the people.

making George Washington the new king, but others feared that it would only be a matter of time before things got to be just as bad as they were before the Revolution. Using the Enlightenment ideas of separation of powers, natural rights, and social contract, the Founding Fathers decided instead to create a Republic, where the people would vote for representatives who would then make laws for them.

To keep the government from becoming too powerful, every couple of years, elections would be held, to give the people the chance to change their government without wars and bloodshed. Just as importantly, a **Constitution** would be written which

specifically spelled out what powers the government did and didn’t have. This Constitution could only be changed by the people and was to be their contract with their government. Using Montesquieu’s ideas and some of the British model, there would be three equal branches of government in the American Republic, a legislative branch to make the laws, an executive branch to enforce them, and a judicial branch to interpret them.

This is what made the United States of America so unique and important in world history; it was the first government that provided a way for the citizens to change their government by voting for new leaders without the violence of a revolution. In Locke’s system, when a king became a tyrant, he had to be killed. In the new American system, if a president became a tyrant, the citizens just vote for a different president. When a woman asked Ben Franklin what kind of government they would have after the voting at the Constitutional Convention, Franklin replied to her: “A republic...if you can keep it,” implying that it was up to the citizens to vote wisely and defend their freedoms.

George Washington has a very unique place in American and World History due to his role in the American Revolution and the beginning of the country. In 1783, George Washington resigned his commission as the commander and chief of the army. Washington understood that armies which are controlled by a single man lead to dictatorships. That he willingly gave up this power proves how committed he was to the ideas of the American Revolution. Just as importantly, after



George Washington Resigning His Commission by John Trumbull (1817). Washington voluntarily giving up power twice is a big reason for the American Republic’s long-term success.

serving two terms as President, in 1798, Washington voluntarily gave up running for president and retired from public life for good. In so doing, he again gave power to the people, refusing to even allow them to vote for a dictatorship. The precedent that Washington set by refusing to run for office for a 3rd term lasted for over 100 years.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. What freedoms did many American colonists enjoy during 17th and 18th centuries?
2. Why did the British government raise taxes on the colonists after the Seven Years' War?
3. How did American colonists respond to new taxes by the British government?
4. What country helped the American colonists gain independence from the British?
5. What are the three branches of government in America?
6. Why was the American system a new type of government in world history?
7. What did George Washington do that helped preserve the American voting system?

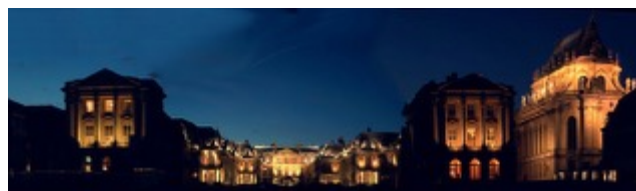


The French Revolution

The French government was all too happy to help the American colonists gain their freedom from Great Britain, but not because they agreed with the Enlightenment ideas on which it was based. While the French were sending supplies to colonists, they were brutally imprisoning all who spoke out against the government and taxing the poor people to the point that many of them were starving. By supporting the colonists with their struggle, King Louis XVI was also signing his own death sentence.

Versailles

The French nobility lived uncommonly wealthy lives, even by the standards of other kings and nobles in European powers. France was one of the few monarchies left in Europe that remained connected to the Roman Catholic Church. The close connection between the Vatican and Paris gave power to nobles and clergy members alike in 18th century France. The best example of this came when King Louis XIV decided to take his summer home in Versailles, and remodel it.



Pictures of the Palace at Versailles (Top Right: Hall of Mirrors, Left & Center: Palace Gardens, Right: Palace at night)

Louis XIV (1638-1715) was known as the “Sun King” and is one of the best examples of a European king who embraced the ideas of divine right. He believed that God had appointed him to be the King of France, and as such, sought to reduce any limits on the power of the king. King Louis centralized the power of the government by exerting increasing influence on the nobility. He accomplished this by pressuring most of the nobles to move into Versailles. In order to enhance French power in Europe, Louis focused on using warfare to increase French power. The reign of Louis XIV had several important consequences. The first is that French writers and philosophers saw first-hand the consequences of an unlimited government, and many began to oppose it actively. Secondly, Louis’s attitude toward his own power led him to spend large sums of money on himself. Based on Hobbes’s understanding of the social contract, Louis argued that since he was protecting his people, he was justified in the massive taxes he was charging the peasants to pay for his opulent lifestyle.



Storming of the Bastille by Jean Pierre Houel (1789)



A political cartoon representing the three French Estates. The peasants (3rd Estate) carrying the Clergy (1st Estate) and Nobility (2nd Estate) on its back. In France, most of the taxes were paid by the 3rd Estate.

Versailles cost the crown millions of dollars, which would have been \$2 billion in modern money, and the way it was paid for was by taxes on the peasants. The building alone at Versailles is 51,000 square meters, which is the same size as 13 football fields. The building has over 2000 windows, and 2000 acres of gardens. Since it was all paid for by French taxes, the people came to see the French king as being out of touch with the common people, and some started to write and talk about a change to the government in France.

Financial Collapse

In 1790’s France, the ideas of philosophers like Rousseau and Voltaire would inspire a revolution, but unfortunately the revolution would not turn out as well as it did for the American colonies. The French monarchy had spent so much money that the country was on the brink of ruin, and nobody could agree what to do about it. The Seven Years’ War had cost

France dearly, in both money and land. While their support of the American colonists turned out better, it sent the nation’s economy even deeper into debt.

Rather than try something new to deal with the growing debt crisis, Louis XVI (1754-1793), continued to changed advisors instead. Every time his financial minister advised him to spend less money in order to deal with the growing debt, that advisor was fired. Meanwhile, the 3rd Estate peasants were literally starving because they couldn't afford to pay their taxes and buy food for their families. Anyone who spoke out against the king and his policies was thrown into prison. One of the first events of the French revolution was the storming of the **Bastille**, where political prisoners were kept. Men like Voltaire were sent to the Bastille for speaking out against the French King, and it became a symbol of the stripping of the French people's rights by the monarchy.



The Tennis Court Oath

Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man (1789)

In 1789, the French Estates General met to discuss the abuses of power by the French Monarchy and the financial crisis. The **Estates General** represented the three social classes in French society, the clergy (1st Estate), aristocracy (2nd Estate), and the people (3rd Estate). Despite the 3rd Estate representing more than 90% of the French population, they only received an equal vote to the other two Estates.

The result was the 3rd Estate rebelling, and taking the **Tennis Court Oath**, with the representatives promising to each other that they would see to it that France established a representative form of government and adopting the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. The Declaration, influenced directly by Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence, asserted that all men were equal, should have equal rights, and should be free from oppression. Almost immediately after passing it, the fighters for freedom would violate their own Declaration.



The execution of Louis XVI. Executions were public events and French citizens often took their children to witness the executions.

During this time, a new political party, known as the **Jacobin Club** rose in popularity among French leaders. The Jacobin Club claimed to be the voice of the common people in France who had been repressed, but most of the members of the club were very wealthy citizens. Until the execution of King Louis XVI, the Jacobins supported the idea of having a king in France but wanted a different king rather than a different type of government. Shortly after its founding, the Jacobin club divided into two rival factions, one led by a persuasive speaker named Robespierre. The split did not create two more parties, and membership was never official, but the Jacobins fought against one another vigorously over the future of France.

Madame Guillotine's Reign of Terror

The leader of the Jacobins was Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794). The Jacobin party only represented about 1/3 of all National assembly members. The split between Robespierre's Mountain faction and the Girardin faction was more or less equally divided in numbers.

Robespierre's faction was more popular in Paris, where the National Assembly met, which gave them an advantage. Late in 1792, Robespierre and the army arrested and disbanded the Girardin leadership, establishing Robespierre as the leader of the Jacobin Party and the National Assembly.

When Robespierre took control of France, he quickly began to execute people. Among the first people to be executed were the French King and Queen. Robespierre didn't really believe that they needed to die because they were bad people, but he also didn't want anyone to try to set up the monarchy again, so he argued that they had to be killed. Robespierre claimed that in order to defend freedom and give equal rights to everyone, those who didn't support freedom had to be executed. While Robespierre and others initially used the same arguments made by men like Voltaire and Rousseau, they quickly began to aggressively execute people who spoke out against the revolution. The time when Robespierre shifted the government into a violent dictatorship that ruthlessly sought out anyone against his version of the revolution was called "**The Reign of Terror.**" Paris descended into total chaos.



The seal of the Jacobin Party, promising liberty to all.

Much of the anger of the people was directed toward the clergy, or the First Estate. Most of the French people considered themselves to be Catholics but blamed the Church leadership for a lot of their suffering. Throughout the French Revolution, church leaders and political opponents were targeted for execution and murder by citizens. Denis Diderot, an influential academic and writer, wrote in a poem that if the nation ran out of ropes to hang the aristocrats, they should use the internal organs of priests. While he wasn't seriously suggesting using entrails as hanging ropes, he was seriously suggesting that both religious and political leaders should be targeted for execution and murder. Many nations in Europe attempted to interfere in the French Revolution as well, trying to support the king. Other monarchs were afraid that if France effectively got rid of its monarchy, that their own people would demand freedom as well.



The Execution of Robespierre (1794). Robespierre is in the cart, waiting for his execution. Public executions in the French Revolution were spectator events, and often dozens of executions took place back to back.

It is estimated that somewhere between 15,000 and 50,000 people were executed by government officials during the Reign of Terror, most without trials. Nobody was safe during the

French Revolution. The youngest victim of the **guillotine**, the preferred French execution device, was less than 12 years old, while the oldest was over 90. Robespierre himself was deemed an enemy of the state in 1794 and scheduled for execution with 21 of his Mountain Jacobin leaders. He tried to commit suicide but failed and became the latest victim of Madame Guillotine. Understanding Robespierre's actions is complicated. The chaos in Paris at the time required a firm hand in order to impose any kind of order, and Robespierre was certainly attempting to preserve the government in order to bring more freedom to France. He genuinely believed that in order to bring freedom to France, a short-term dictatorship was needed.

The Directory

The French government then set up the Directory, an executive ruling council of five Directors who ran the country. The Directory government closed the Jacobin Club, and stopped mass executions of citizen. The Jacobins attempted to spark a new revolution, but this time the Directory responded quickly to the threat, and backed by the British Navy, quickly arrested and executed over 700 of the Jacobin rebels by firing squad.



The overthrow of the Directory. Napoleon Bonaparte stands in the foreground with military leaders protecting him as he seizes control of the French Government.

Next, The Directory had to defend itself against an uprising of citizens who wanted to reestablish the monarchy. The monarchists formed two columns of citizens who marched on the government buildings to attempt to take control of the government. The Directors ordered a young French artillery commander, Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821), to defend the government buildings. Napoleon's cannon repeatedly fired into the crowd, killing almost four hundred rebels.

Ironically, the man who would replace the Directory in four years was promoted to general for defending it. The French Revolution, and its bloodshed had finally come to an end.

The Directory inherited a French government that was in serious financial crisis. The government was unable to pay back its debts and had to print money to try to meet its payment needs. Rapid printing of paper money led to inflation which raised the prices. The government **confiscated** Church property and sold it to raise more money. When all of these measures failed, the government eventually was forced to confiscate money from wealthy citizens, promising to repay them later, although these payments were never made. Food

was also a problem during and after the Revolution. There was never enough food for everyone. Starvation and food riots in Paris and elsewhere were common.



The French government printed their currency, called the "Assignat" so much that prices rose sharply. The Directory was never able to solve the financial crisis in France.

The Directory was at constant war with the British, Austrians, Prussians, Spanish and Italians. Since they had killed their king and created a different type of government, the new French government was considered a threat to the governments of every other country in Europe. They were worried that their citizens would demand the same, and so sent their armies to France in order to attempt to impose the return of the French monarchy. Many Catholic nations like Austria were also deeply concerned by the murder of the French clergy and seizure of Church property by the government. In the foreign wars fought during the Directory period, General Bonaparte distinguished himself as the best military leader in Europe and became enormously popular in France.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



8. What palace in France was paid for by peasant taxes and created resentment for the King?
9. What castle was converted into a jail for political prisoners in France?
10. What political document was the basis of the French Constitution?
11. What political party led the French Revolution, despite the fact that it divided into two factions?
12. Who became dictator of France after taking control of the National Assembly and executing King Louis XVI?
13. Which French government followed the Reign of Terror?
14. Who became famous as the best military leader in Europe during the end of the French Revolution?

Emperor of Europe

After the French Revolution, one of the successful military commanders from the French army was able to use his charisma, leadership, and army to create a military empire for himself. Loved for his success and feared for his power, Napoleon Bonaparte was the embodiment of a Machiavellian prince.

Military Prowess

Napoleon was just an artillery officer during the French Revolution but used loyalty and his military genius to quickly get promoted to general. In 1798, Napoleon conquered Italy and won a series of wars against Austria, which gained him national attention. In 1799, he used his army to take over the government in a **coup d'état** and proclaimed himself the First Consul of the French Republic, while in reality he was a dictator. Napoleon was always seen as an enemy by the British, and soon the British were rallying forces against Napoleon.



Napoleon Crossing the Alps by Jacques Louis David (1801)

In 1805, Napoleon destroyed the British-led Third **Coalition**, decimating the Austrian and Russian forces. In the process, the Holy Roman Empire that had lasted for almost a thousand years was also destroyed. A year later, Prussia led the Fourth Coalition against Napoleon because they were afraid of the increased power that France held on the continent but lost. By the end of 1810, most of Europe was controlled by Napoleon, who had also defeated the Fifth Coalition.



The Coronation of Napoleon by Jacques-Louis David (1804)

Napoleon changed warfare for over a century, and his **tactics** are still studied in military schools. Napoleon transformed artillery from primarily a siege weapon into an offensive and defensive battlefield force. Napoleon also discovered a new way to effectively use cavalry on contemporary battlefields, which had been a challenge since the widespread use of gunpowder weapons. Most significantly, Napoleon shifted the emphasis of warfare as a gentlemen's occupation with an emphasis on outmaneuvering one's opponent to the obliteration of the enemy forces. He applied the same perspective to defeated nations. Previous European victors had asked for small concessions or minor land transfers. Napoleon required that a conquered nation surrender unconditionally and submit to the authority of the victorious nation completely.

Social Reform

Napoleon, who ruled most of continental Europe at one point, imposed several progressive changes which came to influence European culture. Napoleon laid the groundwork for public schools throughout Europe, although many were designed to train soldiers for his armies. While he was not antagonistic toward religious groups, he continued to move away from religious control of education or political influence. Napoleon was a deist, which was a major motivation for his policies of religious freedom.

In 1812, Napoleon attacked Russia because it was continuing to trade with Britain, even though Napoleon had ordered that all European trade be restricted to the continent. Even though the invasion began in the summer, the offensive stretched on into the winter. Russian winters are extremely brutal, and the French army had to retreat.

Napoleon changed warfare



The extent of Napoleon's Empire.

Napoleon's largest social impact was through the legal system, where he imposed his Napoleonic Code on most of Europe. Napoleon granted most citizens equal legal status and standing before the law, regardless of social class or religion. Even in his time, **anti-semitism** was strong among most European nations, but Napoleon granted Jews the same rights as every other citizen and ended the Spanish Inquisition. Napoleon's Code also gave equal property rights,

religious freedom, and public education to all citizens. He ended the guild system which prevented people from starting their own business without first apprenticing with a guild master, promoting a more capitalistic economic system. One of the reasons his system was so effective was that Napoleon and his government officials were very careful to write every law down in clear and easy to apply language. Even after his defeat and exile, Napoleon's Code remained in force in most countries he had ruled.



A British cartoon showing the disgraced Emperor Napoleon leaving to go to Elba.

Political Impact

Napoleon shook the European political world to its core. In dissolving the Holy Roman Empire, Napoleon paved the way for eventual German unification. Napoleon also unified the Italian city-states into one Italian nation. Fear of Napoleon's actions in Continental Europe stalled the Abolitionist movement, although Napoleon himself did not intend that to occur. He also sold the Louisiana Purchase to the upstart United States of America, effectively doubling its size.

In France, Napoleon demonstrated how a charismatic and ambition leader could use military power to seize control of a nation. While the Napoleonic dictatorship was not as repressive as many modern dictatorships, he did not tolerate opposition to his reign. His extensive use of **propaganda**, and hijacking of the education system to indoctrinate youth had definite repressive qualities.

Napoleon Defeated

After being defeated by the Sixth Coalition, Napoleon was forced to surrender. As terms of his surrender, Napoleon was forced to **abdicate** his claims to the French and Italian thrones, which he agreed to do. He was **exiled** to Elba; a small island of which Napoleon was proclaimed the "emperor." After reforming many of the practices on the island, Napoleon grew restless and escaped to returned to Europe. The French King sent the army to arrest him. Napoleon approached the regiment alone and dared the soldiers to shoot their emperor. None did; they joined him instead!

Louis XVIII fled the country, leaving Napoleon once again in charge of France. Napoleon raised an army of about 200,000 men. Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia joined into an alliance, pledging 150,000 men each, and declared Napoleon an outlaw. At the battle of **Waterloo**, the Duke of Wellington withstood multiple attacks from the French, and the Prussians helped finish what was left of the French army. As he was retreating back to Paris, Napoleon realized that his support had vanished with



Political Cartoon (1814) by George Cruikshank showing the devil tempting Napoleon to commit suicide while on his little island. British fears of the emperor would be realized, as he returned less than a year later.

his loss and abdicated his throne. The Coalition forces continued to push into France, looking to take Napoleon dead or alive, at which point he surrendered to the British.

This time, Napoleon was exiled to Saint Helena, an island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. The conditions on the island were poor, and Napoleon's health declined. On May 5, 1821, the Emperor who had conquered most of Europe and redefined the legal system of the Continent died on a damp, windy, forgotten island.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



15. What is a military takeover of a government called?
16. What did Napoleon change about warfare?
17. What groups of people gained political rights under the Napoleonic Code?
18. What two nations were created by Napoleon?
19. What battle ended Napoleon's dictatorship for good and restored the French Monarchy?

Latin American Revolutions

After the American Revolution had successfully established a new government that was favored by the colonists, the idea spread all over the world. It would not only go to France, but also to many of the other colonies controlled by the Europeans in Central and South America. These revolutions, while all joined together and called the "Latin American Revolutions" are actually a group of revolutions that all happened at roughly the same time, in the same general region of the world.

Haiti

The first country to declare independence from its colonial empire after the British Colonies was the French colony of Saint Domingue. Saint Domingue was an extremely profitable sugar colony, and therefore was the most important French colonies in the world. Since it was a sugar colony, Saint Domingue also had an extremely high slave population, which was treated brutally by their masters. About 90% of the colony's population were enslaved. Most slaves survived less than a few years due to the brutality of their treatment.



Many of the Central and South American Revolutions, like the Haitian one seen above, were mainly slave revolts. Sadly, many slaves gained little freedom after the revolutions were over.

In the years after the American Revolution, France, England, Spain, revolting slaves, and several different escaped slave groups called “maroons” were all fighting for control of Saint Domingue. The British were especially concerned that the ideas of slave revolt could spread to their sugar plantation islands as well and began to try to help the French restore order. Many former slaves were fighting for their lives and freedom against the European masters and the European soldiers were fighting for their lives against tropical diseases like malaria and yellow fever. After years of fighting, everybody lost.



Toussaint Louverture

A man named Toussaint Louverture (1743-1803) took advantage of this and started a revolution that became a slave uprising. Although he had been a slave earlier in his life, Louverture had received an education, gained his freedom, and amassed a small fortune prior to the uprising in 1791, even owning several slaves himself. The Haitian Revolution was the most successful slave revolt in history. The fighting of the Haitian Revolution was brutal; both sides massacred men, women, and children simply because of their race. Nonetheless, by 1800, the slaves had established control of Saint Domingue.

In 1801, Toussaint Louverture created the first Constitution of Haiti, the new name for the nation. Although he outlawed slavery in Haiti, the nation’s economy was based on slave labor, and none of the newly freed slaves wanted to continue doing the same work. Louverture passed laws that made men work on plantations that he designated for the times that he determined. The men did not get to keep most of what they earned, as it went to support the government. Even though they were technically free, they had very little power over the course of their own lives.

Louverture was not allowed to control Haiti for long. Napoleon ordered his forces to take back control of the profitable sugar colony and sent an army to restore French control. After more years of fighting men and disease, both sides were again depleted. This time, the French kidnapped Louverture, took him back to France, where he died several years later. One of Louverture’s generals, Jean-Jacques Dessalines (1758-1806), had a part in Louverture’s capture and then took control of Haitian forces. After pretending to be allied with the French, Dessalines renewed the fighting for independence. By 1803, Napoleon had decided that the American colonies were worthless to the French Empire and began to focus on expanding his influence through Europe instead. He sold the Louisiana Purchase to the United States and allowed Haiti to have its freedom again.



Jean-Jacques Dessalines was more brutal than Louverture and ultimately set Haiti on a path of isolation and poverty.

Louverture had spent his early life as a slave, with a master who treated him well, allowed him to get an education, and eventually even his freedom. As a result of his experiences, the Haitian government under Louverture had tried to incorporate people of both races in harmony to rule the island. Dessalines had not had Louverture's experience, and bitterly despised the

whites. He gave a genocidal order to murder all white people on the island, and thousands were slaughtered. Dessalines's actions isolated Haiti from the rest of the Western World and for over a century, Haiti was virtually ignored by the Western World. The island nation slid further and further into poverty, a state which persists in the 21st century.

Mexico

In the early part of the 1800's, France (led by Napoleon) had invaded and taken over Spain. While this transition process was taking place, many of Spain's colonies in the New World had been left alone. Spurred on by Enlightenment ideas, and the success of the American Revolution and even more recent success in Haiti, these countries also began to fight for their independence.

Similar to Louverture's actions in Mexico, much of the fighting of the revolution was carried out by a relatively small number of men. New Spain (Mexico) was run by very few Spaniards, as most preferred to make their fortune in the New World and then move back to Spain. Most of the people in New Spain were mestizos, or mixed race. These people enjoyed a higher status than the native Americans, but less than Spanish or Europeans. Spanish law prohibited slavery of the indigenous people of Mexico, but this didn't mean that they were treated well.

Within this hierarchy, Catholic Priests in New Spain had enjoyed special status in the society. One priest, Father Miguel Hidalgo (1753-1811) attempted to create enthusiasm for a revolution by saying that he believed that God wanted Mexican independence. For two years, his army moved throughout Mexico, capturing towns and recruiting followers. The followers were poorly trained and not nearly as committed to the revolution as Hidalgo, and as a result he was defeated, captured, and hanged in 1811. However, only a decade later, Mexico officially declared and defended its independence from Spain. Rather than uniting, many different Spanish and mestizo leaders began fighting amongst themselves, in many ways failing to bring Enlightenment ideas to Mexico.



A shanty town in Haiti. Poverty persists as a major problem in Haiti and its sister-state the Dominican Republic, although conditions in Haiti are consistently worse.



Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla being executed for encouraging a revolution in Mexico.

El Libertador

In South America, the Spanish controlled most of the land with the exception of Brazil and a few smaller British and French colonies. A revolutionary leader named Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) became interested in Enlightenment ideas like self-rule and equal rights after receiving a European education and visiting Europe where he got to hear an address by Napoleon. Bolivar believed that while certain Enlightenment ideas were good, that the Latin American social order needed to be maintained. Bolivar did not believe that the people could effectively run their own countries, so he created dictatorships. He believed that he was better able to protect the people's rights than they were.

Bolivar experienced limited success in inspiring a revolution at first. Several times he had to flee the country where he was attempting to start a revolution due to serious losses. Later, Bolivar adopted guerilla tactics, mainly burning property, food, and supplies until the local government agreed to his rule. Sometimes the Spanish army would then move in and restore order, but over time Bolivar's tactics worked, and he managed to gain independence for Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru. Bolivar became known as "*el Libertador*" or "The Liberator."

Bolivar believed that most people didn't have the education or ability to create a free society. Instead of giving the people the right to vote, Bolivar believed that they needed a strong dictator who would take care of them and rule the country well for them. Bolivar tried to rule fairly and give people more rights, but the dictators who followed him did not and his legacy of dictatorship in South America left countries with numerous civil wars fought over the decades following his death.

In the 21st century, these countries continue to experience violence and instability. The Venezuelan dictator, Hugo Chavez, attempted to create a communist government, even naming the revolution after Simon Bolivar. Chavez called his revolution the "Bolivarian Revolution." Political fighting between Chavez's communist party and the political party that wants more democratic freedom in Venezuela continue. Over 100 people were killed in political fighting in 2017. *El Libertador* freed Central America from European colonial rule but did not its people from oppression.

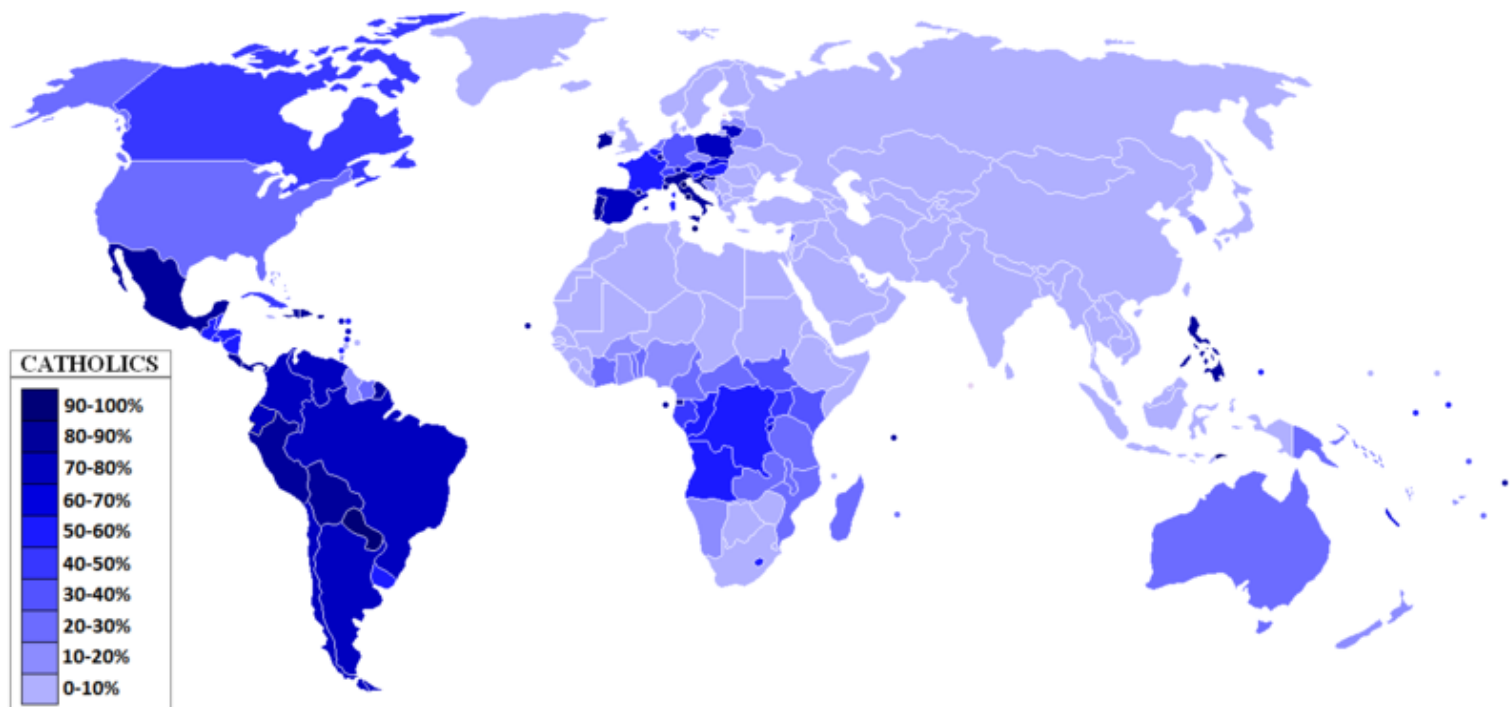


Simon Bolivar

Legacy of the Roman Catholic Church

Throughout the Latin American world, there are numerous churches, statues, and other landmarks associated with the Roman Catholic Church. These sites were commissioned and paid for by the Roman Catholic Church. To this day in Central and South America, the Catholic Church continues to be extremely important in the political and cultural lives of the people living there. Much of this has to do with the fact that prior to independence, there were 300 years of very strong Spanish influence in those regions, and Spain was very closely tied to the Catholic Church. The Catholicism of Latin America differed slightly from the beliefs other the Roman Catholic

Church, due to the fact that the Aztec, Inca, and other indigenous groups often mixed the Christianity brought by the Catholic missionaries with their own beliefs. This is another reason for the large numbers of statues, as idol worship was a part of the indigenous belief system and got applied to the Latin American version of Christianity. Globalization has given the Latin American Catholic Church more power within the Catholic church in general, and the current pope, Pope Francis (2013-), is the first pope to come from the New World.



The strong ties between the Catholic Church and Central and South American regions is evident in the percentage of people in those countries who claim to be Catholic today. It is literally possible to see much of the Spanish Empire by looking at a religious map, due to how actively their missionaries sought to convert the indigenous groups to their religious beliefs.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



20. What crop was the Haitian economy based on?
21. Why did most of the European nations help France against the Haitian Revolutionaries?
22. What killed most of the European soldiers who came to Haiti to fight the rebels?
23. What was the difference between Louverture and Dessalines's attitudes toward whites in Haiti?
24. Why were many South and Central American nations able to rebel against Spain in the early 19th century?
25. After winning independence from Spain, why didn't Bolivar give the people the right to vote?
26. Using the map above, in what part of the world are most of the people who live in that country Catholic?

Abolitionist Movement

For centuries, the British Empire had profited from the trade of human beings, who were taken from their homes in Africa and transported across the Atlantic Ocean. Once they reached the Caribbean Islands, slaves were frequently worked to death on the sugar plantations. The products of the slave labor were then taken back to Europe, where they were sold for a massive profit. The importance of the sugar colonies cannot be understated. At the end of the Seven Years' War, France had the choice of keeping a handful of small islands, or millions of square miles of land in America and Canada. France chose the sugar colonies.



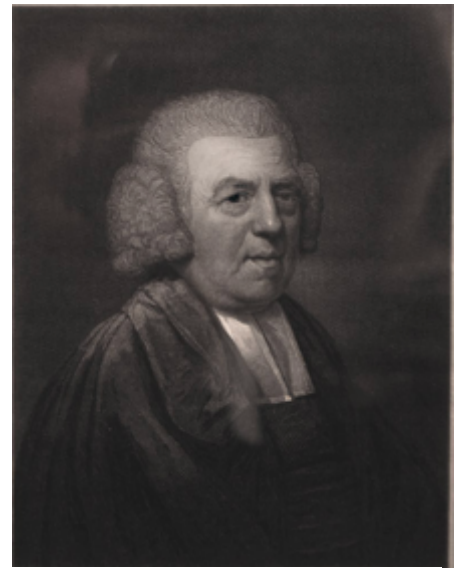
Abolitionist Medallion by Josiah Wedgwood, (1787). The image humanized slaves and encouraged popular sympathy for their plight.

Early Abolitionists

Granville Sharp (1735-1813) was one of the first British figures to begin to work toward **abolitionism** in Britain. Sharp was horrified that the practice of slavery could be permitted in the British Empire, given the Enlightenment ideals of natural rights and dignity for humanity. Sharp, although not trained as a lawyer, taught himself British law to defend a man whom his

family had helped after being cast out as useless by his master. The man had been a slave and left on the streets to die. The Sharps paid for his extensive medical care and allowed him to live as a free man. His former master had found the man, kidnapped him and sold him into slavery again. Sharp learned enough British law to help the man win his freedom.

Then, in 1772, Sharp took a case that would change British law forever. James Somersett was a Virginia slave who had been brought to England by his master and run away. Sharp advised Somersett's lawyers throughout the case, encouraging the judge to rule that slavery was not legal in Britain based on case law history. Somersett won his case, and the monumental case became the foundation for the ending of the practice of slavery in England. Sharp would remain involved in the abolitionist movement for the rest of his life. Even though slavery was illegal in England, millions were still enslaved in British colonies throughout the world.



John Newton had a big impact on Wilberforce's conversion to Christianity and the end of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Newton knew what the experience was like for slaves because he had been a slave ship captain.

Methodist Movement

The Methodists were greatly involved in the abolitionist cause. John Wesley and John Newton (1725-1807) were two of the most involved ministers. John Wesley was one of the founders of the Methodist denomination. While traveling to America, Wesley encountered slavery firsthand in Georgia and was disgusted by what he saw. When Wesley met Sharp, he was able to learn more about slavery, to the point where he felt able to preach on the subject, which he did to great opposition by the slave traders.

John Newton, the writer of the famous hymn *Amazing Grace*, was a former slave ship captain. Using his first-hand knowledge of the treatment of the slaves during the Middle Passage,

Newton gave the abolitionists information on the slave trade that many slave traders wanted to remain hidden. The Christian influence on the abolitionist movement in England cannot be understated since most of the members of the movement saw the freedom of the slaves as a required connection of their faith.

William Wilberforce

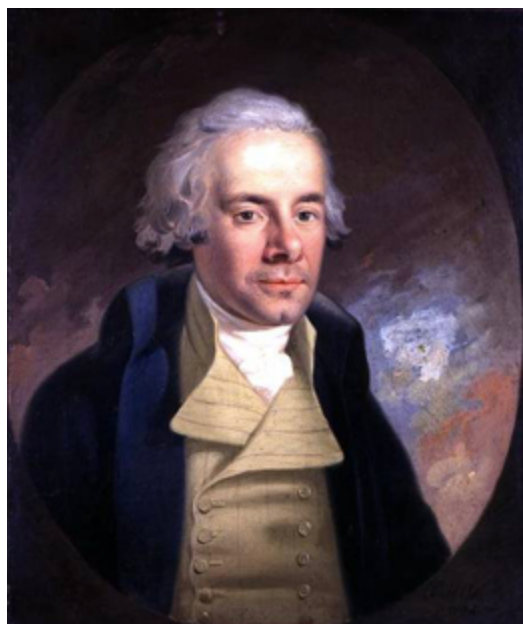
William Wilberforce (1759-1833) dedicated all of his professional life to the pursuit of the end of slavery in the British Empire. Wilberforce was well known as one of the greatest speakers of his time. As a young man, Wilberforce had been largely disinterested in religion, but upon his conversion to Methodism, Wilberforce began to seek ways to integrate his faith with his public service. He was soon asked to become the spokesperson for the abolition of slavery in the Parliament. In a meeting with the former slave, Olaudah Equiano and prime-

minister-to-be William Pitt, Wilberforce reluctantly agreed to take up the cause which would take the next 46 years of his life.

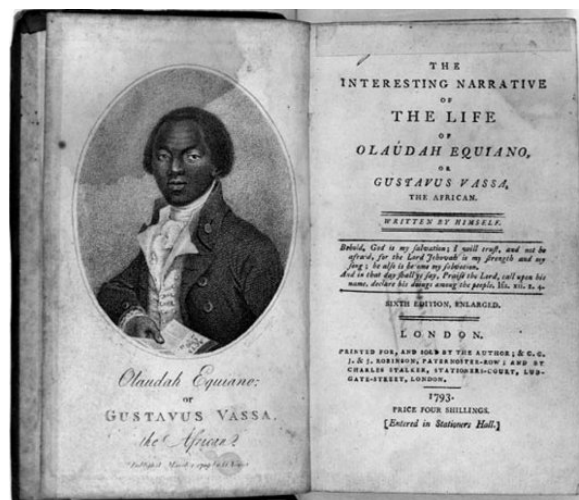
Early support for the abolitionist cause was limited, but the abolitionists quickly rallied popular support for their work by engaging in public information campaigns. A diagram of the slave ship *Brookes* was particularly successful in rallying support because it visually showed how inhumanely the slaves were treated during the Middle Passage. Unfortunately, the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon in Europe preoccupied Parliament for several years, and the electors refused to vote for a law that they feared would disrupt the nation.

In 1807, Wilberforce finally believed that he had the votes necessary to pass an abolition of the slave trade. His friend, William Pitt had died the year before, which enabled Wilberforce to ally himself with other groups in Parliament. Pitt had been unwilling to support alliances with certain powerful men in Parliament because their parties were opposed to one another in other ways. Wilberforce, on the other hand, just wanted to end the practice of slavery, and had no problem making those compromises. On February 23rd, 1807, Parliament passed the Slave Trade Act of 1807. John Newton died the same year, knowing that he had helped to end the evil trade he had once been a part of. Ending the slave trade was only half of the work for Wilberforce.

While the Slave Trade Act made transporting slaves illegal, it did nothing for the people who were already slaves. For the next 25 years, as his health began to fail, Wilberforce continued to work to end slavery completely. Wilberforce argued that the enslavement of a human being



William Wilberforce by Karl Anton Hickel (1794)



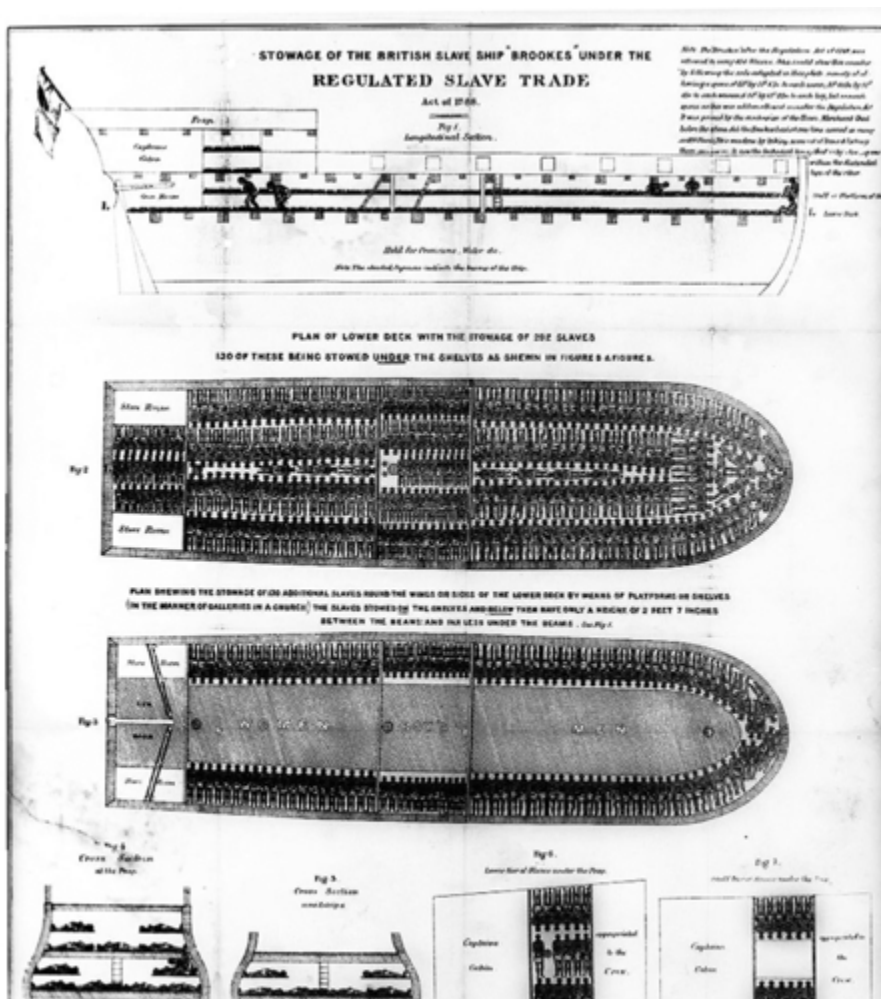
Equiano's autobiography is one of the only accounts of the entire process of the Atlantic Slave Trade. He began his life in Africa and discusses being captured, the Middle Passage, and his fight to gain his own freedom.

was evil, and that all of Britain was tainted by the toleration of slavery. Napoleon's domination of Europe in the beginning of the 19th century again played a large role in making the legislators slow to act. In 1787, Wilberforce wrote in his diary that "God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners [moral values]." On July 26, 1833, Wilberforce heard the news he had waited a lifetime to hear: Parliament had passed a law ending the practice of slavery. He died three days later.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING



27. Who was the first British lawyer to try to get equal rights for Blacks living in England?
28. What Christian denomination was especially involved in the fight to end slavery?
29. Who was the former slave ship captain and Methodist minister that exposed the horrors of the Middle Passage?
30. Why was the Slave Trade Act (1807) not a total victory for the abolitionists?
31. What British lawmaker devoted his entire political career to trying to end the slave trade?



The widely circulated diagram of the *Brookes* demonstrated the horrendous conditions that slaves were subjected to being treated as cargo during the Middle Passage.

Digging Deeper

Apply/Analyze

Directions: Choose one question from each theme to respond to. Responses should thoroughly address the question (probably between 3-7 sentences)



Freedom

1. How would you present the case that Robespierre needed to be removed from power in France?
2. Why was it necessary for Washington to resign his military commission at the end of the Revolution?
3. What was the main issue that prevented freedom from being won in the Latin Revolutions?

Change

4. How might the situation in Haiti have been different if Louverture had remained in control?
5. How would you solve the transition from a monarchy to republic without killing the king?

Society

6. Why does a constitutional republic protect people's rights better than a dictatorship?
7. Why do you think the French people did not resist Napoleon's military takeover in 1799?
8. How did economic factors contribute to the Age of Revolutions?



Take a Stand

Evaluate

Directions: In a multi-paragraph essay, respond to and support your response with information from the text, personal experiences, logical arguments, and examples from history or current events. Choose one essay to respond to.

Freedom

Evaluate how successful the French Revolution (including Napoleon's rule) was at giving the rights enumerated in the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man.

Change

Rank the importance of the changes (good and bad) that Napoleon introduced in Europe.

Society

What was the most important difference between the American revolution and other political revolutions of its Era in creating a lasting and successful government?

Vocabulary Words--Index

38th Parallel—The demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea

3rd Reich—The Nazi party's goal, a re-establishment of the German Empire

3rd World Country—A nation which has not begun to experience industrialization on a large scale.

5-Year Plan—Soviet Plan for rapid industrialization in the 1930's.

95 Thesis—Discussion points posted by Martin Luther that began the Protestant Reformation.

A

Abdicate—To give up a claim to a kingdom

Abolitionism—The belief that slavery should be ended immediately

Absolute Monarchy—Government system where a monarch holds all political power

African National Congress (ANC)—The self-appointed representative body for Black South Africans that worked for the end of the apartheid policies.

Age of Imperialism—Time during the 19th and early 20th centuries when European countries conquered all of Africa

Agrarian—A society that is based on farming

al-Qaeda—The terrorist group organized by Osama Bin Laden after the Afghan-Soviet War

Alliance—An agreement between two or more countries, often to combine military, diplomatic, or political efforts

Allied Powers (WW2)—Nations allied against the Axis Powers, most significantly England, France, USSR, USA, and China

Amendment—(US Government) A legal change to the Constitution of the United States

Annex—To take control of a territory with the intent to add it to one's own nation

Anschluss—The political unification of Germany and Austria during WW2

Antibiotic—Medicine which fights infection caused by bacteria

Antisemitism—Belief that persecution of Jews is acceptable

Apartheid—The government policies of South Africa (1930's-1991) that gave people of European descent special privileges after S. Africa gained its independence

Appeasement—Giving in to a hostile nation's demands or actions to avoid war

Arab Spring—The political movements in Middle Eastern countries at the beginning of the 21st century to overthrow the dictators' regimes controlling their countries

Arms Race—The devotion of economic resources to developing superior weapons program by two or more countries

Artillery—Long-range weapons, normally shot from cannon-like weapons

Aryan—The ethnic group identified by the Nazis as the "master-race."

Assassination—The murder of a political figure because of their beliefs, policies, or significance to a movement, group, or organization.

Atheism—Belief that there is no divine being or "God."

Atomic Bomb—weapon which uses nuclear fusion to create a large explosion

Axis Powers—Alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan during WW2.

B

Balance of Power—The international political theory of shifting alliances to prevent one nation from becoming too powerful

Ballistic Missile—A missile designed to be fired from long-range

Bastille—A French prison for political prisoners

Bataan Death March—Forced march of American and Filipino prisoners of war resulting in large number of deaths

Berlin Airlift—The supply of West Berlin by aircraft during the Berlin Blockade

Berlin Blockade—Soviet attempt to cut off West Berlin from supplies from NATO allies

Berlin Wall—Wall dividing East and West Berlin. Symbolic of the Iron Curtain.

Black Death—The Bubonic Plague which impacted Europe in the 14th century and killed 1/3 of the population.

Blitzkrieg—The Nazi military tactic of using tanks and rapid assaults to overwhelm the enemy

Boer—Dutch farmers in South Africa

Bolshevik—Russian political party that fought for communism in Russia beginning in the early 1900's

Boston Tea Party—Boston colonists demonstration against King George and the tax on tea

Bourgeoisie—The elite class, according to communism.

Boxer—A Chinese militant fighter opposed to foreign influence in China around the turn of the 20th century.

Boycott—Refusing to participate or purchase goods or services to put pressure on a group, government, or business

Brexit—The name given to the British political movement calling for withdrawal from the European Union

C

Caliphate—A Muslim theocratic empire ruled by a religious leader or caliph.

Cannibalism—The practice of eating human flesh

Capital—Assets (money, property, etc.) which can be invested to earn money or start a business

Capitalism—An economic system where individuals control the means of production

Cartography—The science of making maps

Caste System—A system of social structuring common in South-East Asia where your parents' social class determines your social class

Casualty—A person who is killed, wounded, or injured in a war.

Catholic—"Universal." Normally in reference to the Roman Catholic Church, a Christian denomination. In historical literature, often referred to simply as "the Church"

Cease-fire—An agreement to stop aggressive action while not officially ending a war

Central Powers—The military alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire during World War I

Circumnavigate—To sail all the way around the earth

Civil Disobedience—Refusing to follow government laws in order to pressure them to make changes in policy or laws

Civilian—people in a war-zone who are not involved with the military

Clergy—Pastors, priests, and other leaders of a church

Coalition—A group of organizations or countries working to achieve a common goal

Collectivization—The system where private farms are taken over by the government

Colonization—Spreading a country's power by establishing settlements throughout the world.

Colony—A region that is under the political control of a foreign country

Columbian Exchange—The introduction of foreign goods into new markets during the Age of Exploration.

Commune—A community that shares property without individual ownership
Communism—An economic system where the government controls the means of production
Compromise—An agreement where both parties gain something they want by sacrificing other goals
Confiscation—Government seizure of property, usually in response to a crime
Conscription—The process of drafting citizens to serve in the military without their choice
Conquistadors—“Conquerors,” Spanish soldiers seeking riches in the New World
Constitution—A document which limits the government’s powers
Containment—United States policy of using military and economic pressure to stop the spread of Soviet influence
Coup d’etat—A hostile seizure of government operations by that country’s army
Crony Capitalism—When wealthy individuals use their money to greatly influence government policy
Cuban Missile Crisis—International conflict between the USA and USSR over Soviet nuclear missiles stationed in Cuba

D

D-Day—The Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6th, 1944, to gain power in Western Europe
Declaration of Independence—The formal announcement that the American colonies no longer considered themselves to be part of the British Empire.
Defector—A citizen who leaves a communist country without permission.
Deforestation—The practice of cutting down large forests to either engage in farming practices or access other natural resources
Deism—The belief that God made the world but is not involved in its daily operations
De-militarized Zone—(DMZ) A buffer area where armed troops are not allowed, meant to protect a peace agreement.
Democracy—A government system where people vote for their leaders
Denomination—A group of Christian churches who all agree on basic beliefs and principles.
Deportation—A government officially forcing a person or group to leave the country
Depression—A prolonged period of economic hardship characterized by high unemployment and resource scarcity
Deterrent—Policy meant to prevent another nation from taking action
Developing Nation—A nation which is undergoing the process of industrialization
Dictatorship—A government system where one person has absolute control
Diplomacy—International conflict resolution through discussions and alternatives to conventional warfare.
Direct Rule—French ruling style that directly ran all operations of their colonies
Dissent—Opposition to the status-quo
Divine Right—The idea that the king has authority from God
Doolittle Raid—A symbolic bombing strike against Japanese mainland in 1942.
Dynasty—A type of rule where power is transferred from the leader to his children

E

Eastern Bloc—The Eastern European countries controlled by the USSR during the Cold War
Embargo—A trade limitation on another country
Empire—A nation and all of the territories and colonies that it controls
Empiricism—The belief that man can understand the world through experimentation
Encomienda System—Spanish social hierarchy that made conquered people the lowest social class

Enlightened Despot—A monarch who used their power to give citizens more rights
Entrenchment—The process of building defensive fortifications for an army, most often by digging ditches
Epidemic—A widespread and out of control disease among a population of people.
Estates General—The legislative branch of pre-Revolutionary France
Ethnic—A social or cultural group linked by a common heritage
Eugenics—The scientific belief that humans should genetically engineer better human offspring by various methods
European Union (EU)—The political association of European nations to build cooperation and remain economically competitive in the 21st century.
Evolution—A theory that natural selection is responsible for the diversity of life on earth
Excommunication—Being kicked out of a religious group, normally forever.
Executive Branch—A branch of government responsible for enforcing the laws
Expedition—A voyage meant to explore new areas of the world, normally in search of resources
Exile—Being banned from a country for political or religious reasons
Expansionist—One who believes that a nation should extend its control to new lands
Extremist—A person whose beliefs do not represent the general beliefs of others in their group or culture

F

Famine—A regional food shortage leading to starvation
Fascism—A dictator state where the leader relies on extreme nationalism to control the citizenry
Federal Government—A government that controls a group of independent states.
Feudalism—Government system where land-holders run a local, decentralized government
Fourteen Points—President Wilson’s fourteen policies for peacefully ending WW1 and preventing future conflicts
Free Trade Agreement—An agreement made between nations to not charge import fees on one another’s’ goods
Fuhrer- “The Leader” A title Hitler took as dictator of Germany

G

Galleon—Spanish trading ships that were able to carry a large number of cannons to defend themselves
Geneva Conventions—International agreements dictating the methods by which warfare is conducted
Genocide—A government group specifically murdering of a group of people based on ethnic or cultural identity
Geocentric—Model of the universe with Earth at the center
Ghetto—Neighborhoods in Poland which were converted into isolation zones for Jews and other groups targeted by the Nazis.
Glasnost—Russian for “openness.” The idea that Russia needed to share more information with citizens and encourage their political participation.
Global Warming—The belief that man-made industrial practices have contributed to high and potentially dangerous global temperatures
Globalization--The process of increased connectedness of people all over the world.
Glorious Revolution—The adoption of the legal documents defining British citizens’ rights
Great Leap Forward—Mao Zedong’s plan to collectivize Chinese farms
Great Purge—Stalin’s campaign to eliminate all people opposed to his power during the 1930’s
Greenhouse gas—Air pollution caused by human activity that may contribute to global warming

Guerilla Warfare—Highly mobile militia forces fighting using terrorist tactics against a government group

Guillotine—A method of execution that became symbolic of the French Revolution

Gulag—Soviet prison camps, meant to punish citizens who resisted the government

H

Hajj—A pilgrimage made by Muslims to Saudi Arabia, one of the Five Pillars of Islam

Heliocentric—Model of the universe with the Sun at the center

Heresy—Teaching ideas that conflict with religious beliefs.

Heretic—A person who teaches ideas that conflict with the accepted religious beliefs

Hierarchy—A command structure in which leaders follow the leaders of higher ranking officials.

Holocaust—The genocide of Jewish people in Nazi-controlled Europe during WW2

Homelands—The assigned region that South African people were required to live and work in

Human Rights—The basic rights that every person deserves according to Western beliefs

Humanism—The belief that humanity has the ability to understand reality apart from divine revelation

Humanitarian aid—Providing food, shelter, and medical supplies to people in a crisis

I

Illegitimate—A person who is not eligible to legally inherit their father's property.

Immigrant—A person who leaves their home country to live in a new country.

Imperialism—A nation's desire to expand its power and control over other regions, attempting to build an empire

Indentured Servant—One who is made a slave for a pre-determined amount of time, normally to pay for a debt

Indicted—To be formally charged with a crime

Indigenous—The people who lived somewhere first

Indirect Rule—British ruling style that allowed indigenous people to largely run their colonies

Indulgence-- money paid to the Catholic Church to pardon sins. No longer an accepted practice in any Christian church.

Industrialize—The process of using more machines and factories in the production of a nation's goods

Infidel—According to various religious groups, one who does not practice the true religion

Inflation—The reduction in the value of money due to an increased supply of money

Interest—Money paid to secure a loan

International—between two or more nations.

Iron Curtain—The symbolic and literal isolation of Eastern European nations under Soviet control from the rest of the world

ISIS—Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. A terrorist organization wanting to create a caliphate in the Middle East. (also referred to as ISIL)

Island-hopping—US strategy in the Pacific Theater of taking control of one island at a time, and using it as a base for the next attack.

Isolationism—A national policy of avoiding foreign wars and treaties whenever possible

J

Jacobin Club—The political party committed to revolution in France

Jihad—Islamic belief in a “holy war” against non-Muslims.

Jim Crow Laws—The laws passed and enforced in the South that disadvantaged Black Americans while technically complying with the Constitution

Judicial Branch—A branch of government responsible for interpreting laws

K

Kristallnacht—“Night of Broken Glass.” The Nazi riots against Jewish businesses and synagogues in 1938

KGB—The Soviet secret police, responsible for spying on Russian citizens to catch people working against the communist government.

L

Labor Union—A worker’s group formed to limit the power of the business or company owner

Laypeople—A term for those uninvolved in the leadership of the Church

League of Nations—The first attempt at an international government after World War 1, primarily to promote peace

Legislative Branch—A branch of government responsible for making laws

Lend-Lease Act—American agreement to provide war supplies to the Allied Powers before joining the alliance

Liberate—To free from oppression

Life Expectancy—The average length of a person’s life in a given society

Limited Monarchy—A governmental system with a king as executive, normally limited by a legislative and judicial body of government

Literacy Rate—The number of people who can read

Logic—Using ideas one believes to be true to draw conclusions about new concepts

Luftwaffe—The German Airforce in WW2

M

Market—In economics, where goods are exchanged

Manhattan Project—The covert project which developed the world’s first atomic weapons

Marshall Plan—US policy to provide economic aid to European countries to prevent communist influence after WWII

Mass Production—Making large quantities of the same item.

Massacre—The slaughter of large numbers of unarmed people

Mercantilism—The economic system whereby the power of the nation is defined largely by the trade it engages in

Mercenary—A soldier hired to fight for a country, but not officially a part of their army
Mestizo—A person of mixed race, normally referring to one having Spanish and Native American heritage
Middle Passage—The time slaves spent on slave ships on the Atlantic Ocean
Militarism—The aggressive expansion of a nation's military and willingness to use it to deal with international conflicts
Minimum Wage—A regulation that sets a price that businesses must pay their employees
Missionary—A person dedicated to spreading their religion to other groups of people.
Modernize—To update technology
Monarchy—A government system where a king or queen heads the executive branch
Mulatto—A person of mixed race, normally with a European father.
Mutual Defense Alliance—A treaty which obligates nations to defend one another if they are attacked.
Mutually Assured Destruction—The idea that nuclear war would totally destroy both combatants

N

National Assembly—French representative branch of government
Nationalism—A belief that one's nation is better than all other countries and should spread its culture around the world.
Nationalize—The process of a government taking control of private property
Natural Rights—The idea that all people have basic human rights
Natural Selection—The scientific idea that more fit and stronger animals survive and pass on their genes to the next generation
Navigation—Using instruments and maps to arrive at a desired destination
Nazism—The nationalist extremist party which gained control of Germany in the 1930's
Neutrality—A foreign policy of choosing not to take a side in a war
New World—The American continents that were newly settled by Europeans in the 1500's.
No Man's Land—The area between enemy trenches that was destroyed by constant artillery bombardment
Non-Aggression Pact—A mutual agreement to not take military action against other nations signing the agreement.
Non-proliferation—An international agreement to cease production of nuclear weapons
North Atlantic Treaty Organization—(NATO) Anti-Soviet mutual defense alliance informally led by the United States
Non-Violence—Protesting without the option of any kind of physical resistance or demonstration
Nuremberg Trials—The trials which convicted Nazi officials of crimes against humanity and war-crimes.

O

Old World—The name given to the countries of Europe during the 1500's.
OPEC—Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, an oil cartel formed to manipulate the price of oil

P

- Paramilitary**—A group with military command and structure which is not associated with any nation or country.
- Parliament**—A legislative branch of government with many different political parties
- Pandemic**—A disease outbreak that spreads across the world
- Patriot Act**—The legislation which gave the government the authority to monitor all communication in the US
- Perestroika**—Russian for “restructuring.” The shift of Soviet policy toward capitalistic economics.
- Persecution**—Being mistreated due to religious or political beliefs
- Philosophy**—A system of thinking, or way of interpreting one’s world.
- Pilgrim**—A separatist group from the Church of England
- Plantation**—A large farm used to produce cash crops, normally with slave labor
- Pogrom**—A massacre of Jewish people by citizens of a region or town
- Pope**—The leader of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Precedent**—An established way to do things, based on a past decision
- Privateer**—A pirate supported by a government, hired to raid the shipping of a rival nation
- Proletariat**—The working class
- Proxy War**—A conflict between major world powers using other nations to fight for them
- Pollution**—Added material to an ecosystem that interferes with its stability or health
- Potsdam Conference**—Final Allied meeting after WWII which solidified Soviet control of Eastern Europe
- Poverty**—The condition of having a standard of living significantly lower than average.
- Proletariat**—The working class, according to communism.
- Propaganda**—A media (print, video, audio) presentation designed to influence a target audience's emotional response, normally through manipulation and lies.
- Protestant**—A general label of Christian denominations formed as a protest to the Roman Catholic hierarchy.
- Pull Factor**—Circumstances that make people want to move to another country because they believe it is better.
- Puritan**—A reformer who believes that the Church of England needed to be purified.
- Push Factor**—Circumstances that make people want to leave the country they are living in.

R

- Racial Stereotype**—A generalization that all people of a certain race act or look a certain way
- Rationalism**—The belief that one can discover truth about the world through thought and logic
- Realpolitik**—Political practices based on practical considerations rather than ideological ones
- Recant**—To publicly renounce a previous statement or belief
- Reconquista**—“Reconquest” of the Iberian peninsula by Spanish and Portuguese armies in the 10th-15th centuries.
- Red Scare**—Also called “McCarthyism.” The belief that Soviets had infiltrated the US government to sabotage it.
- Red Terror**—Brutal attacks on non-communists by the Bolsheviks
- Reform**—To try to change a system without replacing it completely
- Refugee**—A person who flees their country due to dangerous conditions created by an unstable government or environmental disasters.
- Regime**—Ruling group, often associated with a dictatorship
- Regulation**—Government rules that control and limit businesses.
- Reich**—German word for “empire.”

Reichstag—The German legislative branch

Reign of Terror—Reference to the time when French revolutionaries beheaded thousands of people opposed to the revolution.

Reincarnation—The belief that a person's soul is re-born into other bodies after death.

Renaissance—"Rebirth." A time of renewed artistic, social, and scientific changes in Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Reparations—money paid to restore something to its previous condition

Republic—A representative government where citizens elect officials to vote for them

Revolution—A sudden and often violent change in the way a country is governed or a powerful shift in the way a society operates.

Roman Catholic Church—The largest Christian denomination that follows the church hierarchy based in Rome



Sacraments—The religious rituals of the Church

Samurai—Elite warrior class of feudal Japan

Sanction—An economic penalty (boycott, fine, or trade restriction) placed on a country by other countries to pressure a country to change a policy or action

Satellite States—Technically independent countries whose governments were controlled by the Soviet Union

Scarcity—Having a very low supply of resources available

Scientific Method—Process of using scientific methods to discover truth about the world.

Security Council (UNSC)—The highest council of the United Nations capable of punishing other countries or enforcing UN decisions.

Segregation—Policies aimed at keeping a certain group separated from another group

Self-govern—The idea that colonies should be independent of their mother countries

Separation of Powers—Giving power to multiple branches of government to limit individual power

Sepoy Mutiny—The Indian rebellion of the 1850's that led to direct control of the colony by the British Crown

Shanty-town—Slums, towns, and cities where large numbers of people struggling with poverty live

Sharia Law—An Islamic legal and religious code often employed in Theocratic Muslim governments

Social Contract—The idea that people trade some natural rights to the government in order to be protected

Social Darwinism--The explanation used by 19th century whites to explain the differences in Western and African cultures by claiming Africans were less evolved than white society, based on Darwin's theory of evolution.

Space Race—The USA and USSR attempting to gain superiority in their space programs.

Spanish Armada—The Spanish invasion force in the last 16th century against Queen Elizabeth I of England

Spanish Inquisition—Spanish religious and governmental body responsible for persecution of non-Christians during the Renaissance.

Strike—Workers refusing to work until certain issues are resolved, normally focused on wages or benefits.

Subsistence Farming—Growing just enough food for your family to survive on

Suffrage—The right to vote

Sykes-Picot Agreement—An agreement between the French and British Empires to divide imperial control of the Middle East

T

Tabula Rasa—The idea that people are born knowing nothing: a “blank slate”

Tactics—Battlefield strategies

Tariff—A tax on imports from a foreign country to encourage domestic trade

Tennis Court Oath—The oath by the 3rd Estate of the Estate’s General to limit the power of the French monarchy

Terrorism—an attempt to coerce or change public opinion by deliberate threat or harm, often targeting civilians.

Theology—The study of religious beliefs

Toleration—To allow others to practice their beliefs even though they contract one’s own beliefs

Treason—Committing a crime against or betraying one’s country

Treaty of Versailles—The peace agreement that ended WW1 and blamed Germany for the war

Trench Warfare—Defensive WW1 strategy of digging large ditches to protect soldiers from attack

Triangle Trade—The ability of ship captains to use trade winds to stop at multiple ports on one trip to maximize profits

Trinity Test—The first test of an atomic weapon in world history.

Triple Entente—The Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia during World War I

Tsar—An emperor of Russia

Twin Towers—The World Trade Center buildings attacked by al-Qaeda on 9/11

Tyranny—A government which allows little or no individual freedoms or rights.

U

U-boat—A German submarine, specifically from the World War I era.

Ultimatum—Threatening consequences if a target doesn’t do exactly what they are told union of multiple

Unconstitutional—A law which violates the constitution of a nation

Untouchables—The lowest caste of Indian citizen, so low that they technically don’t even have a class.

Urbanization—The process of people moving from rural areas to cities

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—USSR. A Marxist-Leninist alliance of Communist governments led by Russia.

United Nations (UN)—The primary international policy-making body of the 21st century.

V

Versailles—French king’s summer home known for its extravagant furnishings

Viet Cong—Guerilla fighters for communism during the Vietnam War

W

Warsaw Pact—Soviet defense alliance of the Cold War

Waterloo—Napoleon’s last battle. Often used to symbolize a “last stand.”

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)—Chemical or Biological weapons designed to impact large numbers of people

Western Civilization--The cultural identity of European nations and those countries which they colonized based on Classical Greek and Roman culture, as well as Enlightenment ideas.

West—Short-hand expression for Western Civilization.

White Man’s Burden—The racist idea held by Europeans and Americans that they had to help uncivilized cultures become more like them.

Y

Yalta Conference—Meeting of WWII Allied powers to discuss what to do with Nazi-conquered territories after the war ends