

## Chapter 19, Section 1 Notes

The French Revolution begins – why? – the French wanted political change based on the ideas of freedom and equality.

French people were divided into 3 estates (classes)

1) The First Estate – Catholic clergy (church officials)

2) The Second Estate – Nobles

3) The Third Estate – the bourgeoisie or Middle Class (merchants and teachers) *- largest group but had no voice*  
*in government, but paid the country's taxes*

France's King, King Louis XIV, had spent most of France's money on his court and wars – he wanted the nobles and clergy to pay taxes – they said NO!

The Third Estate created the National Assembly and issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen which said that the powers of government came from the people NOT the king.

The French people celebrated by attacking a hated prison, the Bastille, on July 14, 1789.

King Louis began gathering troops for battle – and Austria was prepared to help him. The French were defeated --- French Radicals took over wanting far-reaching changes and set up a new government called the National Convention.

In the Convention there was a struggle for power –

1) Girondists – Jacobins who wanted to protect the interests of the middle class

2) The Mountain – Jacobins who saw themselves as the voice of the people and defenders for the revolution and used their power to get rid of the king – King Louis was executed!

Maximilien Robespierre – lawyer who became the head of the Committee of Public Safety – was to run the country – this committee took harsh steps and sentenced to death (by the guillotine) anyone who believed to be disloyal to the revolution – killed more than 40,000 – known as the Reign of Terror.

Napoleon Bonaparte – French general who took control of France in a coup d'etat – this is when the top government leader is suddenly replaced by force by a new leader – he crowned himself Emperor of France! And he wanted France to become a might empire!

Two forces helped to bring Napoleon's Empire to an end

1) Nationalism – the desire of a people for self-rule

2) The combined might of Britain and Russia – who remained UNDEFEATED by Napoleon!

Napoleon tried to gain too much land/control at the expense of too many French lives – he was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo and exiled to the island of St. Helena – where he died.

The Congress of Vienna met and wanted to create a balance of power among countries and prevent any single nation from controlling Europe.