Political Causes

• The French government had been an absolute monarchy mode for several hundred years. By definition, the king shared his power with no one.
• The French parliament had not met in over 175 years. And, French people had very few legal or political rights. There was no freedom of speech or press, and very little freedom of religion. People who openly criticized the government were jailed, and sometimes never even had a trial.
• Additionally, there was little judicial ‘due process’ in France at this time. People who were accused were considered guilty until they could prove their innocence.

Social Causes

• There had always been vast gaps between the upper and lower classes in French society. What had changed by the 1700s in France was the rise of a wealthy and educated middle class – the bourgeoisie.
• The bourgeoisie were townspeople. France had become increasingly urban in the 17th and 18th centuries, and as a result, a healthy and wealthy middle class of lawyers, bankers, educators, merchants and doctors had begun to crop up.
• In many cases, the middle classes were wealthier than the nobility, and though the nobility needed the middle classes, they did not respect them. They refused to intermarry, and they considered them ‘dirty tradesmen’ who had to work for a living.
• The bourgeoisie were growing restless, and were unhappy at their lack of social mobility. Despite their wealth, they were unable to make their way into the upper classes.

Economic Causes

• The economic situation in France was the driving force behind revolution. The gaps between rich and poor had widened, and as the common people struggled to feed their families, desperation increased, and the mood grew revolutionary.
• In France, only 3% of the population (the nobles and the Church) owned nearly 50% of the land.
• By 1789, the French treasury was bankrupt due to foreign wars, aid that had been sent to the Americans in their revolution, and extravagant living at Versailles. Nearly a quarter of the taxes collected annually went to the maintenance of the King’s lifestyle at Versailles, and the upper classes (nobles & Church) in France paid no taxes.
• The final straw was the famine of 1788-89. Bread was scarce and terribly expensive, and the people of France were starving.

Intellectual Causes

• The writings of the Enlightenment philosophers served to stir things up in 18th century France.
• Many of the philosophers were French (Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau), and their writings contained direct criticisms of the French government.
• The educated bourgeoisie latched on to the philosophies, and began to question what type of a social contract existed in France. They wondered why they did not have individual rights, personal freedoms and a say in government.
1. What type of government did the French have at the outset of revolution?

2. How did the government deny people rights?

3. How was the French judicial system different from ours?

4. What changed socially by the 1700s?

5. Who were the bourgeoisie? (Specifically...)

6. How did the upper classes view the bourgeoisie?

7. Why were the bourgeoisie unhappy?

8. Why had the economic mood in France become revolutionary?

9. Why might a French peasant justifiably argue that the land distribution was unfair?

10. Why was the French treasury bankrupt?

11. What was the last economic straw?

12. How did the Enlightenment contribute to the revolutionary mood in France?

13. In particular, how did the writings impact the bourgeoisie?
The Estates-General

• By 1789, the economic situation in France had become so desperate that the King was forced to call the Estates-General (the French parliament) to approve his increase in taxes.
• The Estates-General had three houses, one for each estate, or social class. The first estate had 300 delegates, was made up of the clergy, and represented .5% of the French population. The second estate had 300 delegates, was made up of the nobility, which was 2.5% of the population. The third estate had 600 delegates, and was made up of everyone else (bourgeoisie & peasants), 97% of the population.
• The Estates-General voted as estates. In other words, each estate got only one vote. The third estate wanted to change to voting by delegate, but the first two estates refused. Thus the third estate was constantly outvoted 2–1. It was frustrating!

Revolution Begins...

• In June 1789, the Third Estate made the bold and radical move in declaring themselves The National Assembly. They made it clear they intended to direct the affairs of state.
• The King moved to block the meeting of this assembly by locking the doors of the parliament building.
• When the members of the Third Estate found themselves locked out of the parliament building, they were enraged, and moved their meeting down the street to an indoor tennis court.
• The members of the Third Estate promised they could continue to meet until they had provided France with a new constitution. This sworn promise is known as the Tennis Court Oath.

Storming of the Bastille

• As the National Assembly continued to meet on the Tennis Court, the military presence in Paris began to increase.
• People in Paris sensed the King was going to order an attack on the new Assembly, and they began widespread rioting. On July 14, 1789, they headed for the Bastille — an old prison fortress in the heart of Paris.
• The mob believed they would find weapons and gunpowder in the Bastille. The Bastille was also a symbol of the Old Regime — the oppressive government of France. The revolution had begun.

The National Assembly (1789-91)

• The National Assembly continued to meet and made numerous reforms. They abolished the last remnants of feudalism, and the special privileges of the upper classes — forcing them at long last to pay taxes.
• The National Assembly also revoked the Church’s right to levy the tithe (a 10% tax on income), and seized Church lands.
• They also passed a Declaration of the Rights of Man — which was a statement of the principles or ideals of the revolution. In it, they declared the importance of liberté, égalité and fraternité — liberty, equality & brotherhood.
• Finally, in the fall of 1791, the National Assembly approved the Constitution of 1791, making France a Limited Monarchy.
1. Why did the King call the Estates General in 1789?

2. Fill in the chart below...

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<tr>
<th>Estate</th>
<th>Who was in it?</th>
<th>% Population</th>
<th># of Delegates</th>
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3. Why was the 3rd Estate frustrated with the Estates-General?

4. What did the 3rd Estate do in June 1789?

5. How did the King react?

6. How did the 3rd Estate respond?

7. What is the Tennis Court Oath?

8. What led to the onset of rioting in Paris in July 1789?

9. Why did the mobs storm the Bastille?

10. What reforms did the National Assembly make?

11. What was the Declaration of the Rights of Man? (What did it proclaim?)

12. What did the Constitution of 1791 do?
The Limited Monarchy (1791-92)

- The new government was a Limited Monarchy with three branches of government. The King had reluctantly agreed to the limits on his power, but he was in no way happy about sharing it with the Legislative Assembly.
- Factions had developed and threatened to destroy the new government. On the far right side of the Legislative hall, sat the super-conservatives. These were members of the nobility or clergy who wanted to see a return to a more powerful monarchy.
- In the center sat the moderates who generally supported the constitutional monarchy, but who were not necessarily allied with either side.
- To the left of center sat the liberal Girondists who believed the revolution had not gone far enough. They were working for a republic — an abolition of monarchy. To the far left sat the Jacobins. They were radical revolutionaries who embraced violence to achieve their goals of a republic.

End of the Monarchy...

- In 1791, Louis XVI had attempted to flee the country in disguise, but was stopped and arrested at the border. He and his family were placed under house arrest in Paris. Louis began a letter writing campaign requesting the aid of foreign monarchs.
- In 1792, the King of Prussia and the Holy Roman Emperor made ominous statements about restoring the King to his rightful place. Foreign troops amassed on the border. France declared war. The limited monarchy was finished.

National Convention (1792-95)

- The National Convention was a popularly elected body which was tasked with creating a new constitution for France. It was decided that the constitution should wait until the nation was no longer at war.
- The Convention was a congress-like body that functioned as both the legislative and executive branch. This flew in the face of Montesquieu’s ideas of separation and balance of powers that had guided revolutionary thinking to this point.
- The Convention made any number of important reforms. They implemented the metric system, planned a national system of public education, and abolished debt imprisonment as well as slavery (in France & French colonies).
- A growing force within the Convention was the radical Jacobins. They dominated the “Committee of Public Safety” — a committee formed to protect France from her enemies. The fact that France was at war gave this committee a lot of power.

Execution

- The King was charged with treason in the Fall of 1792 because he was thought to have conspired with foreign monarchs.
- Louis had written letters to the Holy Roman Emperor (the brother of Marie Antoinette -- his wife, the queen) requesting aid in regaining his status as monarch.
- In January 1793, the King was put on trial, and found guilty of treason and was executed. Marie Antoinette was executed 9 months later.
1. In what ways was the new government a Limited Monarchy?

2. Describe the seating arrangement in the Legislative Assembly, and what each group wanted.

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3. How did Louis XVI deal with the changes to his power?

4. How did foreign monarchs react to these changes?

5. What brought about the end of the Limited Monarchy?

6. Why was Louis XVI charged with treason?

7. How did the King & Queen meet their end?

8. What was the National Convention and what was its job?

9. How did the Convention function, politically?

10. Why was this ironic?

11. What were some reforms made by the Convention?

12. What was the job of the "Committee of Public Safety"?

13. Who dominated this Committee?

14. Why was it so powerful?
Rise of the Jacobins

- As the war intensified in 1793, and as Austrian and Prussian troops advanced, the French suffered a series of reversals. Foreign troops were close to penetrating French borders, and the French people began to panic.
- It was the job of the Committee of Public Safety to keep the ‘revolution’ safe from foreign and domestic threats. The Jacobins preyed on public fear and argued that there were traitors everywhere.
- Three Jacobins gained public support with their fiery speeches or editorials. Danton, Marat and Robespierre were all moving toward the same goal — a French Republic that truly was of the people — the common people. And the common people, or the sans-culottes (without knee-breeches), threw their support behind them.
- Georges Danton was a dangerous revolutionary who was a charismatic leader and gifted speaker. He became one of the leaders of the Committee of Public Safety, but tried to mend fences between the Jacobins and Girondists. The Jacobins turned on him and he was executed.
- Jean Paul Marat was a radical journalist who penned inflammatory editorials from his bathtub. (He had a skin condition...) In July 1793, he was assassinated by Charlotte Corday while sitting in his bathtub. His death began the Reign of Terror.
- Maximilien de Robespierre was a lawyer who led the Committee of Public Safety and the Jacobins. He commanded almost dictatorial powers during the Reign of Terror.

Reign of Terror (1793-94)

- The Reign of Terror lasted from the summer of 1793 to the summer of 1794. It was led, largely by Robespierre.
- As the Jacobins gained control of the National Convention in 1793, and hunted enemies of the revolution, the French troops started to defeat their enemies on the borders. Much of the public saw this as cause and effect. The Jacobins hunted enemies, the army succeeded.
- During this year, the guillotine, nicknamed ‘the National Razor’, was working overtime. Executions were a daily and public occurrence, and wealthy people bribed executioners to sharpen the blade.
- The Terror burned itself out in the summer of 1794 with the Grand Terror in which nearly 10,000 people were killed. It ended with the execution of Robespierre and the dispersal of the Jacobins.

The Directory (1795-99)

- In the wake of the Terror, the people of France were interested in a more moderate form of government.
- The Directory was established. It had three branches of government — executive, legislative & judicial.
- The executive branch was staffed by five Directors who were chosen by the legislative branch.
- The legislative branch was made up of two houses – an upper and lower house.
- Unfortunately, the Directory was plagued by inflation and corruption. Although the armies were successful under leadership of a dashing young general named Napoleon.
1. Why did the French people begin to panic in 1793 as the war intensified?

2. How did the Jacobins use fear to empower themselves?

3. How did the three Jacobins, Danton, Marat & Robespierre gain support, and what did they want to see established?

4. Describe the three Jacobin leaders...
   a. Danton --
   b. Marat --
   c. Robespierre --

5. When was the Reign of Terror? Who led it?

6. How/why did the French people see a connection between the work of the Jacobins and the success of the army?

7. What was ‘the National Razor’?

8. What and why did the wealthy bribe the executioners?

9. What was the Grand Terror?

10. How did it end?

11. What type of government did the people of France want to see?


13. What successes & problems followed the Directory?
Napoleon Bonaparte

Early Life & Rise to Power

• Napoleon was born on the island of Corsica — a French island in the Mediterranean. His family was actually of Italian descent, and Italian was Napoleon’s first language. Consequently, he spoke French with a marked accent, and was often teased as a youth.
• As a teen, Napoleon enrolled in an elite French military school. He showed little promise as a student, but he excelled in strategy and battle tactics.
• Napoleon first gained the attention of the French government (the Directory) when he brutally suppressed a royalist uprising. He packed buckshot and shrapnel into cannons and opened fire on the mob, killing more than a thousand.
• As a reward, Napoleon was made the head of France’s army in Italy.

The Coup d’Etat

• Napoleon led successful military campaigns and as a result, became very popular and politically influential back in France.
• In 1799, he was defeated by the British in Egypt. Napoleon wanted to rule France, so he hurried back to Paris, and hoped that the news of his defeat was not yet known to the people of France.
• Upon arriving in Paris, Napoleon and two of the Directors, plotted and succeeded in overthrowing the Directory. This coup d’etat was successful because Napoleon had the backing of the French army.
• It wasn’t long before Napoleon seized total control of the government and proclaimed himself Emperor.

Achievements of Napoleon

• As a ruler, Napoleon was quite effective, enacting numerous important reforms.
• Napoleon created a National Bank. This allowed the government greater control of the economy and inflation.
• He also established a system of Public Education. In Napoleon’s Lycées (schools), students were admitted based on ability, not based on wealth or family connections.
• He also created a Uniform Tax Code, which more fairly distributed taxation, and closed tax loop holes. It also ensured taxes would end up in the National treasury, not in the pockets of collectors.
• Napoleon also implemented a series of Public Works; including construction of new roads and a sewer system.

Napoleonic Code

• Perhaps Napoleon’s most important contribution was his set of civil laws known as the Code Civil, or the Code Napoleon.
• The Code dealt with law of persons, property and acquisition of property. This was the first national set of laws in France. Until this point, regional feudal laws and customs had dominated France.
• This code forever swept away privilege and title of the wealthy French nobility, and legalized freedom of religion. The code did not provide people with greater political freedoms, however.
• Napoleon’s code had great influence not only in France, but in other nations where he implemented it after he conquered them.
1. What was Napoleon’s background?

2. His schooling?

3. How did he gain the attention of the Directory? How was he rewarded?

4. Why did Napoleon gain popularity & influence in France?

5. Why did he hurry back to Paris in 1799?

6. Define: coup d’état --

7. Why was Napoleon’s coup successful?

8. What was Napoleon’s most important contribution?

9. What was the Code Napoleon? What did it deal with?

10. Why was this Code an important step forward?

11. What freedoms did it provide? What freedoms did it not provide?

12. Why were the Code’s effects far reaching?

13. Other Achievements of Napoleon...

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Napoleon the Conqueror

Domination of Europe
• As a military man, Napoleon had a thirst for battlefield glory. He signed a treaty with England in 1801, but it fell apart due to mutual distrust.
• In 1805, Napoleon soundly defeated Austrian and Russian forces at the Battle of Austerlitz. This was a huge victory, giving Napoleon some Austrian territory and dissolving the Holy Roman Empire.
• In 1807, Napoleon began the Peninsular War against Spain and Portugal. In 1808, he captured the Spanish government and put his brother Joseph on the throne, but he was never able to subdue the nation of Spain. The people engaged in guerrilla warfare (literally little war) against the French troops until Napoleon’s defeat in 1814. This sapped French strength and provided a constant distraction.

The Continental System
• Napoleon was frustrated in his efforts to defeat the British. Their navy seemed invincible.
• In 1806, Napoleon started a new foreign policy for all his conquered territories and for his allies -- The Continental System.
• The Continental System was an attempt to hurt Britain’s economy by placing an embargo on British goods. As an emerging manufacturing giant, Britain was dependent on trade. Napoleon hoped he might be able to invade after an economic collapse.
• In the end, the Continental System hurt Napoleon’s allies more than it hurt Britain. British merchants engaged in smuggling, and their products were well received in most nations because of severe shortages.

The Russian Campaign
• After their defeat at Austerlitz, the Russians became an ally of Napoleon. But by 1811, this alliance was significantly strained.
• Czar Alexander I had abandoned the Continental System and openly traded with Britain. Napoleon threatened grave consequences if that continued, and he amassed his Grand Armée in Poland, ready for a Russian invasion. Despite advice against it, Napoleon invaded in June 1812.
• The Russian army rarely engaged the French on the battlefield. Instead, they retreated and drew the French army deep into the Russian heartland.
• It was well known that Napoleon’s armies were highly mobile because they were lightly supplied. They foraged for food and supplies as they travelled. This worked well in the densely populated, richly agricultural areas of Central Europe. The Russian heartland, however, was sparsely populated.
• As Napoleon’s supply lines stretched farther and farther, the Russian army engaged in scorched earth tactics. They burned any supplies, food or livestock that might be used by the French. The Russians continued to retreat and the French began to starve.
• The French were able to capture Moscow by September, but the Russians refused to give in. The Russian citizens burned their capital to the ground, and the French were forced to retreat.
• This loss was devastating and was the beginning of the end. Napoleon had entered Russia with 450,000 men and left with 40,000. After his final defeat at Waterloo, he was exiled from Europe.
1. Why did Napoleon’s alliance with England disintegrate?

2. What were the results of the Battle of Austerlitz?

3. What was the Peninsular War?

4. In what way was it a victory for Napoleon?

5. In what way was it a continual distraction for him?

6. Define: guerrilla warfare --

7. What was the Continental System?

8. How was the Continental System supposed to allow Napoleon the ability to invade Britain?

9. What was the result of the Continental System?

10. Why had Russia’s alliance with Napoleon deteriorated?

11. Why were Napoleon’s armies so mobile? Why was this not an effective strategy for Russia?

12. What tactics did the Russian army use against Napoleon?

13. What happened when the French captured Moscow?

14. What was the human toll of the Russian Campaign to France?
The Congress and the Diplomats

- Following the defeat of Napoleon, Europe was a mess. Napoleon had completely rearranged the boundary lines of many countries -- now that he was gone, what was to be done?
- The **Congress of Vienna** was not a legislative body, but a meeting of diplomats from major nations in Europe. Their job was to decide what to do about the changes Napoleon had made to Europe.
- Representing Austria, and the host of the Congress, was **Prince Klemens von Metternich**, the foreign minister to the Austrian Emperor. Britain was represented by **Lord Castlereagh**, Russia by the Czar himself, **Alexander I**, and Prussia by their King **Frederick William III**.
- Many felt France should not have been invited because they had caused all the turmoil, but they were represented well by the crafty **Charles Maurice de Tallyrand**.

Guiding Principles of the Congress

- **Conservatism.** The diplomats were all members of the upper classes, and therefore were interested in the traditional order of things. Historians consider these diplomats to be **reactionaries** (extreme conservatives) because they wanted to **return** to the previous era.
- **Legitimacy.** The diplomats decided to return the legitimate rulers to their thrones in cases where Napoleon had deposed them. The King of Sardinia (Italy) was restored as ruler of his various territories, and King Louis XVIII was recognized as the ruler of France.
- **Compensation.** It was decided that nations who had suffered in fighting against Napoleon would be given land. The Netherlands received Belgium, Russia got Finland and part of Poland, Prussia received the other part of Poland, and Britain received control of various colonies.

Forces Ignored?

- **Liberalism.** The idea that individuals had certain innate rights and liberties was completely ignored by the delegates of the Congress. It was as if they tried to completely erase the ideas of the Enlightenment.
- **Nationalism.** This force was, to some degree, born during the French Revolution (in Europe), and was inadvertently spread by Napoleon’s troops. The principle of compensation followed by the diplomats went completely contrary to the growing forces of nationalism.

Results?

- Fans of the Congress point out that there was not another widespread European war for almost 100 years, and suggest that the Congress effectively established peace and order.
- Critics of the Congress, point out that major nationalist rebellions broke out only 15 years after the Congress. A series of rebellions rocked Europe in 1830, breaking out in Paris, Berlin, Poland, in Italian states and in Belgium (which was successful in breaking away from the Netherlands).
- By 1848, rebellions were so widespread that it was considered epidemic.
Global History

Congress of Vienna

1. What was the situation in Europe following the defeat of Napoleon?
   b. Legitimacy -->

2. What was the Congress of Vienna? What was its purpose?
   c. Compensation -->

3. Who were the delegates at the Congress?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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6. Explain the forces that the delegates ignored. Give examples of how the forces were ignored, if possible.
   a. Liberalism -->

   b. Nationalism -->

7. Why do many suggest that the Congress was a success?

4. Why did many think that France should not have been invited to the Congress?

5. Explain the guiding principles of the Congress. Give examples, if possible.
   a. Conservatism -->

8. Why do many suggest it was a failure? (Please offer specific examples... )