

# The Age of Democratic Revolution

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World History  
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- In this chapter you will learn about the causes of the American Revolution and the French Revolution.
- You will explore their impact on history, especially in Europe and Latin America.
- You will also learn about the origins of nationalism.

# The American Revolution

## Origins of the American Revolution

- Since the founding of Jamestown in 1607, the American colonists had been subjects of great Britain. This meant that they were entitled to all the rights of Englishmen gained in the **Magna Carta** (1215), the **English Civil War** (1642-1649), the **Glorious Revolution** (1688), and the **English Bill of Rights** (1689).

# Origins of the American Revolution, cont'd

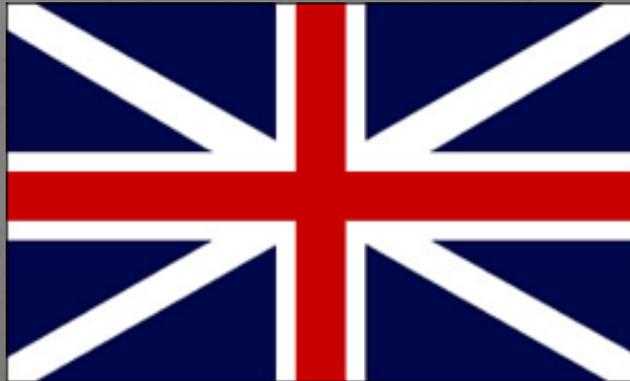
- In the course of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the colonists became involved in Britain's global contest with France for commercial and naval power and colonies. Britain protected the American colonists from Indian attacks and their French neighbors in Canada. During the **French and Indian War** (1754-1763), the British defeated the French. France was forced to surrender Canada to Britain. As a result, the colonists no longer feared the threat of a French invasion. They also hoped to expand settlements westward into the Ohio River Valley.

# The French and Indian War



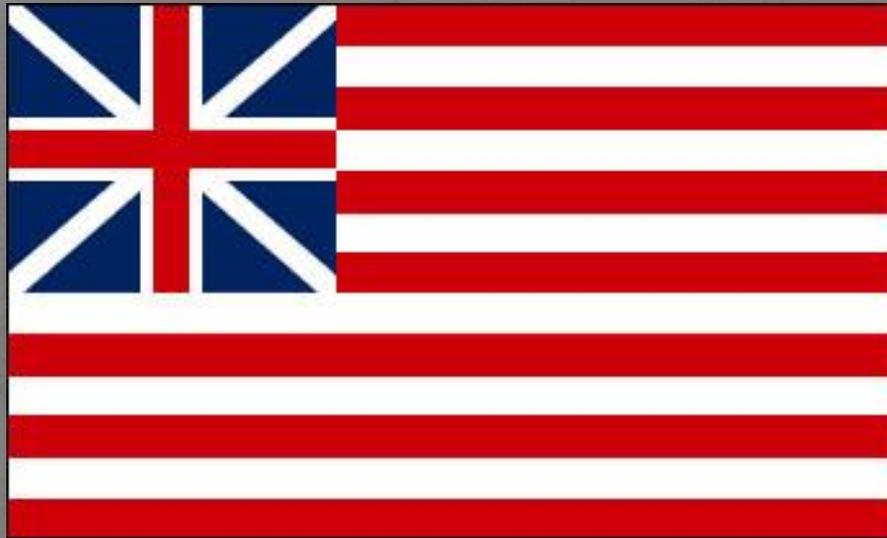
# Origins of the American Revolution, cont'd

- However, the British government had different concerns. The British government had run up a massive debt during the French and Indian War. The British government introduced various ways to tax the colonists, but each time the colonists objected. The colonists felt that these new taxes had been imposed without their consent, violating their rights as English subjects.



# Origins of the American Revolution, cont'd

- No one thought that the colonists could be represented in Parliament in London – which was too far away. Instead, the colonists favored greater self-government, while the British Parliament felt it should be able to tell the colonists what to do.



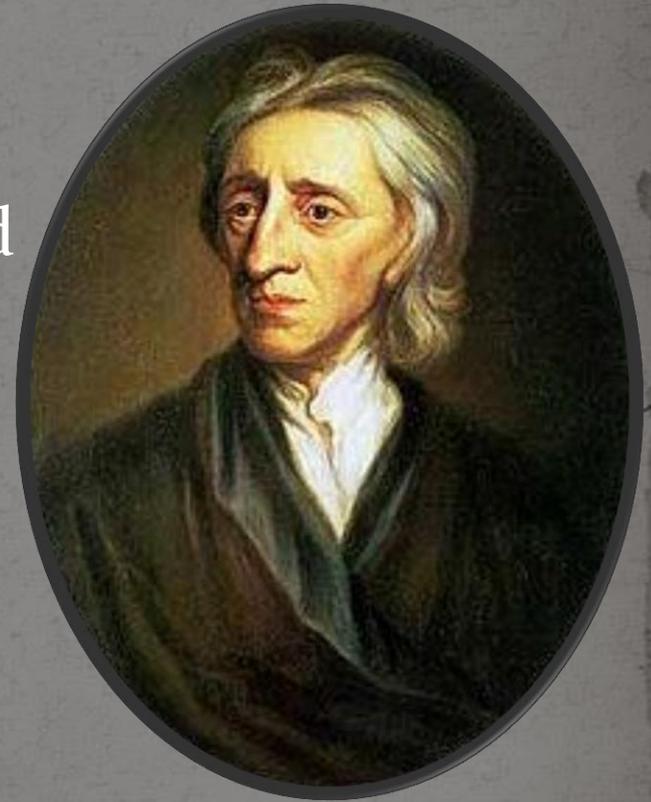
# Enlightenment and Revolution

- Religious beliefs, the legacy of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and Enlightenment ideals all influenced the outbreak of the American Revolution. For example, churches were places where colonists often gathered, and some ministers delivered sermons critical of the British government.



# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- The Glorious Revolution had demonstrated that English subjects could be justified in overthrowing an oppressive ruler. John Locke and later Enlightenment philosophers made the colonists think it was unjust for the government to tax them without considering their views. The cry, “taxation without representation is tyranny” went up throughout the colonies.



# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- To prevent unrest, the British government sent in more troops. They gave up on many taxes, but insisted the colonists pay a duty (*tax*) on tea to help the struggling East India Company. A group of colonists, disguised as American Indians, climbed on board a ship carrying some of this tea, and dumped it into Boston Harbor. The British responded by closing the harbor.



## Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- Colonists sent representatives to Philadelphia to discuss the growing problem. In 1775, violence finally erupted near Boston between British troops and colonial volunteers. From Massachusetts, the war quickly spread to the other colonies.

# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- An English writer, **Thomas Paine**, published a pamphlet, *Common Sense*, applying the Enlightenment idea of reason to the problem. Paine argued that it was reasonable for the colonies, so far from England, to become independent. In 1776, the colonists in fact declared their independence.



# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- New demands were now heard in other parts of the world. Many Enlightenment reformers in Europe supported the American revolution. They saw it as the realization of their own ideas.
- Volunteers like the **Marquis de Lafayette** from France and **Taduesz Kosciuszko** from Poland traveled to America to assist the colonists. They also helped persuade the King of France to ally with the colonists in their dispute with Britain. The French thirsted for revenge for their defeat in 1763 and the loss of Canada. In Ireland, groups demanded more rights from the English government in imitation of the colonists.

# American Revolution



## Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- Shortly after winning their independence in 1783, the Americans sent representatives to a **Constitutional Convention**. The basic challenge faced by the authors of the Constitution was to create a strong national government, but not so strong that it would threaten individual liberties. The new **U.S. Constitution** created a system in which power was shared between the national government and the state governments.

# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- The Constitution further divided the three different types of government powers – legislative, executive, and judicial – among the three separate branches of government, as advocated by the Enlightenment thinker **Baron de Montesquieu**.



# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- In addition, the new Constitution gave each of these government branches several ways to “check” the other branches (known as the system of “checks and balances”) in order to ensure that no one branch became too powerful or tyrannical.

# Enlightenment and Revolution, cont'd

- Later, a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to include protections of individual liberties. Finally, ultimate power rested with the people who elected officials – creating a system of popular sovereignty, where the people are supreme.



# U.S. Constitution – the Preamble



# The American Revolution



# The French Revolution

- The American Revolution ended in 1783 when Britain signed the **Treaty of Paris** with the new United States. Only six years later, the desire for change crossed the Atlantic Ocean and erupted in France. Paris became the center of this revolutionary explosion, sending shock waves throughout Europe.

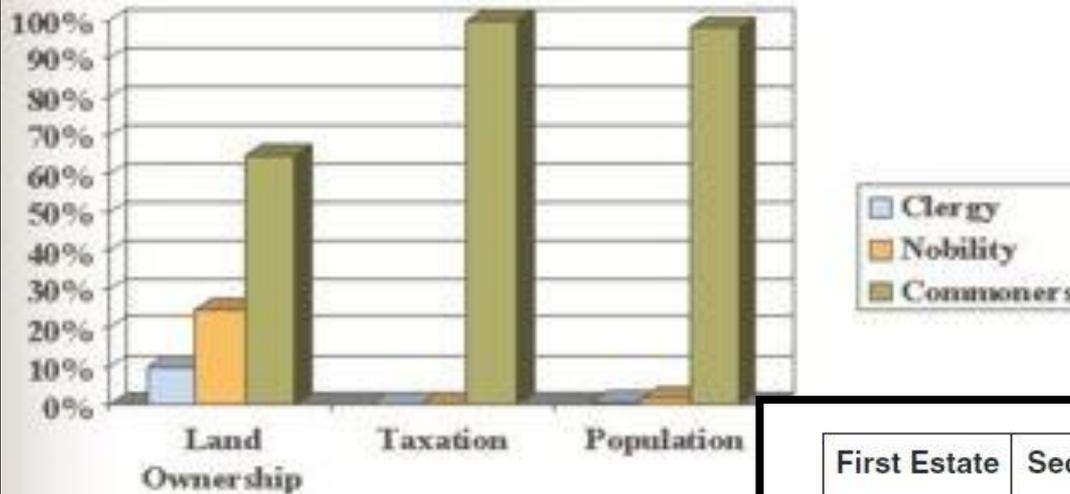
# Causes of the French Revolution

- Historians still debate whether the French Revolution could have been avoided, or whether it was inevitable. Most historians agree that changes in French society were needed, but they disagree on whether or not the changes could have taken place through peaceful reform or whether a violent revolution was necessary.

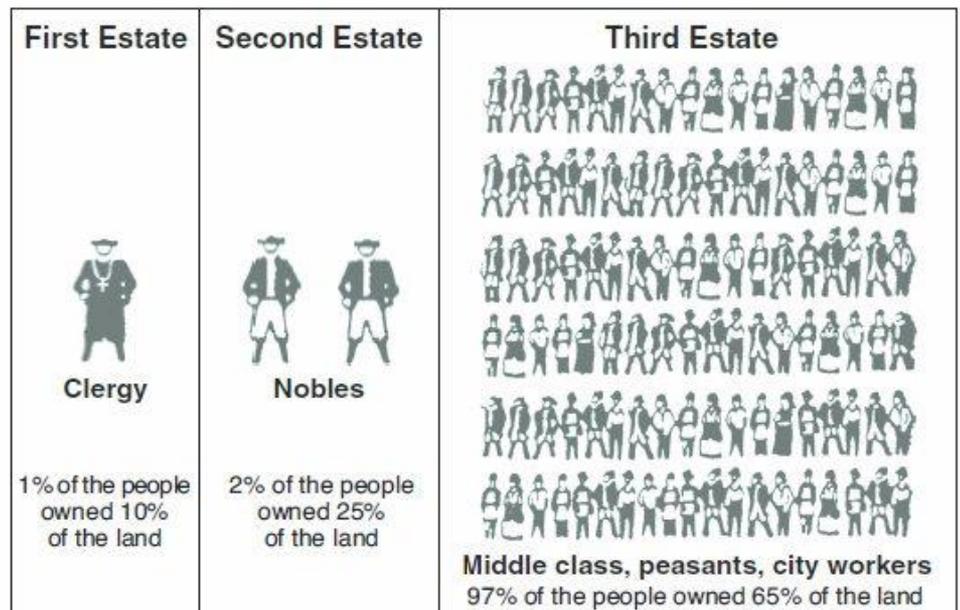
# French Social Divisions

- Old Regime French society was divided into three classes or “estates.” The **First Estate** was the clergy – consisting of priests and Church officials. The **Second Estate** was the nobility. The nobles held many special privileges, such as being exempt from many taxes and having the right to collect feudal dues. Nobles also served as officers in the army and held high positions at court.
- The **Third Estate**, the largest of the three estates, was made up of the common people. This estate included the **bourgeoisie** – the middle classes of merchants, professionals, and shopkeepers. It also included urban workers and the largest group in France – the peasantry.

# Three Estates



# French Social Divisions – illustrated!



Source: Schwartz and O'Connor, *Democracy and Nationalism*, Globe Book Company (adapted)

# The Impact of Enlightenment Ideas

- Enlightenment ideas made many Frenchmen unwilling to accept the divine right of kings and privileged positions of the Church and nobility. Many bourgeoisie, influenced by their rising wealth and Enlightenment ideas, resented the special privileges of the nobles. Many liberal nobles and clergy actually shared their beliefs. Although there was censorship, a flourishing “underground” press poked fun at the king and his unpopular queen, **Marie Antoinette**.



Marie Antoinette

# Financial Crisis

- The financial system in France was based on tradition. Different social classes and even different geographical regions paid different tax rates. For example, some provinces had joined France later in history and had been given special rights. Towns and provinces taxed each other's goods, hurting trade. Over time, the King had sold off the rights to collect many taxes to "tax farmers" and office-holders. By the late 1700s, many saw this whole system as outdated and unfair. Although France was actually a wealthy country, the government did not have efficient means for taxing this wealth.

# Financial Crisis, cont'd

- To finance their wars with Britain, French ministers had relied heavily on borrowing. Because of the high costs of helping the American colonists during their own war for independence, the Crown now faced a severe financial crisis. By 1786, France's finances were in a desperate situation. The finance minister informed the King he could no longer obtain any more loans. To deal with the problem, the king's ministers summoned the nobility to Paris in 1787 for a special Assembly of Notables. The government suggested that the nobles surrender their privileges to help the Crown pay off its debts.

# Financial Crisis, cont'd

- The nobles said that before they could take any such step, the government must hold an **Estates General** – a national assembly in which each of the three social classes was represented in its own chamber.
- No Estates General had met since 1614. The nobles felt they would be able to control the Estates General, since the First and Second estates would vote similarly. **King Louis XVI** gave in to their demands. Elections were held all over France to select delegates from the different estates. People became very excited as they debated issues and drew up instructions for the delegates.

# King Louis XVI



# Main Events of the Revolution

- What began as a contest for power between the king and the nobles quickly turned into a struggle over the future of the monarchy and the existence of hereditary privileges. In the course of the revolution, power shifted first to the liberal nobles and moderate bourgeoisie, then to the radical shopkeepers and craftsmen, and finally back to the bourgeoisie.



## Main Events of the Revolution, cont'd

- Because of the greater number of people in the Third Estate, they elected twice as many delegates to the Estates General as the First and Second Estates. Enlightenment thinkers like **Abbe Sieyes** wrote that only the Third Estate represented the “productive and useful citizens” of the nation. Sieyes called the nobles and clergy mere parasites. When the Estates General met in May 1789, the delegates from the Third Estate quickly declared themselves to be a **National Assembly**.

# Main Events of the Revolution, cont'd

- The King sought to break up the Assembly. When word of this attempt reached the people of Paris in July, they seized the royal prison known as the Bastille in a search for weapons. The King, fearful of popular unrest, reluctantly recognized the new National Assembly.



# Main Events of the Revolution, cont'd

- In August 1789, the National Assembly abolished the privileges of the nobles. They also confiscated Church lands to pay off the state's debts. The Assembly next issued a **Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen**, proclaiming that government rested on the consent of the people (*popular sovereignty*), not on the divine right of the king. The Declaration also announced that all Frenchmen were "free and equal." The slogan of the Revolution became "**Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity.**" A written constitution was drafted and adopted, creating a national legislature and making France a **constitutional monarchy**. A constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a monarch's power is shared with a popular assembly and is limited by law and tradition.

# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn

- Meanwhile, there was a poor harvest in 1789. Hungry Parisians marched to the King's palace at Versailles in October 1789, and dragged the royal family back to Paris.



# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn, cont'd

- For a short time, it seemed the King might accept the changes brought by the revolution. In July 1790, Louis XVI took an oath to the Constitution. However in June 1791, Louis and his family tried to escape. They were caught and returned to Paris. Soon after, the monarchy was overthrown and France became a republic – a government without a king, in which citizens are given the right to elect their representatives. Under a new constitution every adult male in France could vote. A single-chamber legislature, known as the Convention, was elected. Louis XVI was put on trial for crimes against his people and executed in 1793.

# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn, cont'd



# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn, cont'd

- The new French republic was seen as a threat by other European rulers. Since 1792, France had been at war with other European countries. Parts of France were in open rebellion, and it seemed that France might lose the war until a Committee of Public Safety took over in 1793. The Committee began a “Reign of Terror.” They were directed by Robespierre and other radical leaders, who were idealistic followers of Rousseau. They felt they needed to use force to achieve their goals. The Committee of Public Safety used savage repression to crush the rebels. Laws were passed allowing the government to arrest anyone. People even lost the right to defend themselves. Nobles, Catholic priests, and other suspected traitors were executed. Historians estimate as many as 40,000 suspects may have been killed.

# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn, cont'd

- Meanwhile, France needed to raise a large army to fight against neighboring European powers. France introduced mass conscription, requiring all males to serve in the army.



France's large armies and other forceful measures turned the tide of the war. Once the risk of losing the war ended, the Convention turned against its leaders. Afraid for their own safety, the Convention members seized Robespierre and his followers, who were executed. The terror ended and power shifted back to the moderates.

# The Revolution takes a Radical Turn, cont'd



# The French Revolution



# The Rise and Fall of Napoleon

- Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) came from the lower nobility on the island of Corsica. As a boy, he had been sent to military school in France. Napoleon proved to be one of the most gifted generals of all times. He developed new tactics for mass armies in the Age of Revolution.



# The Rise of Napoleon

- After the fall of Robespierre, France remained at war with Britain, Austria, and Russia. Under Napoleon's leadership, French armies invaded Italy and defeated the Austrians in 1797. His rapid movements took his enemies by surprise.
- Wherever French armies went, they acted as liberators, helping local "patriots" against their former rulers. The French set up new republics in Holland, Switzerland, and Italy. In 1799, Napoleon seized power in France, where government had become unpopular. He then negotiated a peace with the other powers, including Britain.

# The Rise of Napoleon, cont'd

- Napoleon used the breathing space to introduce domestic reforms, including a new legal code combining traditional laws with the changes of the revolution. He also reached a settlement with the Catholic Church. Napoleon attempted to combine the social reforms of the French Revolution with his own absolute power.

# The Rise of Napoleon, cont'd

- Five years later, Napoleon crowned himself emperor in December 1804. He was again at war with Europe. By the end of 1805, Napoleon put his relatives and friends in power in Italy, Germany, Holland, Poland, and Spain.



# Napoleon's European Empire



# The Fall of Napoleon

- Napoleon's mighty ambitions united most of Europe against him. His inability to invade England, economic problems in Europe caused by his attempted boycott of British goods, and the unpopularity of French rule throughout Europe creating increasing strains on his empire. His conquests and wars awakened nationalist feelings in Britain, Spain, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

# The Fall of Napoleon, cont'd

- In 1809, the people of Spain rebelled against Napoleon's brother, whom Napoleon had put on the throne. In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia with his "Grand Army" of more than 600,000 men, the largest army ever assembled up to that time. He defeated the Russians, but Tsar Alexander I refused to surrender. As winter approached, the Russians burned Moscow to the ground rather than provide shelter and supplies to the French army. Napoleon's forces were defeated on their retreat by the bitter Russian winter. Faced with typhus, hunger, and suicide few survived the long march back to France.

# The Grand Army and the Russian Winter



CRANSTON



# The Fall of Napoleon, cont'd

- Napoleon himself returned to Paris to prevent rising discontent. After his failure in Russia, the other European powers combined to overthrow him. Britain, Russia, Prussia, and Austria formed a coalition, which was also joined by smaller states. The allies invaded France early in 1814. When Napoleon would not make concessions, the allied powers brought back the old French royal family. The new king, Louis XVIII, granted his subjects a charter that guaranteed the people their basic civil rights and a national legislature.

# Louis XVIII of France



# The Fall of Napoleon, cont'd

- Napoleon was sent into exile. He suddenly reappeared in March 1815 and took over France for a brief time. He was defeated again at the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815. This time, allies imprisoned him on a distant island in the Atlantic, where he died in 1821.

Napoleon



# The Impact of Napoleon

- Although Napoleon ruled France for only 15 years, he had a tremendous impact on France, Europe, and the rest of the world.

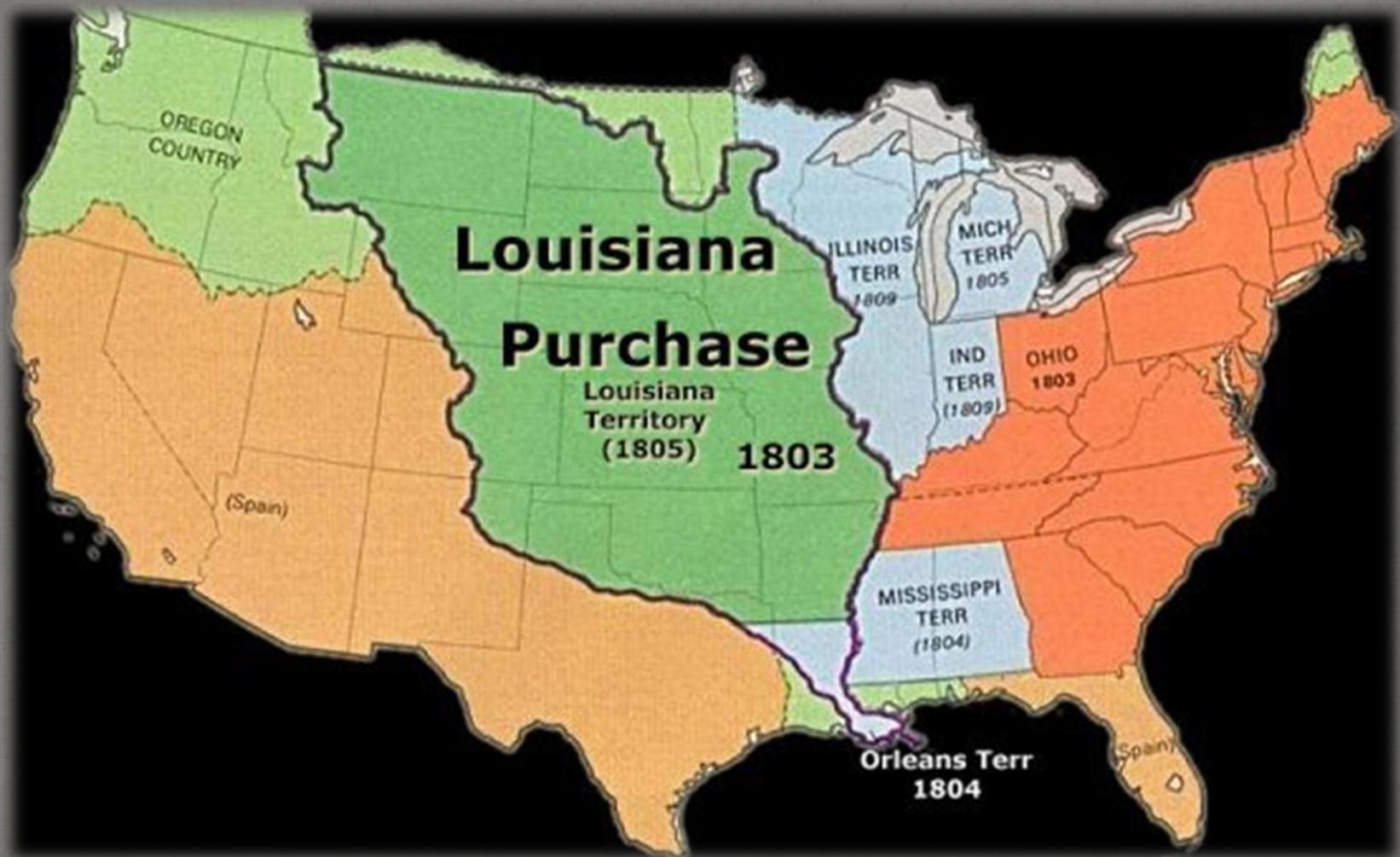
**France** – Napoleon created stability by establishing the Code Napoleon, a law code that consolidated such achievements of the Revolution as social equality, religious toleration, and trial by jury.

# The Impact of Napoleon, cont'd

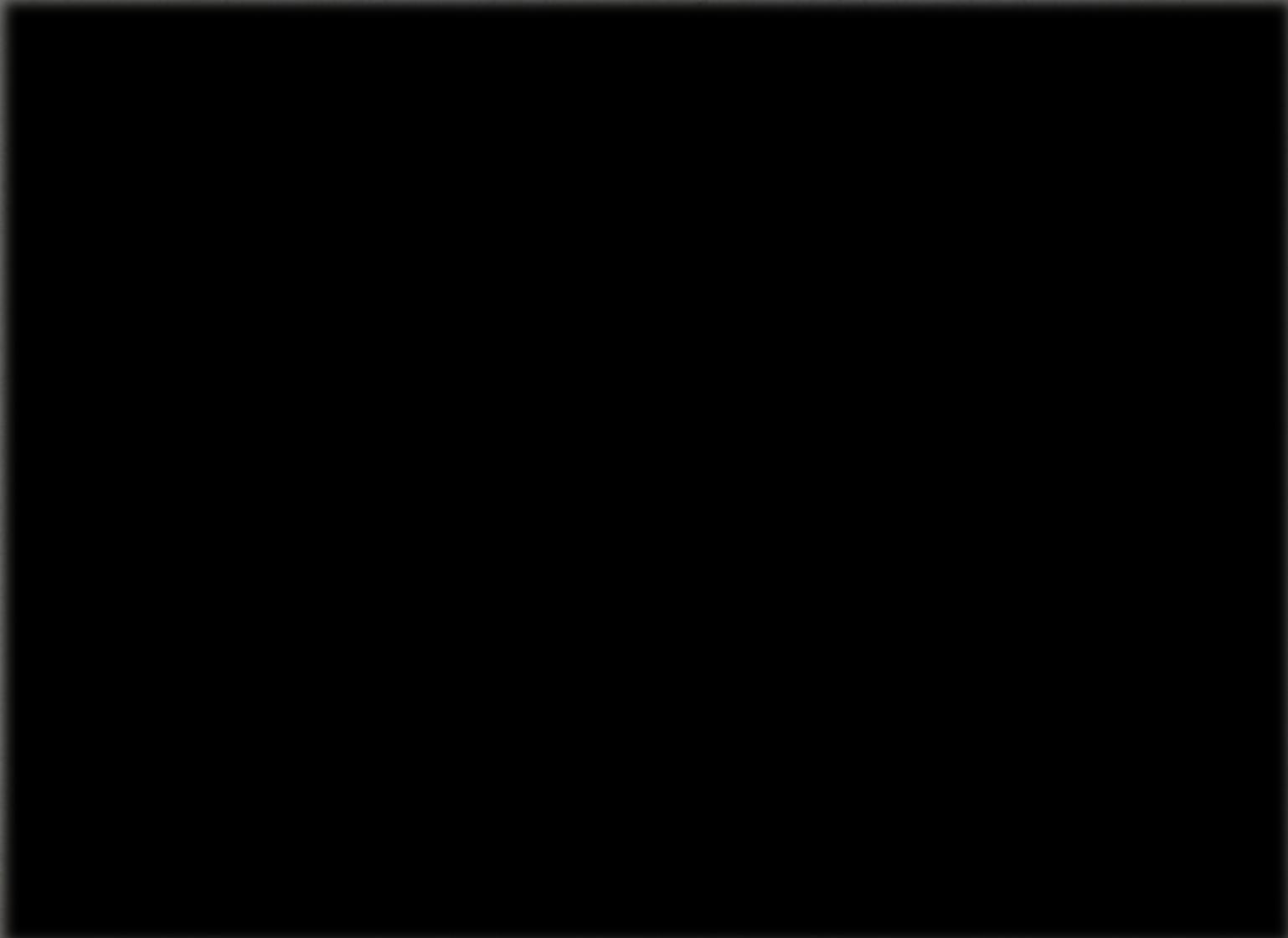
**Europe** – Napoleon seized a large portion of Europe, introducing the ideas of the French Revolution and ending the feudal restrictions and serfdom wherever he conquered. For example, his conquests in Germany led to the liberation of Jewish citizens from traditional restrictions.

**The World** – French rule stimulated the growth of nationalism. Napoleon weakened Spain, causing it to lose its colonial empire in Latin America. He sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States in 1803.

# Louisiana Purchase



# Louisiana Purchase – in a Nutshell



# Restoring the Old Order

- After the defeat of Napoleon, the chief European rulers met in Paris and then at the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) to redraw the boundaries of Europe. Their main objective was to settle the many issues arising from the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. They invited all the other states of Europe to participate.

# The Congress of Vienna

- The allies restored many former rulers and borders, bringing Europe back in some measure to the way it had been before the French Revolution. At one level, this gathering of crowned heads was a triumphant celebration of the defeat of Napoleon. Against a brilliant backdrop of balls, concerts, and festivities, the allied leaders of Britain, Russia, Austria, and Prussia met privately, keeping all of the major decisions in their own hands.

# The Congress of Vienna, cont'd

- The allies sought to establish a balance of power – a system in which no single power like France could become so powerful that it could threaten to dominate the other countries in the system. To accomplish this purpose, Belgium was given to the Netherlands, the Rhineland to Prussia, Genoa to Savoy, and Northern Italy to Austria. The leading powers disagreed about Poland and Germany. The Tsar wanted to take all of Poland and give Saxony to Prussia in compensation. Britain and Austria feared the growth of Russian power and signed a secret treaty with their old enemy, France, to resist some of these demands.

# The Congress of Vienna, cont'd

- Fortunately for the allies, they reached a compromise just before Napoleon reappeared. The Congress also dealt with many other issues, including steps to abolish the slave trade and the rights of German Jews. Later in 1895, the allied statesmen agreed to hold further meetings and to cooperate to resist revolutionary change.

# The Congress of Vienna, cont'd

- William Wilberforce, an English reformer and devout Christian, was horrified by the plight of slaves. He was responsible for leading the fight to abolish slavery in England. In 1807, he persuaded Parliament to pass the Slave Trade Bill, which banned the slave trade. At his request, the British delegate at Vienna pressed France and Spain to also abolish the slave trade. Later, Wilberforce achieved the abolition of slavery itself throughout the British Empire in 1833.

# William Wilberforce



# The Spirit of Nationalism

- Nationalism is the belief that each nationality (ethnic group) is entitled to its own government and national homeland. The French Revolution had ignited the spirit of nationalism throughout much of Europe by teaching that each government should be based on the will of the people. Napoleon's conquests also inspired nationalist resentment against the French. Despite the stirrings of nationalism, the statesmen at the Congress of Vienna failed to take into account the desire of many people to control their own governments. Instead, they favored legitimacy – maintaining traditional rulers. As a result, many European peoples were still not united; others lived under foreign rule.

# The Metternich Era (1815-1848)

- Prince Klemens von Metternich of Austria was one of the leading statesmen at the Congress of Vienna. He was instrumental in establishing a system that prevented attempts at nationalism or political change in Europe. The allies held several “Congresses” until 1822 to suppress revolutions. The thirty years following the Congress of Vienna witnessed a series of unsuccessful revolutions in Italy, Germany, and Poland.

# Prince Klemens von Metternich of Austria



## The Metternich Era (1815-1848), cont'd

- In each of these countries, national groups sought to achieve independence but were defeated by the armies of Austria or Russia. However, in two cases nationalism triumphed: Greece and Belgium both achieved their independence in 1830. France overthrew the restored monarchy and established a new constitutional monarchy in the same year.

# The Revolutions of 1848

- The year 1848 is considered one of the turning points of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1848, the constitutional monarchy of France was overthrown and a new French republic was created. Events in France inspired a new wave of revolutions in Italy, Germany, Austria, and Hungary. Revolutionaries in some of these countries sought to establish their own unified nation.

# The Revolutions of 1848, cont'd

- German liberals even elected representatives to a “Parliament” in Frankfurt representing the entire German nation. These liberals offered the crown of a united Germany to the King of Prussia, but he refused their offer. By 1849, the tide began to turn. The Austrian army, with Russian support, proved too powerful for the revolutionaries. Each revolutionary regime collapsed, except in France, where Napoleon’s nephew took power and proclaimed himself as Napoleon III.

# Napoleon III



# The Independence of Latin America

- One of the most far-reaching effects of the American and French Revolutions was that they led to the independence of Latin America.

# The Road to Independence

## **Abuses of the Colonial System**

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish and Portuguese colonial system caused increasing unrest in Latin America. Although the Creoles were the descendants of Europeans, they had been denied political power and resented European-born Peninsulares. The colonists also resented Spanish economic restrictions that made it difficult for them to trade directly with countries other than Spain or to manufacture their own goods.

# The Road to Independence, cont'd

- **Revolutionary ideas spread to Latin America**

Both the American and French Revolutions spread revolutionary ideas to Latin America. These revolutions taught that people should be entitled to a government that protected their interests. During the Napoleonic wars in Europe, the colonists in Latin America had to govern themselves. When Napoleon was defeated in 1814, the King of Spain was restored to his throne. He re-imposed the old colonial system, prohibiting the colonists from trading directly with Britain or other countries except Spain. Latin American leaders refused to return to Spanish rule and demanded independence. Brazil declared its independence from Portugal in 1823. By 1824, Latin American independence was firmly established.

# Leaders in the Wars for Independence

- **Toussant l'Ouverture** – led an uprising of African slaves in 1791, forcing the French out of Haiti – making Haiti the first Latin American colony to achieve independence.
- **Jose de San Martin** – worked to liberate Argentina and Chile from Spanish rule in the years 1816 to 1818.
- **Simon Bolivar** – defeated the Spanish forces between 1819 and 1825, liberating Venezuela, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia.
- **Miguel Hidalgo** – a priest, began a rebellion against Spanish rule in Mexico in 1810, but the uprising failed. Mexico later achieved its independence in 1821.

# Bolivar and the Struggle for Independence

- Simon Bolivar (1783-1830), was born in Venezuela and became known as the “Liberator.” A Creole aristocrat who trained in a military academy, he emerged as the most important leader in the struggle for the independence of South America from Spain. Bolivar also left a legacy of military control over political affairs in South America.

# Simon Bolivar



## Bolivar and the Struggle for Independence, cont'd

- In 1813, Bolivar led the fight for the independence of Venezuela. His Decree of War to the Death threatened those who opposed him and sided with Spain. In 1815, Bolivar was forced to flee South America. He fled to Jamaica, where he defined his goals and appealed for English help. He next visited Haiti, where the government gave him support in exchange for his promise to abolish slavery. In 1817, he returned to South America and with Haitian support recaptured New Granada. He used this area as a base to liberate Venezuela and Ecuador. In 1819, Bolivar joined together Ecuador, Venezuela, and Columbia in the newly independent country of Gran Columbia. He established himself as its first President and set out to unite all of South America. Bolivar next joined with Argentine leader Jose San Martin and sought the liberation of Peru. In 1824, Bolivar successfully defeated Spanish forces.

# New Granada



## Bolivar and the Struggle for Independence, cont'd

- The Monroe Doctrine, issued by the United States in 1823, also helped protect the newly independent countries of South America by warning European powers against further intervention. Bolivar's dream was to create a democratic South American federation like the United States. However, in 1828 he declared himself dictator just as Napoleon had done in France. In 1830, Bolivar resigned the Presidency, and died shortly thereafter.

# Monroe Doctrine

