

French History Review

- 1337-1453 **Hundred Years' War**
- England vs. France
 - causes: French succession crisis (Philip VI of Valois vs. Edward III of England), conflict over ownership of Aquitaine, French nobles wanting independence from French king, wool trade and control of Flanders
 - French victory (thanks to Joan of Arc)
- 1422-1515 “**new monarchs**” (Machiavellian, pre-absolutists: started centralization of power)
- **Charles VII (r. 1422-1461)** – reconciled Burgundians and Armagnacs, ended 100 Yrs War, reorganized royal council, strengthened royal finances w/ new taxes
 - **Louis XI (r. 1461-1483)**, “Spider King” – improved army, controlled nobles’ militias, conquered Burgundy and gained other land
 - **Louis XII (r. 1498-1515)** – gained Brittany through marriage, Concordat of Bologna (1516) – French king’s control French CC
- 16th c. Reformation era: France is majority Catholic w/ **Huguenot** minority
- 2/5-1/2 of French nobles converted to Calvinism to show independence from French crown; some CC clergy + middle class also converted for religious reasons)
- French religious wars (1570s-90s)** – Catholic vs. Huguenots
- **St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572)** – massacre of Huguenots at wedding ceremony of Margaret of Valois (Cath) to Henry of Navarre (Prot)
 - **War of the 3 Henrys (1587-1589)**
 - o Henry of Guise (Cath): wanted to destroy Calvinism + put a Guise on the throne
 - o Henry of Navarre (Prot)
 - o King Henry III, r. 1574-1589 (Cath)
 - **Edict of Nantes (1598)** – toleration to Huguenots, est. by politique **Henry IV (r. 1589-1610)**
- 17th c. Age of Absolutism
- **Henry IV (r. 1589-1610)** – “most loved French king”; econ recovery (“chicken in every pot,” ↓ taxes on peasants, *paulette* – tax on nobles to guarantee heredity in offices, trade revival), peace (just 1 short war), improved infrastructure (ex. highway system), religious peace (Edict of Nantes, converted to Catholicism – “Paris is worth a mass,” Protestant chief minister)
 - **Louis XIII (r. 1610-1643)** + chief minister **Cardinal Richelieu** – curbed noble power, reshuffled royal council, intendant system, siege of La Rochelle, joined 30 Years’ War on Protestant side to weaken Habsburgs, French Academy (standardization of French language)
 - **Louis XIV, (r. 1643-1715)**, the “**Sun King**” – epitome of absolutism
 - o **Fronde (1648-1653)** – unsuccessful noble uprising in Louis’s youth, made him realize he needed to curb their power

- consolidation of power – **divine right**; est. government councils to administer state, and personally attended them; gave positions to new nobility (noblesse de robe); never called Estates General; no 1st minister; spying and terror: secret police, informers, opened private letters; revoked Edict of Nantes (Edict of Fontainebleau 1685); **Versailles**
- **mercantilist** econ policies under finance minister **Jean-Baptiste Colbert** – increase exports and protect domestic industry, w/ goal of increasing supply of bullion; expansion of French New World empire to Canada and Louisiana; improved tax collection by reducing inefficiency/corruption
- wars
 - lots (33 of 54 years) – 1660s-1713
 - creation of professional army (leader in 17th c. professionalization of armies)
 - War of Devolution (1667-1668) – vs. Spanish Habsburgs; took cities in Spanish Netherlands
 - Dutch War (1672-1678) – vs. Dutch; took Franche-Comte and cities in Flanders and Spanish Netherlands
 - **Nine Years' War / War of the Grand Alliance (1688-1697)** – vs. Grand Alliance (Dutch Rep, GB, Austria, Spain, some HRE princes, et al); no additional land gain; got to keep Alsace but had to return Lorraine
 - **War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1713)** – vs. Grand Alliance again, over threat of French/Spanish union; Grand Alliance won; **Peace of Utrecht (1713)** – France and Spain could not unite; France lost Amer. colonies to GB; Spain lost land to Austria and control of Atlantic slave trade to GB
 - outcomes of Louis's wars: France gained Alsace + some cities in the Netherlands; great financial distress (hello FR!)

18th c.

Enlightenment (1690-1780s)

- centered in France (“philosophes”): French was int’l language of edu classes; France was wealthiest and most populous country in Europe; less censorship in France than in some other countries
- Parisian salons (1740-1789) hosted by wealthy women
- key philosophes:
 - **Montesquieu** – *The Persian Letters* (satire of European customs and despotism); *The Spirit of Laws* (separation of powers)
 - **Voltaire** – religious toleration; best gov’t one could hope for was a good monarch; praised Louis XIV
 - **Madame de Chatelet** – Voltaire’s love, translated *Principia*
 - *Encyclopedia* – **Diderot**, d’Alembert
 - **Rousseau** – *The Social Contract* 1762) – general will, popular sovereignty

Absolutism continues but monarchy starts to falter, discontent grows

- **Louis XV (r. 1715-1774)** – conflict w/ parlements; scandalous affair w/ Madame de Pompadour
 - o Duke of Orleans (regent) restored to parlements (French high courts) the ancient right to evaluate royal decrees publicly in writing before they were given force of law → Parlement of Paris crushed monarchy's attempt to institute 5% income tax → Louis appointed Maupeou chancellor to make parlements docile – Maupeou abolished existing parlements and set up new docile ones (“Maupeou parlements”)
- **Louis XVI (r. 1774-1792)** – dismissed Maupeou, reinstated parlements, but did not make real enlightened reforms toward more representative government → people angry (here comes the French Revolution....)

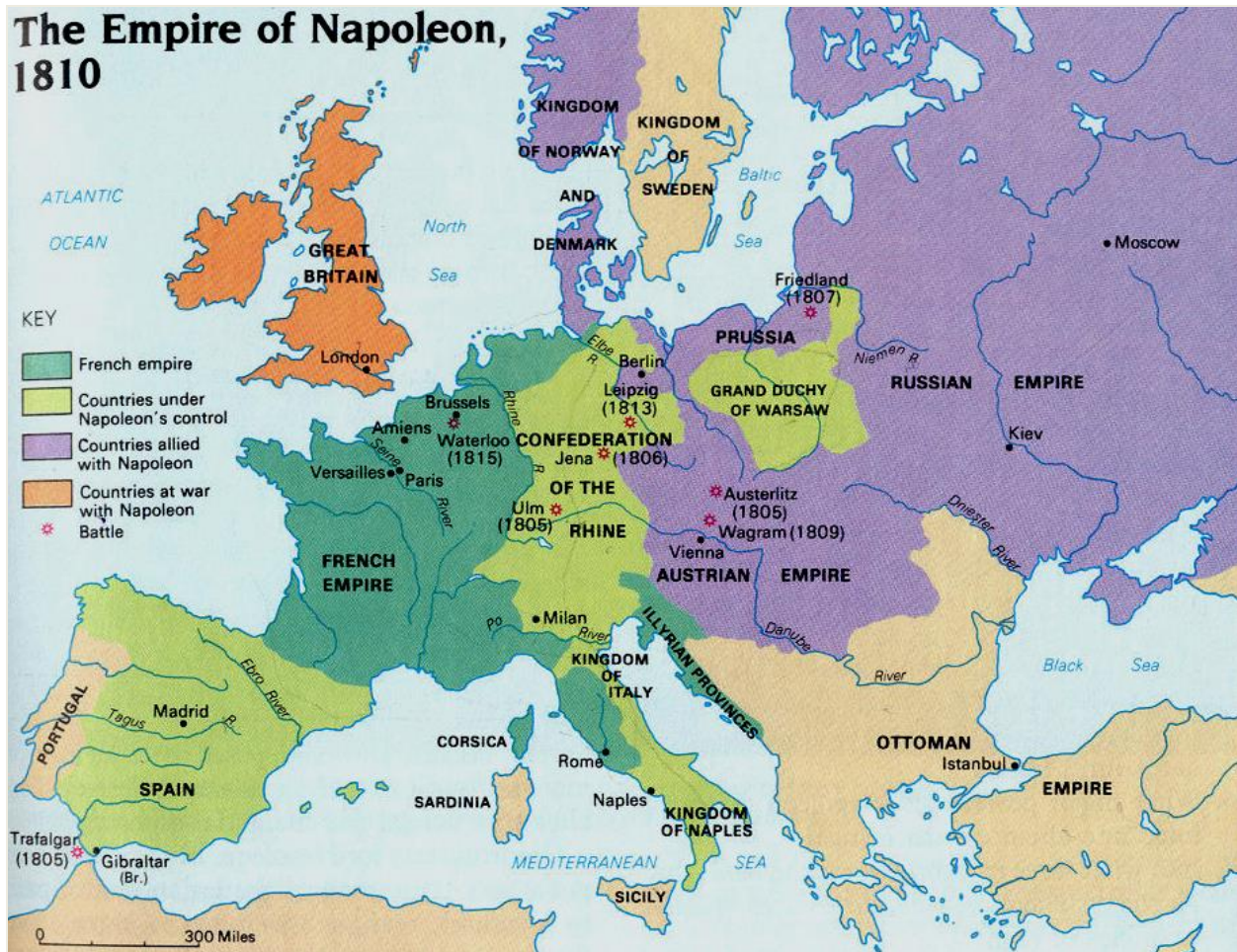
1789-1815

French Revolution

- Causes: social (outdated estate system), political (discontent w/ abs monarchy), economic (debt, bread riots), ideological (Enlightenment, American Revolution)
- Phase 1: Liberal Phase (1789-91) – abs monarchy → const monarchy
 - o May 1789 – **Estates General** meets for 1st time in 175 years to deal with debt crisis (consider whether to impose a tax)
 - o June – **National Assembly** forms out of E.G. from **3rd Estate** and sympathizers → swear **Tennis Court Oath**
 - o July 14 – storming of the **Bastille**
 - o July-Aug. – **Great Fear**
 - o Aug. – August Decrees + **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen**
 - o Oct. – **women's march on Versailles**
 - o July 1790 – **Civil Constitution of the Clergy**
 - o 1791 – *start of Haitian revolution (Saint-Domingue)*
 - o Sept. 1791 – constitution #1 est. const mon w/ King Louis XVI and new **Legislative Assembly**
- Phase 2: Radical Phase (1792-95) – const monarchy → republic
 - o April 1792 – war vs. European powers begins (continues throughout FR – at 1st war was vs. Austria and Prussia) ... total war goes into effect in 1790s
 - o Aug. – attack on Tuileries → royal family flees to LA → LA suspends king's powers and calls for new **National Convention**, elected by univ male suffrage
 - o Sept. – September Massacres → NC declares France a republic (constitution #2) ... est. **First Republic (1792-1804)**, when Nap declared himself emperor
 - o Political parties: **Jacobins** (radicals) → divided into **Girondists** (more moderate) and **the Mountain** (more radical) the Mountain, led by **Robespierre** and Danton, and backed by the sans-culottes, won out
 - o April 1793 – **Committee of Public Safety** forms (executive body)
 - o 1793-94 – **Reign of Terror**
 - o 1795 – **Thermidorian Reaction** (return to moderate nature after Robespierre's execution)

- Phase 3: **Directory** Rule (1795-99) – constitution #3: republic w/ 5-man executive; corrupt, economic problems and war continued
- Phase 4: **Napoleon (1799-1815)** – enlightened? dictatorship
 - seized power in a coup → ruled 1st as consul, then as emperor
 - more or less enlightened policies:
 - **Concordat of 1801** – peace agreement w/ CC; Catholics get to practice freely in return for French gov't gaining power over the French CC (ex. nominating bishops, paying clergy, etc.)
 - **Napoleonic Code (1804)** – equality of all male citizens before the law, security of wealth and private property, restricted women's rights
 - strengthened the bureaucracy – former revolutionaries put in gov't posts; émigrés invited back, given jobs, swear loyalty oath; new imperial nobility – positions granted on the basis of merit
 - financial reforms – tax reform (no tax exemptions due to status); improved accounting, est. sound currency and public credit; est. Bank of France
 - lycée system – meritocratic post-secondary school system
 - not so enlightened: policy toward women (Napoleonic Code), censorship, farcical elections, spy system, unfair detention and sentencing for political crimes
 - **Napoleonic Wars (1799-1815)** ... continuation of war that started in 1792
 - only Britain remained almost continually at war w/ France (1 year of peace, 1802-1803)
 - not until 1813 were all the Great Powers (Britain, Austria, Russia, Prussia) simultaneously at war w/ France
 - **Battle of Trafalgar (1805)** – GB defeats and Spain, ends French hope of invading GB
 - **Continental System (est. 1806)** – blockade imposed by Napoleon to halt trade b/t continental Europe and GB, aiming to weaken GB econ and military
 - 1814 – defeat of Nap #1, Louis XVIII (r. 1814-1824) restored as constitutional monarch, Nap exiled to Elba
 - **Hundred Days (1815)** – Nap's return to power after exile #1
 - **Battle of Waterloo (1815)** – final defeat of Nap, then exiled to St. Helena
 - **Congress of Vienna (1814-15)**
 - mtg of GB, Austria, Prussia, Russia (Quadruple Alliance) to arrange a final peace after Nap Wars
 - led by **Metternich** (conservative Austrian foreign minister)
 - France treated moderately (contrast w/ harsh treatment after the Franco-Prussian War) – lost a little land, paid some \$, hosted occupation army for 5 yrs., Louis XVIII restored
 - **balance of power** principle → set up **congress system (Concert of Europe)** – periodic meetings to check on common interests and maintain peace

The Empire of Napoleon, 1810



Napoleon's "Grand Empire." He placed his relatives on thrones all over Europe. ("nepotism")

19th c. ca. 1815 – emergence of **utopian socialism** in France (Blanc, Fourier, Saint-Simon, Proudhon)

Louis XVIII (r. 1814-1824) – restored Bourbon monarch after FR; accepted Constitutional Charter of 1814

Charles X (r. 1824-1830) – conservative who repudiated the constitutional charter (stripped middle class of voting rights, censored press) → hence the Revolution of 1830 that overthrew him; conquest of Algeria in 1830

Revolution of 1830 – liberal revolution led by upper middle class angry Charles's repudiation of the constitution; overthrew Charles X and installed Louis Philippe

Louis Philippe (r. 1830-1848) – "bourgeois monarch" b/c looked out for interests of upper middle class; corrupt, lack of change

Revolution of 1848 – liberal and socialist revolution that overthrew Louis Philippe and brought in Louis Napoleon as president of the Second Republic (and 1st of the 1848 revs. that swept across Europe)

- causes: Rev. of 1830 didn't go far enough ... middle class wanted expanded suffrage (liberalism), working class wanted social reforms (socialism)
- Feb. – middle + working class revolt in Paris (b/c gov't refused electoral reform) → Louis Philippe abdicated to his grandson, but ppl demanded a republic
- ~March-Nov. – process of est. the **Second Republic (1848-1852)**
 - o initial reforms: univ male suffrage, free colonial slaves, abolish death penalty, 10-hr. workday
 - o further reforms hindered by divisions among revolutionaries over social/econ policies: moderate republicans (liberals/pro-capitalism) vs. radical republicans (socialists, inclu. Louis Blanc) ... compromise w/ est. of national workshops and commission under Blanc to study Q of social workshops ... no one happy
 - o April – Constituent Assembly election (by univ male suffrage) → election of socialists (~11%) scared ppl, so gov't began excluding them
 - o May – Nat'l Guard squashed attempted socialist coup
 - o June – gov't closed nat'l workshops in Paris → “June Days” – bloody uprising of Parisian working class, squashed by gov't
 - o new constitution for 2nd Republic achieved – strong executive under Louis Nap; not democratic, not favorable to urban working class
- outcome: failure (liberal and socialist goals still not achieved)

Louis Napoleon (pres. 1848-1852) / Napoleon III (r. 1852-1870)

- served 1st as pres. of 2nd Rep. (elected by univ. male suffrage) w/ National Assembly
- 1851 coup (dismissed NA) → held a plebiscite w/ univ male suffrage to make him president for 10 years → 2nd plebiscite in 1852 to make him emperor
- 1850s – improved the economy (rebuilding of Paris under **Hausmann**, new investment banks, RR construction)
- 1860s – liberalized the empire (ex. NA gained more powers)
- 1870 – new constitution – parliamentary regime w/ hereditary emperor

Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871)

- cause: launched by Prussia to finish German unification (bring N/S together)
- Sept. 1870 – proclamation of **Third Republic (1870-1940)** by patriots who refused to admit defeat after capture of Louis Nap.
- Jan. 1871 – France surrenders
- March 1871 – **Paris Commune** – attempt by radical Parisians to set up their own gov't independent of the provinces, crushed by NA
- harsh peace treaty: France lost Alsace-Lorraine, paid big indemnity (helps explain France's desire for harsh treatment of Germany w/ T of V)

1870-1914: Third Republic to WWI (“responsive national state” era)

- gov't structure: National Assembly (elected by universal male suffrage, contained multiple political parties) + PM (aka premier); ceremonial president
- “responsive” and/or “nationalist” policies/events:
 - o legalization of trade unions
 - o est. of colonial empire (ex. French West Africa / PM Jules Ferry = expansionist)
 - o expansion of public edu (free compulsory edu + increase # of public schools)
 - o **Dreyfus Affair (1894-1906)** – Jewish army captain falsely accused and convicted of treason, eventually declared innocent
 - army, Catholics, anti-Semites vs. civil libertarians, radical republicans

- evidence of late 19th c. anti-Semitism
- state triumphed over CC → gov't severed all ties w/ CC after centuries of closeness (= era of nationalism)

1914-1919

WWI + Paris Peace Conference

- France part of Triple Entente, then Allies
- much of the fighting was done in France (Western Front) – ex. German invasion of France (Schlieffen Plan), First Battle of the Marne (1914), Verdun and Somme (1916)
- **Georges Clemenceau** (PM 1917-1920) fought for harsh peace ... T of V components related to France:
 - got Alsace-Lorraine back
 - got ME mandates (Syria, Lebanon) – natural extension of Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) w/ GB

1919-1939

Interwar period

1920s

- PM **Raymond Poincare** (1912-13, 1922-24, 1926-29)
- 1923 – French occupation of the Ruhr b/c Germany defaulted on reparations
- Com/Soc battled for support of workers ... moderate coalitions in power by 1924
- rapid rebuilding of war-torn north → inflation → Poincare brought back in 1926 and stabilized the economy

1930s (starting w/ Great Depression, 1929)

- depression hit France hard
- politics became unstable (frequently shifting coalitions in NA, rise of French fascists, pro-Soviet Communists)
- **Popular Front (1936-37)** – Leftist (Communist, Socialist, Radical) alliance led by **Léon Blum**; response to rise of Fascism; instituted socialist reforms designed to help the lower classes (but econ problems continued + Spanish Civil War divided French politics → PF collapsed)

1939-1945

WWII

- 1940 – fall of France to Nazi forces ... divided into Nazi-occupied north and Vichy south
- **Vichy France (1940-1944)** – pro-Nazi, nominally independent regime under **Marshall Henri-Philippe Pétain** (replaced Third Republic)
- **Gen. Charles de Gaulle** est. **Free French movement** in GB to continue the resistance even after the fall of France – included a military and gov't-in-exile headed by de Gaulle → helped to liberate France in 1944
- 1944-1946: Provisional gov't under de Gaulle; leftist parties ran the show (reaction against the Rightist Vichy regime); purge of Nazi collaborators

1946-1958

Fourth Republic

- gov't:
 - structure: powerful NA + PM (premier) responsible to it; ceremonial president
 - political instability – lots of shifting coalitions
 - key parties: Socialists + Popular Republican Movement (an Xtian Democratic party)
 - de Gaulle didn't serve in this gov't b/c he thought it wasn't strong enough (lacked strong executive, too many party rivalries)
- economics:
 - mixed economy (key industries nationalized, social security expanded)

- huge increase in industrial production (thanks to Jean Monnet's new econ plan)
- France took the lead in forming the European Coal and Steel Community (1951) – 1st step in movement for European economic unity
- colonial wars:
 - 1946-54: unsuccessful fight to keep Indochina
 - **1954-62: Algerian War**
 - Algerians want independence: National Liberation Front (FLN) vs. French army and settlers (pied noirs)
 - 1958 – efforts to open peace talks instigated a revolt by pied noirs and threat of coup by French army → threat of civil war in France → **de Gaulle** brought back as PM to reconcile both sides (and to keep Algeria French, the settlers believed) = collapse of 4th Republic

1958-present

Fifth Republic

- founded in midst of Algerian War, w/ return of de Gaulle (briefly PM in 1958 until new constitution was written, then president, 1959-1969)
- gov't structure: powerful president (now pres. is real head of state), PM (but PM is appointed by the president), NA
- **Charles de Gaulle (pres. 1959-1969)** – conservative (center-right)
 - granted ind. to Algeria (1962) and sub-Saharan colonies
 - restored political stability and econ prosperity
 - **May 1968** – university student revolt (against overcrowding), which then escalated into a huge (10m) worker strike
 - inspired by the New Left (think Socialists)
 - de Gaulle brought in the army (France on verge of collapse), but ended up making workplace reforms which appeased the workers and ended their strike
 - de Gaulle called for new elections → his conservative party won ~75% of seats
 - **Francois Mitterand (pres. 1981-1995)** – Socialist Party (center-left)
 - exception to the trend of conservatism in western gov'ts at the time + big change after 25 years of rule by center-right parties
 - failed effort to restore econ prosperity w/ nationalization of industries, labor reforms, public investment → reprivatized industries + implemented austerity measures
 - adoption of 39-hour work week
 - **Jacques Chirac (pres. 1995-2007)** – conservative (center-right)
 - economy improved, though unemployment stayed a problem
 - adoption of 35-hour work week (in 2000, product of socialist PM)
 - **Nicolas Sarkozy (pres. 2007-2012)** – conservative (center-right)
 - **Francois Hollande (pres. 2012-present)** – Socialist Party (center-left)