

SOCIAL STUDIES (HISTORY) CHAPTER 01: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (Hand-written Notes)

The French Revolution (1789 - 1799)

① During this period, entire political landscape of France was changed and went through different phases. E.g. - It uprooted centuries old institutional set-ups such as absolute monarchy / despotism and feudal system.

② It failed to achieve its goals but played a crucial role in shaping modern nations. (Liberty, Equality & Fraternity)

Start: July 1789 - Storming of Bastille

End: Late 1799 - Ascent / uprising of Napoleon Bonaparte

Causes of French Revolution:

- ↳ Political
- ↳ Social
- ↳ Economical
- ↳ Intellectual

① Political Causes

(Bourbon Dynasty)

✓ Louis XIV (1643-1715)



- Absolute monarch
- Focused on centralisation of power
- Fought many wars led to France in debt.

✓ Louis XV (1715-1774)

- Debt of France increased due to defeat of Louis XV in long 7 years war.
- Not a good administrator



The Seven Years' War



- Louis XV
- War fought in Europe, India, North America
- France ends up losing some of its colonies
- Increases French national debt

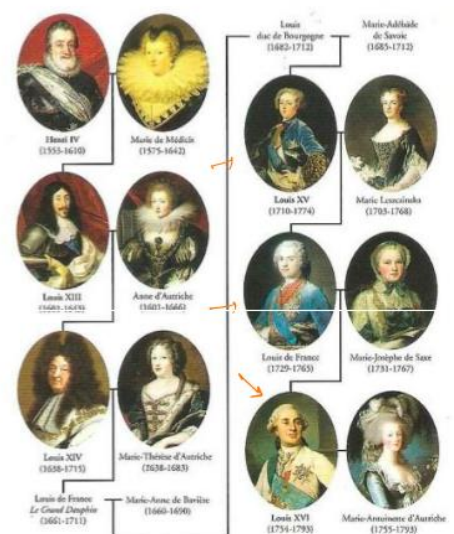


French and English troops fight at the battle of Fort Mifflin on the 12th of September 1757

(England vs. France)

Tax imposition to tackle debt became the root cause for American Revolution and French Revolution

Bourbon



↳ Louis XVI (1774-1792)

- Couldn't able to bring bold reforms despite of having good political intentions
- Backtracked / recalled various decisions (weak decision-maker)
- Austrian wife - **Marie Antoinette** (bad advisor)
- **American war of Independence** - France helped America without any gains
 ↓ result
 Debt was further increased



Palace of Versailles (current image)



Hall of Mirrors (at Palace of Versailles)



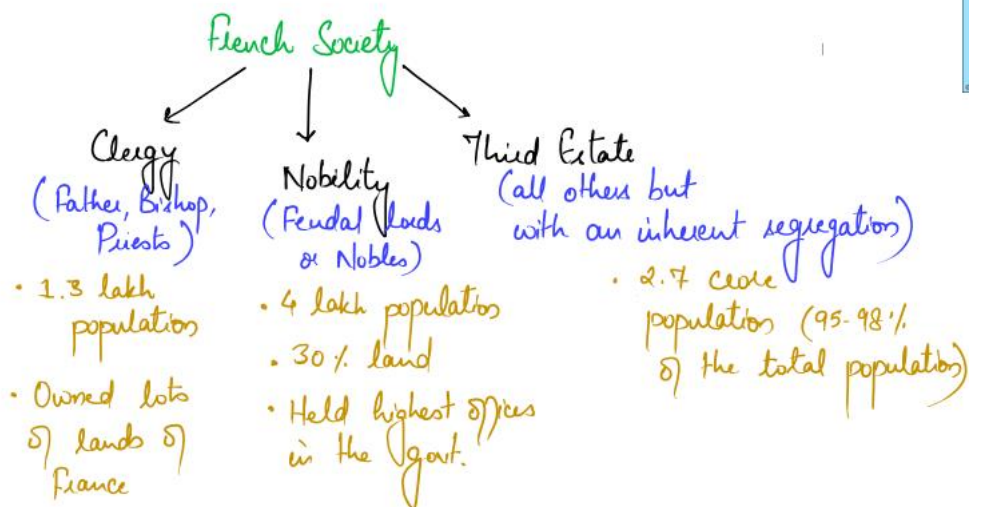
Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette



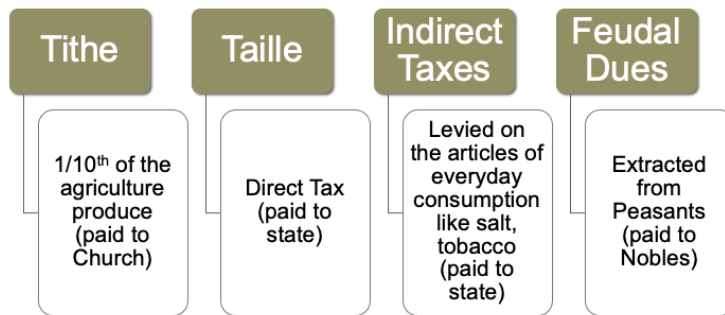
② Social Causes



Disenes:



- No taxes of 1st and 2nd estate whereas the 3rd estate was overburdened with most of the taxes.



- Lavish lifestyle of nobility (quite opposite to Third Estate life)
- Educated middle class was emerging (Bourgeoisie)
- Urban workers were living in poor conditions

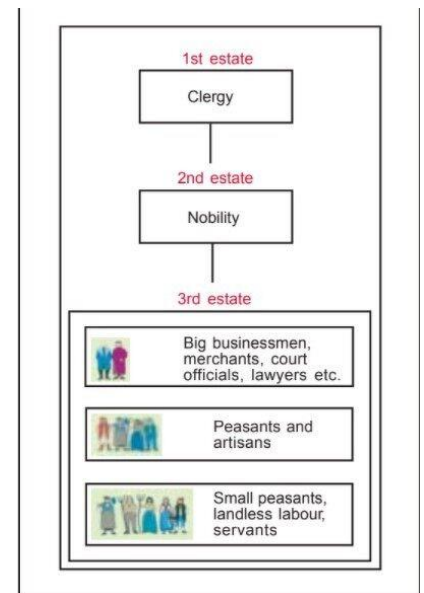


Fig. 2 – A Society of Estates.
 Note that within the Third Estate some were rich and others poor.

③ Economical Causes (biggering)

- France population rose from 2 crore (1700) to 2.8 crore (1789)
 resource demand increased + no economic/agricultural advancements were introduced
- High debt of was led to large interest payments
 40% increase
 equivalent to half of the national budget
- Harsh winter → Crop failure → Food prices → Famine (Subsistence Crisis)
 result
 Angry peasants & common people (lack of fulfillment of basic needs) } Increased in taxes triggered the fire

④ Intellectual Causes

- Age of enlightenment (development of science and philosophy, rational thinking)
- Contributions by famous thinkers and philosophers:



John Locke
 1632–1704

- Government's power is limited.
- People have natural rights, such as life, liberty, and property.



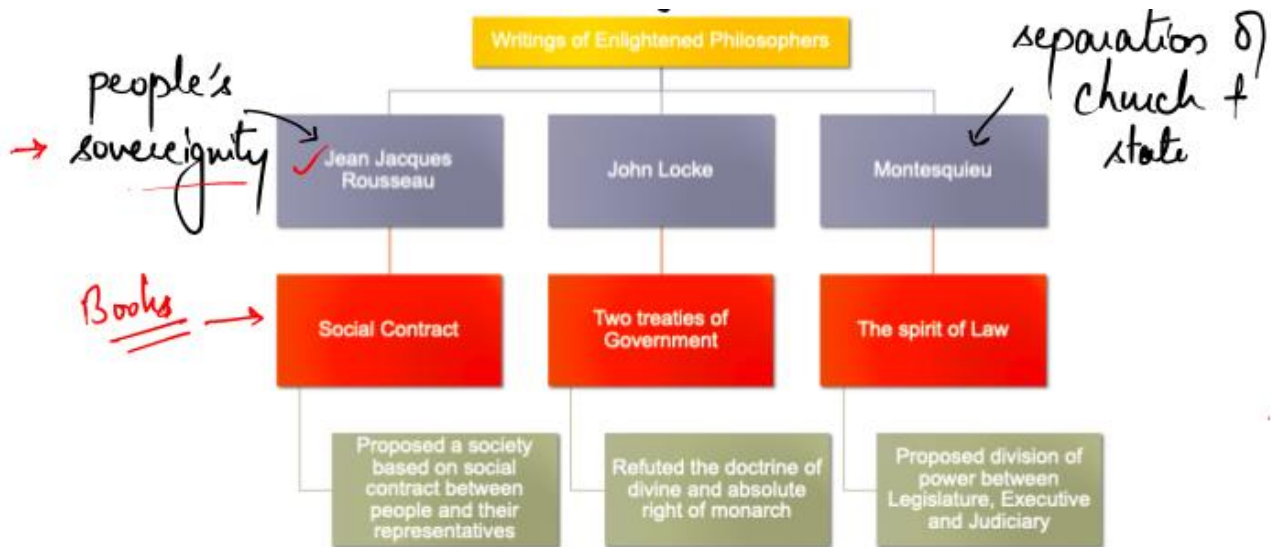
Charles-Louis Montesquieu
 1689–1755

- The powers of government should be separated into separate branches.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau
 1712–1778

- Governments should express the will of the people.
- People enter into a social contract with their government giving it the right to create and enforce laws.

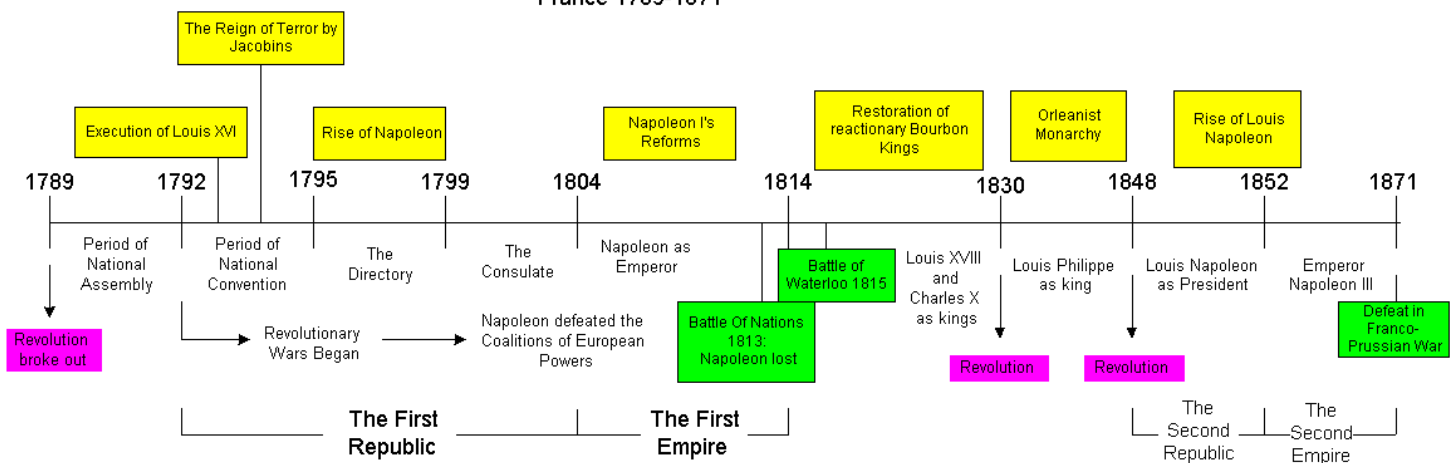


- These intellectuals questioned the king's right to rule, his mandate from God and the role of Church
- Their ideas spread through newspapers, books and salon discussions

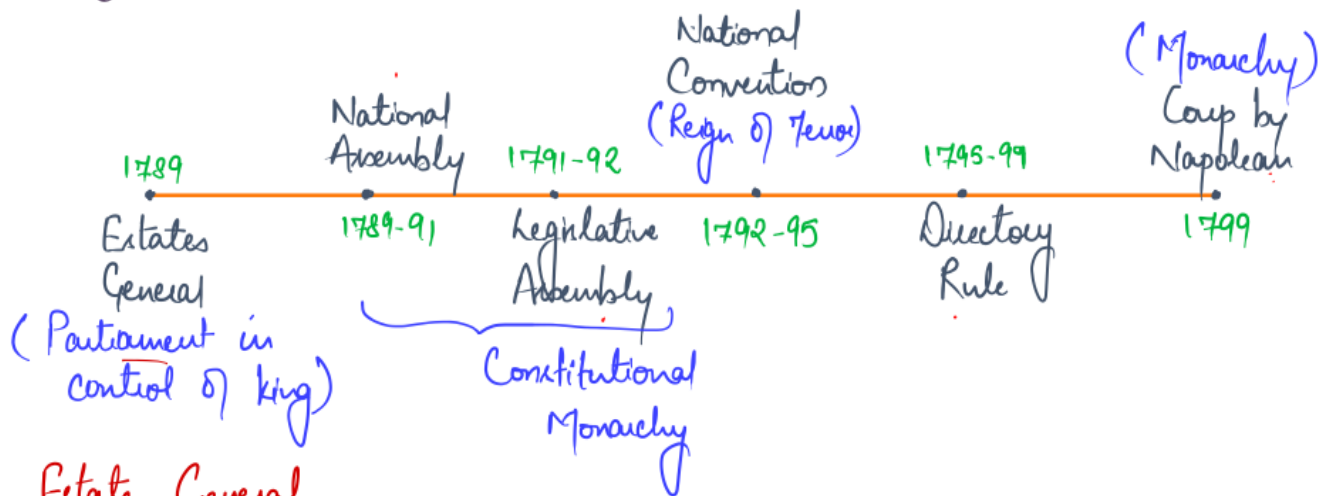
Madame Geoffrin's Salon



France 1789-1871



* TIMELINE - 1



* Estate General

* Financial Adviser of Louis XVI - Jacques Necker



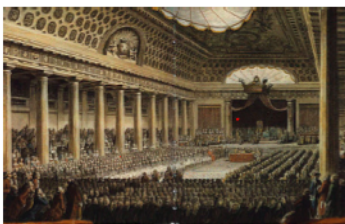
- Urged the king to reduce spending on military, extravagant court spending and reform the government including tax system

- Necker pushed for taxes on 1st and 2nd estate

- A meeting of Estate General was called on 05 May 1789 (first meeting in 175 years)

↓ why?

To discuss the increase in taxes because of growing financial crisis



- Delegates from all three estates participated

Clergy (300) + Nobility (300) + Third Estate (600)

← No. of delegates



Deadlock happened over voting rights
(conflict) ↓ why?

One Estate = One vote
and in this case third estate could never get
a chance to win.

} Demand was for
one person, one vote
by third estate

↓
Refused by the king

as a
result

- Third Estate declared itself
as National Assembly

(Louis XVI banned National Assembly from entering
the main hall)

- National Assembly took oath in a Tennis court
which is called as "Tennis Court Oath"



↓
Not to disband until a constitution
is in place

[Within a week, most of the clerical deputies
and 47 liberal nobles joined them]

Happenings in June →

- All over France, peasants revolted against feudal lords
↑
looted granaries, burnt land records
(The Great Fear) ← in Chugy & Nobility
- Riots in Paris in support of assembly and against king's action
- Breakdown of law and order, revolutionary spirit superseded
- Louis XVI orders military to assemble in Paris and outside Versailles

* Storming of Bastille (14 July, 1789)

- Fort used as prison
- Symbol of royal oppression
- Bastille prison looted and torn down by rioters

↓ why?

As a result, Louis XVI granted recognition to National Assembly

Mainly to get weapons
 (Bastille Day)



- * National Assembly later became National Constituent Assembly and ordered abolition of feudalism + levied uniform taxes for all

↑
 outdated & exploitative system of govt



July Column at Place de la Bastille

- * Many nobles fled to neighbouring countries in Europe (Emigrés)

↑
 Emigrant

Immigrant

- * Clergy were reduced by one-third & were made civil officers

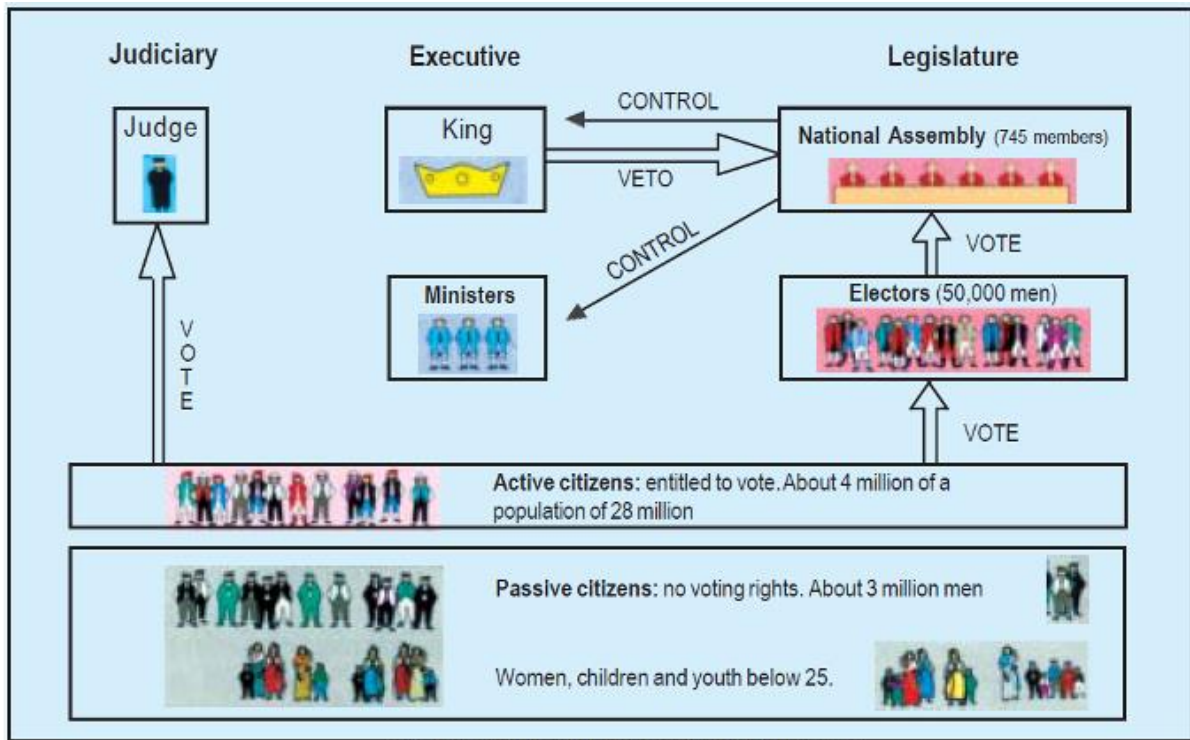
↓ as a result

Pope became angry and went against this revolution

(Absolute Monarchy to Constitutional Monarchy)

↑
 National Constituent Assembly published a Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen in August, 1789

- Statement of intent for constitution
- Based on the ideas of enlightenment
- Human and civil rights - Liberty, Property, Security
- Concepts of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity were included
- "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights"
- Women and slaves - No rights as citizens } drawback
- concept of passive citizens came

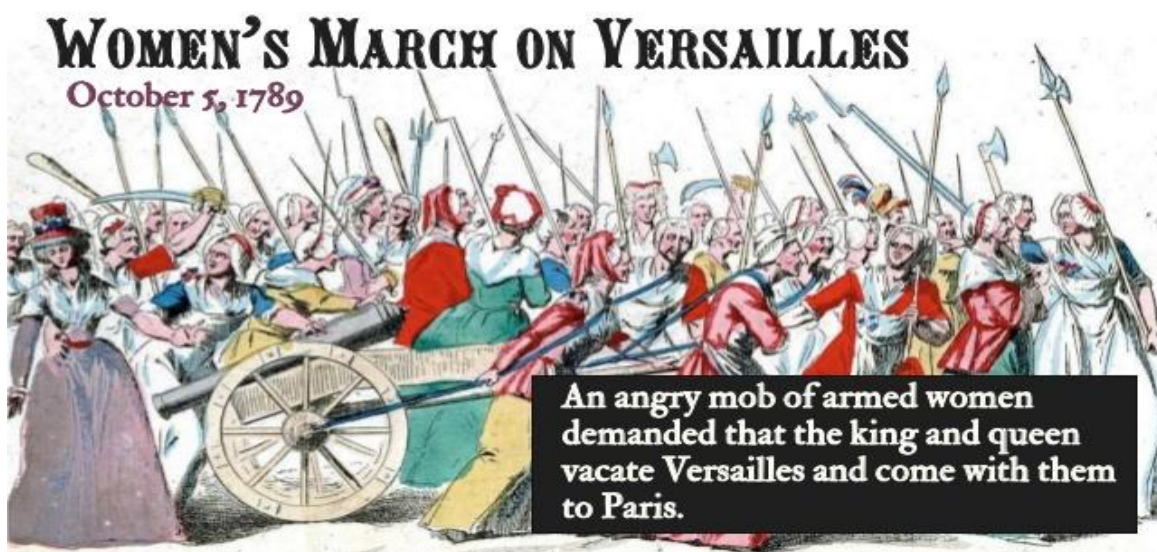


⊗ Women's march on Versailles

• 5th October 1789



Economic crisis worsened & rumours spread about hoarding of grains at the Palace of Versailles



- 7000 women assembled & marched
- Asked the royal family to move to Paris

As a result, Louis XVI and royal family members had to shift to another Palace named **Palace of Tuileries (Paris)**

⑧ 1790 → Year of transformation

- Different political groups started forming
↑ (Clubs)



- 1) **Jacobins** - Radical revolutionaries (dominant)
- 2) **Girondins** - Moderates
- 3) **Society of Revolutionary Republican women**

(These clubs had their own ideas about the change/revolutionary process)



The Politics of the National Convention (1792-1795)

Jacobins

- ★ Desired republican government. Wanted to kill the king.
- ★ Main support from the sans-culottes. Would adopt extreme measures to achieve their goals.
- ★ Are not prepared to give political rights to all classes. Very middle class in their orientation.
- ★ Rise in popularity in 1792 due to Girondins weak rule in war against Austria. Came to power when the Convention begins in Sept. 1792
- ★ More likely to emphasize "equality"
- ★ Elimination of all political and civil distinctions
- ★ Radical

Girondists

- ★ Desired constitutional monarchy. Wanted to keep the monarchs.
- ★ Feared the influence of radical elements like the sans-culottes.
- ★ Supported by progressive nobles and conservative middle class. Want slow change - not overnight. Fear the ignorant mob.
- ★ First group to come to power. Discredited by France's poor showing in the war with Austria.
- ★ Emphasized "liberty" - exemption of trade and industry from regulation from state
- ★ Moderate

⑧ Jacobian Club

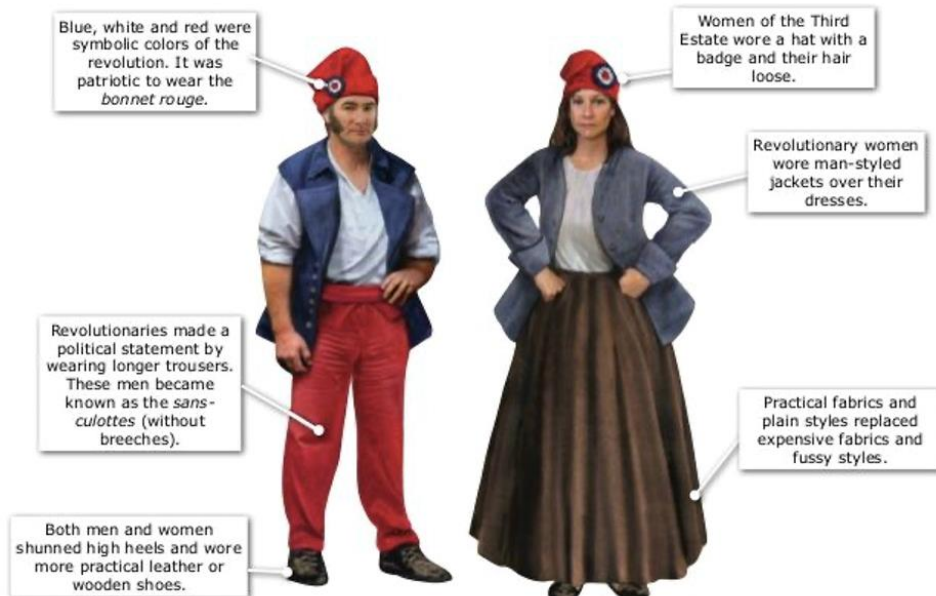
- Composed of poor people of third estate such as artisans, daily workers, poor peasants etc.
- They believed that power was concentrated by upper class, traders & wealthy middle class
- Their leader was **Maximilien de Robespierre**
- They were easily identified by their attire i.e. **Sans Culottes**

below knee pants

Maximilien Robespierre



Fashion of Revolutionaries



Bonnet Rouge / Phrygian Cap

1791 → Downfall of Louis XVI + Conflict within Third Estate

- Louis XVI tried to escape to Austria from France } Royal family dressed as servants while servants were given the attire of king + queen.

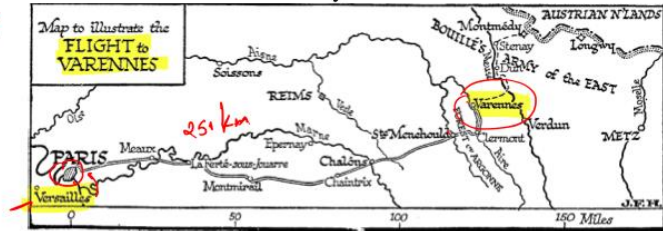
↓ why?

To initiate counter revolution against France revolutionaries with the help of foreign armies supporting Monarchy.

↓ result

People of France were shocked to realize this step as ^{kill them} they were anticipating the Louis XVI's agreement for the new govt. being formed in France.

- Louis XVI was caught at **Varennes** in France (250 km away from Versailles) after being identified on **21 June, 1791**



- This led to the initiation of demand for Republic (by Jacobins)

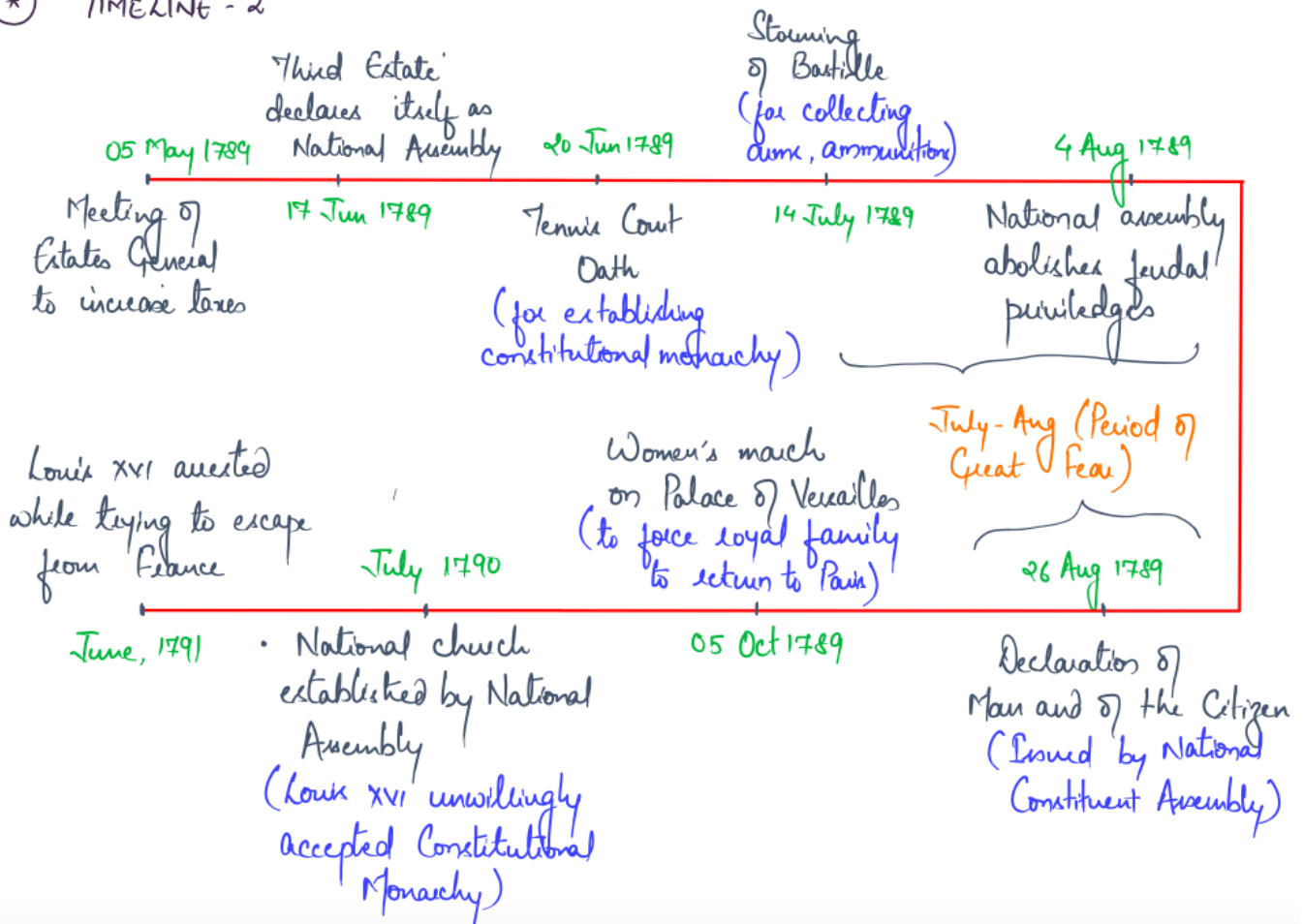
- But the **Constituent Assembly** was still in the favour of Constitutional Monarchy like Britain.



The Champ de Mars today, photographed from the top of the Eiffel Tower

CHAMP DE MARS MASSACRE (17th July 1791) { Sent National guards to suppress Jacobins who were protesting for Republic of France. (protesters massacred) 50 people killed

* TIMELINE - 2



(*) Establishment of Legislative Assembly (Sep, 1791)

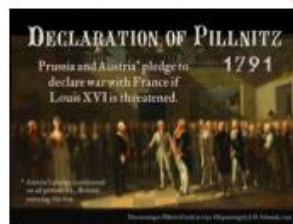
- New Constitution was adopted on **Sep 03, 1791** (Legislative Assembly)
- king restored as head of state } Different viewpoints of people w.r.t. king's power
- System failed within a year because of different demands of various parties & groups.

+ Secret negotiations of king Louis XVI with Austria & Prussia to get his powers back.



Declaration of Pillnitz
 (Austria & Prussia declared support for French Monarch)
 (Aug, 1791)

Neighbouring Monarchs were scared of anarchy and revolutionary fever spreading in France.



result →



France attacked Austria & Prussia in **April, 1792**

(*) Events in late 1792

- Jacobins Insurrection } • **August, 1792** → Louis XVI and family was attacked by radicals ^{angered by short supplies & high food prices.} in Paris and he was imprisoned (**Palace of Tuileries**)
- **Sep, 1792** → King was tried for treason & Monarchy was suspended
 For the conspiracy with Austria & Prussia
- Legislative Assembly suspended itself to make France Republic
 ↓ declared
 Framing of a new constitution & announced elections

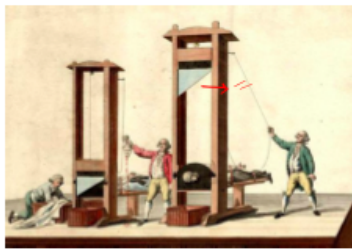
• 21 Jan 1793 → Louis XVI was executed

↓ as a result

Spain, Holland, England & Sardinia joined Austria and Prussia in the coalition against France
(S.H.A.P.E.S.) (The War of First Coalition)



GUILLOTINE → Instrument of human death



• Named after Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotin

↓ a French medical doctor & lawmaker

• He didn't invent it instead proposed that every criminal should be treated equally irrespective of social rank and there should be humane way to execute anyone.

LA MARSEILLAISE →



- National Anthem of France
- Written by Claude de Lisle
- Revolutionary song to rally people to fight against Austria and other invaders
- Sung by soldiers marching from Marseille



Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle

(*) National Convention (Sep 1792 - Oct 1795)

- Third govt. of revolution → Republic Govt.
- Elected by males of 21 years and above

Decisions of the new govt. - The National Convention

- Abolished the monarchy and declared France as republic
- Adult male citizens were granted right to vote and hold office
- Women were not given right to vote
- A small group "Committee of Public Safety" created which took all major decisions

↑ Dominated by Jacobians (12 members) ← George Danton was the first member.



8

* Reign of Terror (June 1793 - July 1794)

- Maximilien Robespierre
- Approx. 17000+ enemies of revolution were guillotined
- Marie Antoinette was executed



Other reforms brought by Robespierre →

- * Slavery abolished (however later Napoleon re-introduced it)
- * New calendar introduced - 10 hours a day, 100 min/hour, 10 days/week
- * Food shortages due to war → Rural farmers were compelled to supply their produce to urban areas
- * Robespierre got issued laws placing maximum ceiling on wages and prices.
- * Meat and bread were rationed.
↑ subsidised price
- * Peasants were forced to sell the produce at a fixed price to the government.
- * Use of more expensive white flour was forbidden and all citizens were required to eat loaf made of whole wheat.
- * Traditional French words like Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) were banned for use & replaced by Citizen and Citoyenne (Citizen).
- * Churches were shut down and their buildings were converted into barracks or offices.



- Finally people were sick of Jacobins (Robespierre because of his unfair policies
 (Conflicts emerged in the Committee of Public Safety as few members incl. Danton opposed the excessive radicalism of Robespierre)



George Danton

Few policies were not even discussed before implementation by Robespierre

result

George Danton was executed with his friends on 05 April, 1794.

led to an uprising against Robespierre by internal deputies.

This is also known as Thermidorian Reaction

He was finally executed on 27 July, 1794 with 21 of his closest associates.
 (Reign of Terror ended)



The execution of Robespierre. N.B.: The beheaded man is not Robespierre, but Couthon; the body of La Bas is shown lying on the ground; Robespierre (#10) is shown sitting on the cart closest to the scaffold, holding a handkerchief to his mouth.

* Establishment of Directory (1795-99)

Control taken over by affluent middle class
 An executive body comprising of 5 members appointed (to avoid concentration of power in one hand)

Council of five hundred

[Lower House, 500 members]

(Could introduce and write new laws)



Council of Ancients

[Upper House, 250 members]

(Could agree and pass laws written by Council of five hundred. It could not change them in anyway)

Bicameral Legislative



- Directory had limited powers
 - Implement laws but was forbidden to make them
 - No control over the France finances
- Who elected these Councils? → • Rich people of France
(No right to vote)
Right to vote was denied to all. { • All males over 21 years (who paid direct taxes)
(30,000 men voted)

* Weaknesses of Directory

- Instability due to yearly elections
↓ why?
Because one-third of the deputies had to retire from Councils every year
↓ Members of Assembly / Councils
- Councils could paralyze Directory by refusing to pass legislation
- Directors could not dissolve councils or veto laws
↓
Power to approve or reject
- Corrupt practices + Other problems
↓
• High prices & bankruptcy of govt.

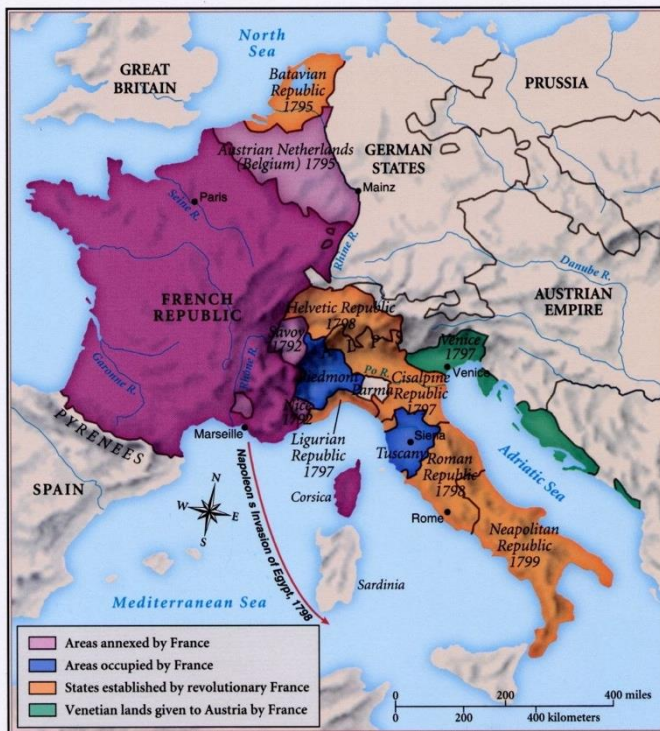
Due to these weaknesses, Directory relied on army to remain in power



Napoleon Bonaparte

↓ consequence
Group of conspirators began plot to seize more power for **Napoleon Bonaparte** - a brilliant & rising military leader
(was made General of the Army in the west in 1795)





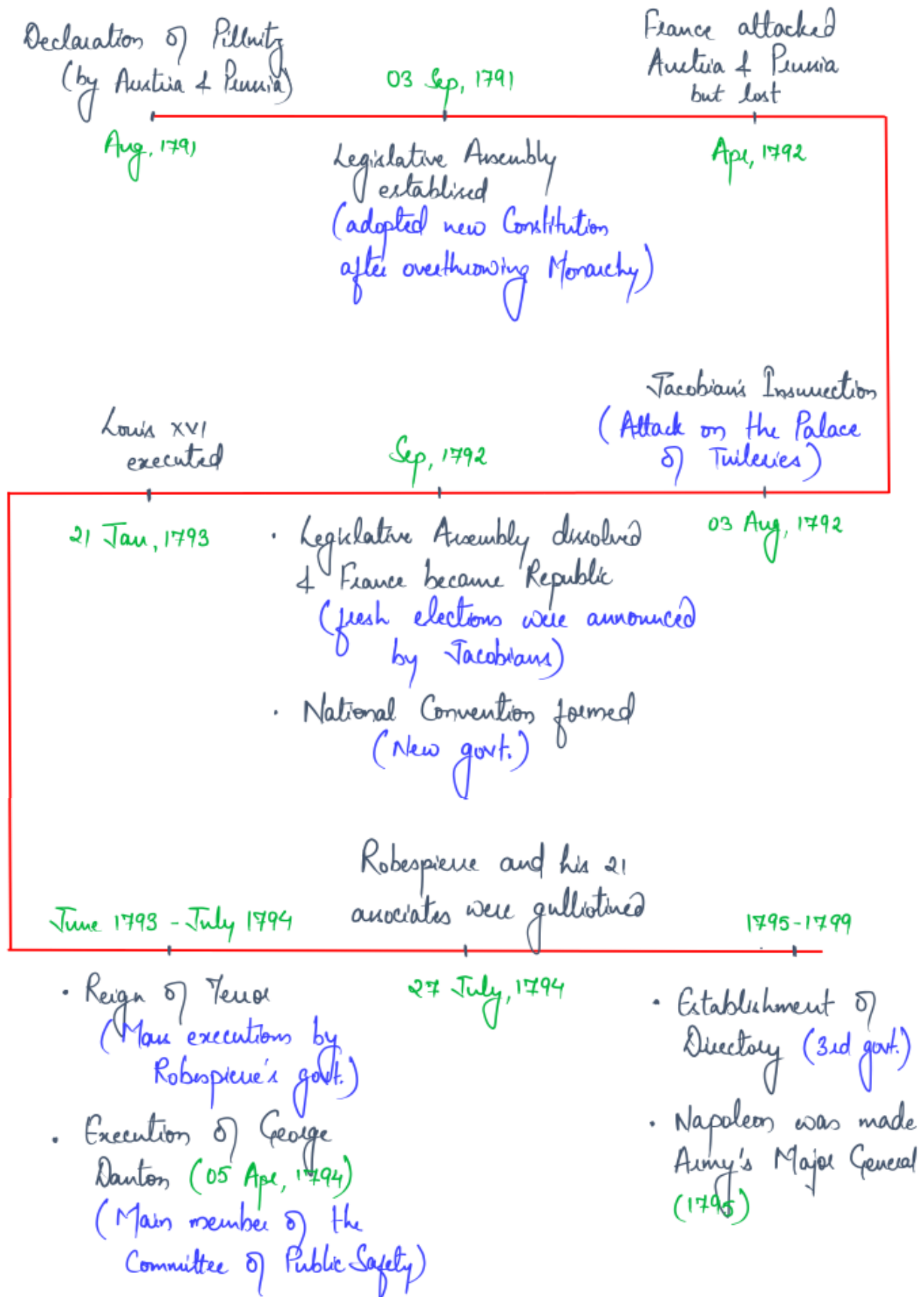
MAP 20.3 French Expansion, 1791-1799



France in 1799 on the eve of Napoleon's coup d'état

Sister Republic means the states established by French Armies by invading the Armies of respective nations.

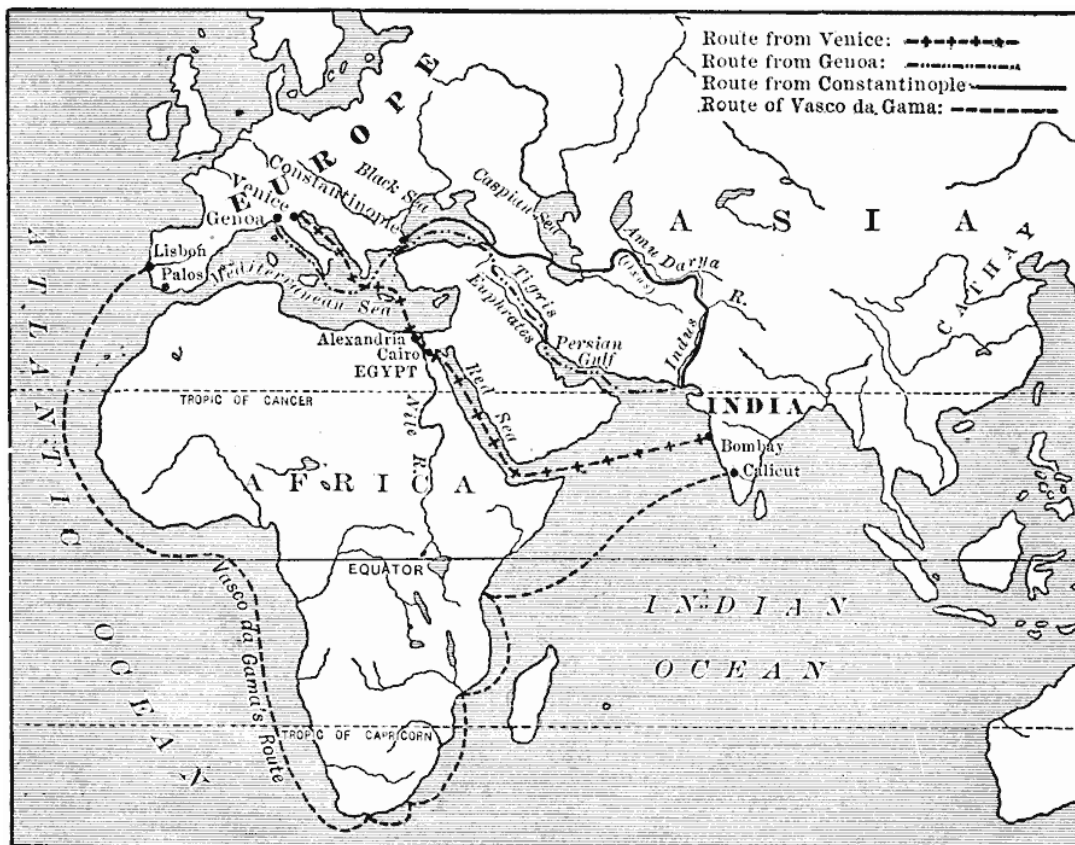
⊛ **TIMELINE 3** →



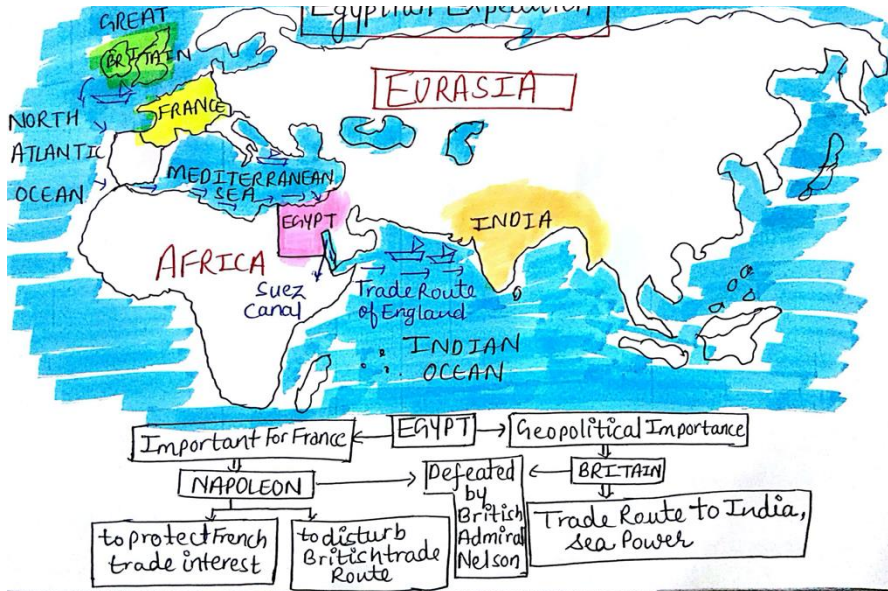
* Rise and fall of Napoleon

- Napoleon led French victories in Italy & Austria in 1796
↓
(quite powerful empire)
Ended war of first coalition
- In 1797, France & Austria signed the Treaty of Campo Formio,
resulted in territorial gains for France

Directory offered Napoleon to invade England
but he was against the direct invasion
of England because of its powerful Royal Navy
(Napoleon proposed invasion of Egypt to destroy
British trade routes with India)



- In 1798, Napoleon invaded Egypt quickly & returned to Paris due to the political turmoil. He was welcomed as a hero. (British navy hit hard on Napoleon in the Battle of Nile)



- Sensing the dissatisfaction among citizens for Directory, he along with two others (Consuls) executed a Coup against Directory.
 ↑
 Directory is now replaced by Three Consuls (Nov, 1799)

(*) Three-member Consulate (1799-1804)

- Napoleon became the first Consul



2nd Consul - Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès (Abbe Sieyès)



3rd Consul - Pierre-Roger Ducos

Major reforms brought by Napoleon →

- Transformed education system
- Economic reforms - Established National Bank of France, Rapid industrialisation → employment generation
- Re-introduced Slave Trade

- Political reforms - established 4 houses
(but final decision-making was with Napoleon)

- Agricultural reforms

Citizens of France were quite happy by these reforms

In 1804, he declared himself as Emperor. (after defeating Austria in 1802)

↓
Signed peace treaties with neighbouring countries like Britain, Russia, Austria etc.

Era of Napoleonic Wars:
(post 1805)

- He broke the Peace treaties
- Spain, Britain, Austria were then against Napoleon
- Tried to conquer Russia in 1812 but that was considered to be his mistake. (temperature was -30°C to -40°C & Napoleon's army faced a set-back)

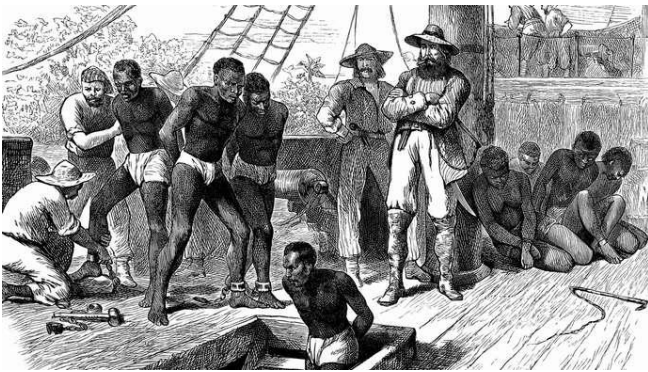


In 1813, other great powers formed an alliance and finally Napoleon was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

(*) Triangular Slave Trade (Abolition of Slavery)

- Slavery was abolished by Jacobians (Robespierre)
- Colonies in the Caribbean - Martinique, Guadeloupe & San Domingo were important suppliers of tobacco, indigo, sugar and coffee

Europeans were unwilling to go far away to work in these plantations



Result

Shortage of labour in these plantations impacted production of these goods and thereby impacted the European trade

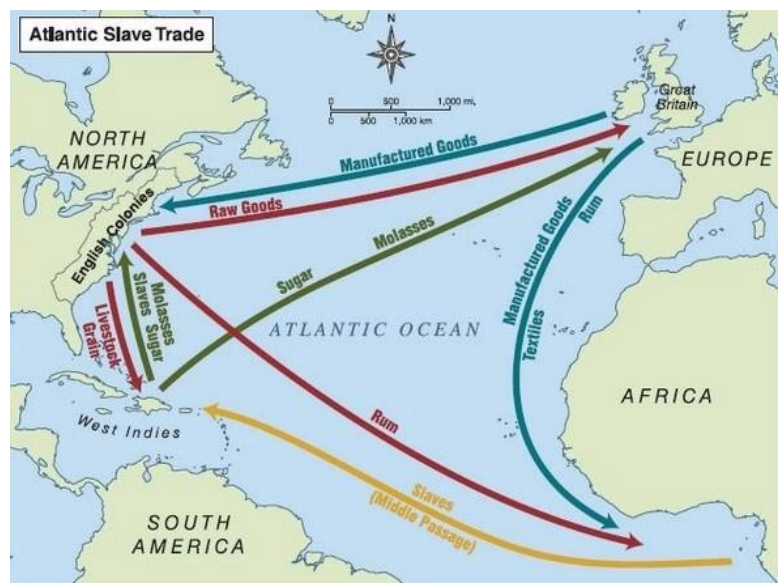
Solution

Economically beneficial for Napoleon, { Commencement of Slave Trade between Europe, Africa and America in 17th Century. (Napoleon started it in 1802)

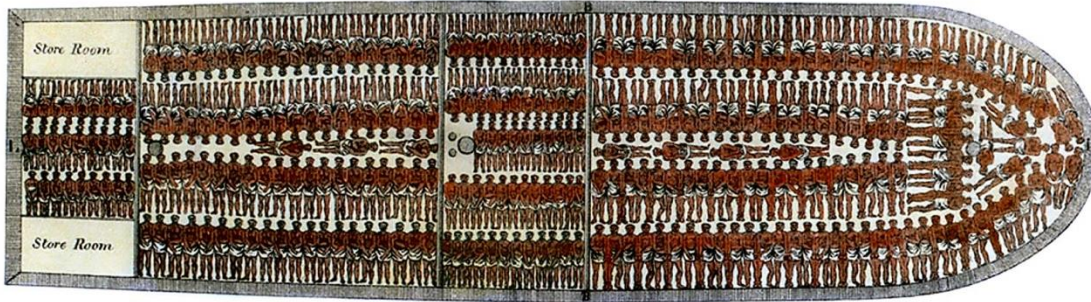
⊛ How it was done?

- French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux & Nantes to African coast to purchase slaves from local Chieftains
 often was prisoners leaders

Slaves were branded & shackled & packed tightly into ships for around 3-months long voyage to Caribbean. (The Middle Passage across the Atlantic Ocean)

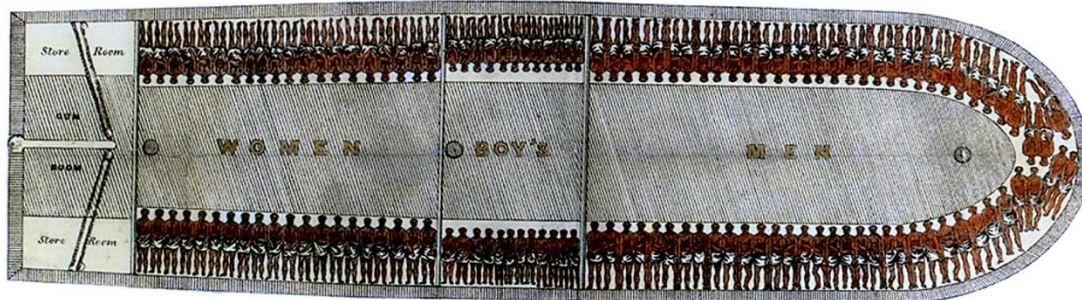


PLAN OF LOWER DECK WITH THE STOWAGE OF 292 SLAVES
 130 OF THESE BEING STOWED UNDER THE SHELVES AS SHOWN IN FIGURE B & FIGURE 3.



← Pathetic condition of ships loaded with slaves.

PLAN SHewing THE STOWAGE OF 130 ADDITIONAL SLAVES ROUND THE WINGS OR SIDES OF THE LOWER DECK BY MEANS OF PLATFORMS OR SHELVES (IN THE MANNER OF GALLERIES IN A CHURCH) THE SLAVES STOWED ON THE SHELVES AND BELOW THEM HAVE ONLY A HEIGHT OF 2 FEET 7 INCHES BETWEEN THE BEAMS AND FAR LESS UNDER THE BEAMS. See Fig 1.

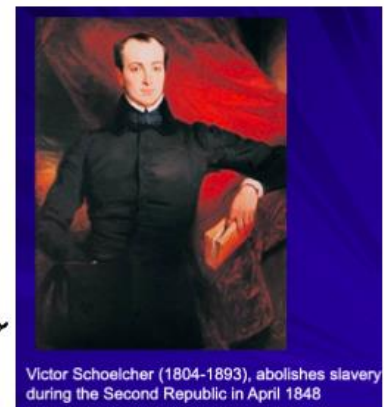


• These slaves were then sold to Plantation owners.

• They were exploited brutally and this is how they were made to fulfill the growing demands of sugar, coffee etc. in the European markets



Finally abolished →
 in 1848.



Victor Schoelcher (1804-1893), abolishes slavery during the Second Republic in April 1848



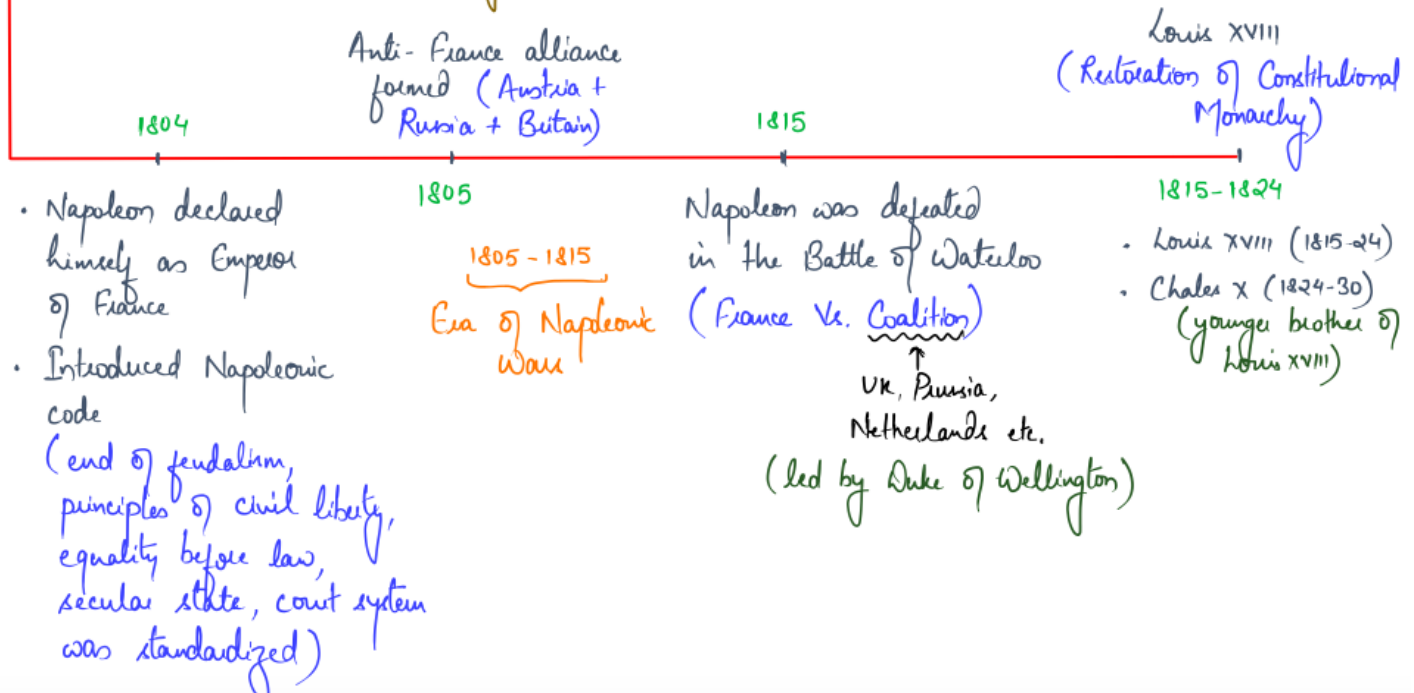
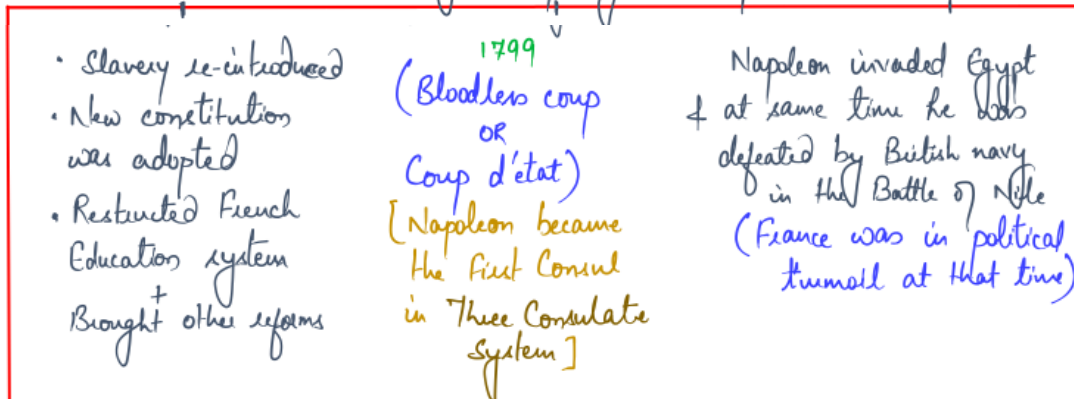
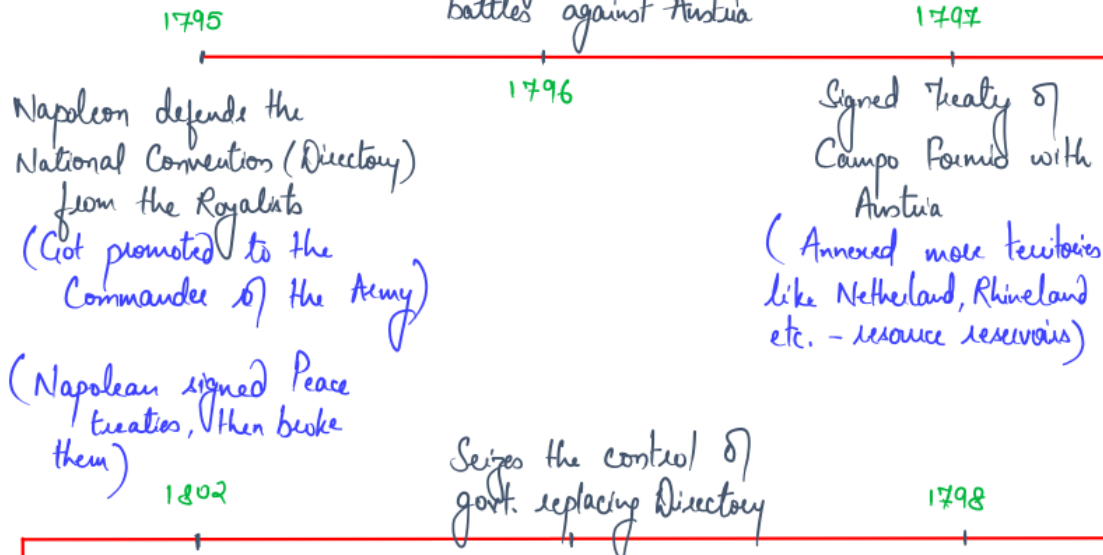
Placards for the Slaves sale in British colonies, 1769



Reconstruction of the steerage of a slave-ship featured in the "Les Anneaux de la Mémoire" exhibition at the Château des ducs de Bretagne in Nantes (1992-1994).

⊙ * **Timeline 4** →

• Napoleon was given control of French army in Italy & he won battles against Austria



French Revolution Timeline

05-05-1789	The French Estates-General meets at Versailles, the first such meeting since 1614.
06-17-1789	The Third Estate of the Estates-General meets separately and declares itself to be a National Assembly . King Louis XVI closed their meeting place, so they repair to a nearby tennis court.
06-20-1789	Members of the National Assembly take oath not to disband until a constitution is established. (Tennis Court Oath)
06-27-1789	Louis XVI legalizes the National Assembly, permitting all three estates to meet together and vote per capita.
07-14-1789	Parisian mob storms Bastille Castle, then functioning as a royal prison, hoping to find arms. The mob kills its governor, the Marquis de Launey, and releases its prisoners (none of whom are political prisoners).
08-14-1789	Nobles and clergy in the National Assembly, out of fear, renounce their privileges, thus ending feudalism in France.
8-1789	Adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen .
10-05-1789	Parisian mob, made up largely of women protesting the price of bread, marches on Versailles. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette are relocated to the Tuileries Palace in Paris, where they are confined.
06-20-1791	Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette attempt to flee in disguise from France, but are apprehended at Varennes, and are brought back to Paris.
?1791	Louis XVI accepts a constitution.
10-01-1791	Legislative Assembly convenes.
1791	French National Assembly passes law ending the guild system in France.
09-21-1792	National Convention meets for first time, abolishes the monarchy, establishes a republic, and tries King Louis XVI for treason. The King is convicted by a majority of one vote.
01-21-1793	King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette are guillotined in Paris.
1793	National Convention adopts a new “de-Christianized” calendar
4-1793	Power centered in the Committee of Public Safety
7-1793 to 7-1794	Reign of Terror
9-1793	Public education divided into 3 ranks: primary, secondary, and higher education..
7-27-1794	Robespierre is arrested and guillotined the next morning.
10-1795	National Convention dissolved; Directory established.
10-1795	Napoleon, charged with protecting the Directory, releases a “ whiff of grapeshot ”
11-9-1799	Coup d'Etat against the Directory establishes Napoleon as First Consul for ten years.

General phase	Years	Specific period	Description
Initial revolution	1787 - 88	Pre-revolutionary phase	attempted reforms by royal authority: resistance especially by nobles --> Estates-General 1789
	1789	Estates General/National Assembly	Estates-General --> National (Constituent) Assembly (dominated by old Third Estate) Political revolution led by bourgeois, backed against king by urban revolution (especially people of Paris) Peasant revolution --> end of "feudalism"
	1789 - 91	Moderate revolution	National/Constituent Assembly reforms government of France
	1791 - 92	Constitutional monarchy	constitutional monarchy under new system; King + Legislative Assembly
First Republic	1792	Overthrow of monarchy	king overthrown in Paris; republic established (king executed, 1793)
	1792 - 95	Convention	radical phase, ideas of democracy; in latter period Terror
	1795 - 99	Directory	attempt to stabilize, oligarchical
	1799 - 1804	Consulate	Dictatorship; Napoleon Bonaparte = First Consul
First Empire	1804	Napoleon Bonaparte makes himself Emperor	Napoleon establishes authoritarian state with hereditary monarchy
	1804 - 1814	First Empire	
Restoration and Hundred Days period	1814	Bourbon Restoration	Napoleon defeated in war; goes into exile in Elba; Bourbon Kings restored
	1815	Hundred Days	Napoleon returns; defeated again; exiled to St Helena; Bourbons restored again