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