

STUDY PACK 13

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

“Man is not bad except as he is made so by arbitrary morality. He is bad because religion, the state and bad examples pervert him. When at last reason becomes the religion of man, then will the problem be solved.”

~ Adam Weishaupt, founder of the Bavarian Illuminati ~

Perhaps no event of history is more misreported than the French Revolution. It is often described as a time when poor peasants, desperately suffering under a tyrannical French monarchy, struggled for freedom. King Louis XVI and his Queen Marie Antoinette are described as evil monarchs who purposely tried to starve the people while living wild and lavish lives. Even the most ardent defenders of the French revolution admit that it got out of hand, but they praise the democratic intentions of the common people.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. The French Revolution never received the support of a majority of the people of any class. It is a classic study of a nation where _____ manipulate events to their own benefit. The French Revolution clearly shows militant socialists for what they are – people possessed by _____, without moral limitations and willing to sacrifice anyone or anything for their own purposes. The Russian anarchist Prince Kropotkin wrote in 1908, “What we learn today from the study of the Great Revolution is that it was the source and origin of all the present communist, anarchist, and socialist conceptions.”

I. FRANCE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Before the revolution, France was prospering and all classes were sharing in the growing prosperity. During the previous forty years, the population had increased from 20 to 26 million. No wars had been fought on French soil, no plagues or catastrophes had threatened prosperity. Industry thrived producing a growing French middle class. Overseas trade was booming. Food was plentiful. People were _____. Taxes were high, as they had been for a long time, but the people had more money available to pay their taxes.

Louis XVI had done more to promote freedom than any previous French monarch. In 1779, he _____. In 1780, he _____ as a legal form of government punishment. In 1784, he led the way in granting religious freedom to Protestants. In 1787, the government was reformed from many financial abuses. In 1788, freedom of the press was increased, the prison system was reformed, and many hospitals were built. Louis greatly restricted the expenses of the royal family. One of his contemporaries called him the “_____.” With the National Assembly, Louis agreed on eleven principles of government for France.

- I. The French government is monarchic.
- II. The person of the King is inviolable and sacred.
- III. His crown is hereditary from male to male.

On these three points, the assembly was unanimous, and the great majority were agreed on the following:

IV. The King is the depository of the executive power.

V. _____.

VI. The royal sanction is necessary for the promulgation of the laws.

VII. The nation makes the laws with the royal sanction.

VIII. The consent of the nation is necessary for loans and taxes.

IX. Taxes can only be imposed from one meeting of the States-General to another.

X. Property is sacred.

XI. Individual liberty is sacred.

II. THE CONSPIRACIES

Several groups believed that they could take advantage of the new freedoms in France to gain power. None of them could publicly admit their objectives, but they formed conspiratorial groups for the purpose of realizing their goals. These conspiratorial groups sometimes worked together – sometimes against each other. The real folly of Louis XVI was that he refused to believe his advisors when they told him that such _____ were being carried out.

In the early days of the revolution, the most significant conspiracy was that of the Orleanists. Louis Philippe Joseph, the Duke of Orleans, was the fourth cousin of the king. He was addicted to gambling and moral debauchery. He was very wealthy and he longed to be king. He gave long speeches about his love for the people and his desire to _____. However, his compassion consisted of giving away the wealth of other people (most of his was carefully hidden) and taking credit for it. His paid agents were prepared to organize mobs on short notice. They hired the homeless, prostitutes, and professional criminals and told them what to say and do.

The Duke of Orleans was obsessed by his hatred for the Queen. She had coldly rebuffed his romantic overtures and he was determined to make her pay. His paid agents spread every kind of vile rumor possible about the Queen – rumors that often still make their way into the history books in spite of all the evidence to the contrary.

In 1789, the agents of the Duke purchased huge amounts of grain that was on its way to Paris. This grain was then stopped from reaching Paris. The city soon experienced a shortage of bread. The agents of the Duke spread rumors that the king had ordered the food on its way to Paris stopped because he wanted the _____. Paid agents of the Duke led mobs and protests.

There were other powerful factions at work. In Bavaria, Germany, a socialist group called the Illuminati had been uncovered by the Bavarian government. The Illuminati, a socialist secret society, had operated under the _____ were committed to overthrowing all existing governments and religions and _____. After they were exposed and outlawed in Bavaria, most of their leaders fled to France. There they

began to create clubs for the same purposes. These came to be called Jacobin Clubs. Their members aided the agents of the Duke in creating riots and starting mob protests.

Nesta Webster, in her classic book, *The French Revolution*, described the Illuminati this way:

“Thus the Order of the Illuminati ‘ _____, advocated sensual pleasures, believed in annihilation, and called patriotism and loyalty narrow-minded prejudices incompatible with universal benevolence’; further, ‘they accounted all princes usurpers and tyrants and all privileged orders as their abettors; they meant to abolish the laws which _____ accumulated by long-continued and successful industry; and to prevent for the future any such accumulation, they intended to establish universal liberty and equality, the imprescriptible rights of man, and as preparation for all this they intended to root out all religion and ordinary morality, and even to break the bonds of domestic life, by destroying the _____, and by taking the education of children out of the hands of the parents.’”

The Illuminati dreamed of providing _____.

Another conspiratorial socialist group was organized and financed by Prussian socialists. The government of Prussia and the Prussian Ambassador aided this group to some degree. Yet another group was financed by English socialists. This group dreamed of overthrowing both Louis XVI and King George III of England and forming one socialist nation. Members of these groups also helped the paid agents of the Duke in creating riots.

III. THE STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

The various groups at work in Paris in 1789 began to hire criminals from around France to come to Paris and foment trouble. The actual citizens of Paris were unwilling to form the kind of violent mobs the conspirators hoped for. Soon thousands of _____ were creating trouble in Paris. The king worked at seeing to it that grain got to Paris and was distributed free. He made many concessions to the mobs. He clearly thought that the mobs represented the will of the people. He was never to believe his advisors who warned him of his real enemies. He refused to allow his soldiers to fire on demonstrators that threatened the royal palace.

The Bastille had long been a prison in Paris. Agents spread the rumor that the king was having anyone who spoke for the people rounded up and imprisoned in the Bastille. A mob attacked the royal palace, killing three soldiers who refused to return fire. The next day, mobs ransacked businesses in Paris. The _____ put an end to these riots.

The following day, a mob of 1,000 attacked the Bastille. In reality, the Bastille contained only seven prisoners: four forgers, two lunatics and one child molester. As a result, it was poorly defended. The crowd killed several guards, stormed the prison, and set the prisoners free. They did not find any of the prisoners they expected to find. In fact, all the famous people they were looking for _____.

The king came to Paris and made a number of speeches to the people and promised them that he would never do the kind of things he was accused of. The people cheered him wildly and the schemes of the revolutionaries were put to rest for a brief time.

IV. THE MARCH ON VERSAILLES

The agents of the Duke soon began to spread rumors that the king and queen had invited foreign troops to come to France and enslave the French people. First, they were told that the Austrians

(the Queen was from Austria) and then that the English were coming. Panic set in and most people concentrated on planning for their own safety and the safety of their family.

The people were told that Mirabeau, a public spokesman for socialism (secretly paid by the Duke), had been murdered by the king. An attempt was made by 1,500 men to march on the royal palace at Versailles and seize the king. The Marquis de Lafayette, of American War for Independence fame, stopped them with National Guard troops. The National Assembly and the royal family, _____, surrendered much of their power. For many of them this was to be a fatal mistake.

The conspirators now sent 300 prostitutes to Versailles. They were paid to become involved with the king's bodyguards and to fill their heads with lies about the royal family. Mobs made repeated attacks on the palace only to be turned back by small numbers of loyal guards and courtiers who rose to the royal family's defense. These attacks continued throughout 1790 and 1791.

By now the Jacobins had split among themselves. For a while the Gerondists, one faction of the Jacobins, ruled the mobs. Soon the original Jacobins, under Robespierre, took control. They successfully controlled many of the agents of the Duke, paying them to betray him. Robespierre's supporters wrote pamphlets advocating rape, cannibalism, and plunder. They set loose the _____ in the streets of Paris.

V. THE FRENCH TERROR

Finally, a mob was successful in seizing the king, the queen, and several of their relatives and servants. A wild celebration took place in the streets of Paris and several of the king's guards were killed, cooked, and eaten in a public banquet.

The Jacobins began to demand the execution of the king. A socialist Commune took the place of the government. The Commune began to order the execution of anyone they thought was in the way of establishing socialism in France. Anyone who criticized the socialists could be expected to be sent to the guillotine. Businessmen were executed, though some bought their safety by contributing to the conspirators. Friends, relatives, and servants of the royal family were beheaded. Mobs went crazy killing strangers, looting, and pillaging. Many priests and nuns were executed! In one year, _____ were beheaded in Paris and _____ throughout the rest of France. Thousands of others died in riots. Agents of the various conspiratorial groups used the mass confusion to assassinate selected enemies.

France was declared a republic. _____. Unisex garments were designed for the general population. The majority of the people never supported these measures and many longed for the restoration of the royal family.

The Commune put the king in a phony trial and voted for his death. A _____ was formed to rescue the king, but the king publicly asked them to withdraw. He declared that he would willingly die rather than shed a drop of French blood. Angry citizens assassinated several members of the Commune who voted for the king's death. The king went to his death bravely, declaring, "God is my comforter, my enemies cannot take His peace from me."

His last words were, "I die innocent. I am innocent of all that is imputed to me. I desire that my blood may _____." Wild representatives of the mob splashed his blood on their clothes and rejoiced in the streets.

The conspirators soon turned on one another in their lust for power. Soon the Commune sent the leaders of the Gerondist faction to the guillotine. Marat, one of the leaders of the Jacobins, began to openly practice occult arts and bragged of _____. The Jacobins seized control of every aspect of society. Webster describes their approach to family this way:

"Thus in St. Just's Republic human relationship was to be regulated by the State. True, free love was to take the place of marriage, but the union thus contracted was to be dissolved at the end of seven years if no children were forthcoming, whether the contracting parties desired to separate or not. Parents were to be forbidden either to _____ or to _____ their children, and the children were to be dressed all alike in cotton, to live on "roots, vegetables, fruit, with bread and water," and to sleep on mats upon the floor. Boys were to belong to their parents only till the age of five; after that they were to become the _____ until their death."

The Jacobins declared that France had too many people to support a socialist state and they planned to _____. One of their leaders publicly entered a pulpit in Paris and declared:

"Here am I in this pulpit, from which lies have so long been told to the sovereign people, making them believe that there is a God who sees all their action. If this God exists, let Him thunder, and may one of His thunderbolts crush me!"

The Marquis de Sade began to use the revolution as an excuse to torture poor women that he kidnapped. One of the Jacobins, Anacharsis Clootz, declared:

"Religion is _____ which cannot be too quickly cured. A religious man is a depraved animal; he resembles those beasts that are only kept to be shorn and roasted for the benefit of merchants and butchers. The People, is the Sovereign and the God of the world; France is the center of the People God; _____, in a Supreme Being."

The agents of the Duke of Orleans betrayed him and he and his family were arrested. The Duke was eventually sent to the guillotine. He who was so willing to shed the blood of others to gain power died in the bloodletting that he had started. One after another, the leaders of the revolution were turned on by their companions and sent to be beheaded. Clootz, Robespierre, and many others died in the terror they had started. Thousands were killed in fighting among the different groups.

Marie Antoinette was sent to the guillotine after an attempt to rescue her failed. At the end of her life, she was maliciously and falsely accused of incest with her eleven year old son. The French economy collapsed (_____). The people were desperate. The anarchy of the French Revolution made the people willing to tolerate the tyranny of Napoleon.

VI. NAPOLEON'S BACKGROUND

Napoleon Bonaparte was born on the island of Corsica in 1769, shortly after it came under French control. He attended a French military school and entered the French military. During the French Revolution many of the officers resigned the military and others were executed. As a result, Napoleon rose rapidly through the ranks, becoming a general at age 24.

When the French town of Toulon challenged the conspirators in 1795, Napoleon led troops against them. When a citizens army tried to overthrow the socialist Jacobin Commune in 1795, Napoleon led the troops that crushed the freedom movement.

By this time both the Austrian Empire and England were at war with France. Napoleon led a French army that invaded Italy and defeated the Austrians. He then led an army to Egypt to battle the English. While he was there, the socialist Commune was on the verge of collapse. He left his army in Egypt and returned to Paris. He then rallied the military forces there, took control of the French government, and became the dictator of France. Napoleon said: "I am no ordinary man and the _____." The people had been so tormented under the French Revolution that they cheerfully accepted Napoleon as their dictator. Anything was better than the French Terror

VII. NAPOLEON'S PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT

Napoleon believed in absolute control by a centralized government. He explained his approach: "My system is very simple. I believe that in the circumstances, it is necessary to _____ and increase the authority of the government in order to build a nation." He also said "one can lead a people only by promising it a future. _____."

Napoleon established a legal code, Code Napoleon, that is still largely the legal code in France. It established that all men were equal before the law, but it emphasized the state's right to make any laws it chose. Roman Catholicism was made legal again, but it was _____. All schools were operated by the government and the primary responsibility of schools was to _____.

A centralized, privately chartered bank was established to control the economy. The French people enjoyed far fewer liberties than they had under Louis XVI, but life was better than it had been under the French Terror. Napoleon was relatively popular despite the peoples' lack of freedom. On December 2, 1804, he appointed himself _____.

VIII. THE NAPOLEONIC EMPIRE

Early in his reign as dictator, Napoleon led the French army in impressive military victories against the English and Russians. Peace treaties were signed and Napoleon spent the next four years reorganizing the French military.

Napoleon was obsessed with the idea of conquering Europe and becoming the _____ since the Roman Caesars. For the next ten years, France was constantly at war, the flower of its youth being spent in Napoleon's wars of conquest.

France soon took control of Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and parts of Italy and Germany. The English, under William Pitt the Younger, dedicated themselves to the defeat of Napoleon. Napoleon

proved himself an excellent military commander in land battles, but the _____. The English developed two large fleets. One remained positioned to defend England from any invasion launched from France. The second fleet, under the famed Lord Nelson, chased the French navy and destroyed it.

Lord Nelson's public prayer before the engagement with Napoleon's fleet was reported for posterity:

“May the Great God, whom I worship, grant to my Country, and for the benefit of Europe in general, a great and glorious Victory; and may no misconduct in any one tarnish it; and may humanity after Victory be the predominant feature in the British Fleet. For myself, individually, I commit my life to Him who made me, and may His blessing light upon my endeavours for serving my Country faithfully. To Him I resign myself and the just cause which is entrusted to me to defend. Amen. Amen. Amen.”

The armies of the Russian and Austrian empires united and began to push towards France. Instead of defending the borders, Napoleon countered by taking his army into Austria and attacking them. The Russian army retreated and Napoleon seized control of Austria and more of Germany. Prussia attacked Napoleon's army but was soundly defeated. Prussia was humiliated and forced to become an ally of France.

The Russians sent another army against France, but it was defeated. The Russians signed a treaty recognizing _____. Napoleon was gaining a reputation for invincibility. Napoleon forbade anyone on the European continent from trading with England and the nations he had conquered cooperated with him.

The English navy began to blockade trade with Europe, even seizing ships sailing to European ports. This was a major cause of the War of 1812 between England and the United States. While the British were pre-occupied with the United States, Napoleon took advantage of the situation to invade Russia. Russia had returned to trading with England. This invasion turned out to be Napoleon's _____. The _____ of Russia and the _____ provided Russia with a natural defense against invaders from Europe.

The Russian army could just keep retreating and retreating, forcing the invader to stretch his supply lines through thousands of miles of enemy territory. Then the Russian winter battered the invading army and closed the supply lines.

In 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia with an army of 600,000 men. He occupied many Russian cities including Moscow. When Napoleon realized what the Russian strategy was, he turned his army westward. However, winter hit before he could move the army out of Russia. Thousands died from disease and starvation. Thousands more deserted. By the time Napoleon returned to France, his army numbered less than 100,000. His image of invincibility was broken.

Rebellions against Napoleon's rule broke out in Germany, Italy, and Spain. The English sent an army to Spain and the French were driven out. Prussia openly broke its alliance with Napoleon. A combined Russian, Prussian and Austrian army attacked France from the west. An English army under Lord Wellington attacked France from the south. The French army suffered defeat after defeat, losing 40% of its men. Napoleon agreed to surrender if he was not imprisoned. He was given a small island, Elba, to rule over. The French royal family was placed back on the throne.

IX. THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

The nations of Europe met in 1815 in Vienna to discuss the future of Europe. The boundaries of Europe were established by this Congress. Even though many people grumbled at the boundaries, it brought relative peace in Europe for 99 years. This is the _____.

X. ATTEMPTS TO RE-ESTABLISH THE NAPOLEONIC EMPIRE

Napoleon escaped from Elba and landed in the south of France. He called the army to him and most of France's military forces responded. Within two months, the armies of Europe faced the army of France at the battle of Waterloo. The French army was crushed and three days later Napoleon surrendered.

The English opposed executing Napoleon (as several other nations wanted). They were afraid that this would spark more violence in France. He was exiled to the small island of St. Helena. Napoleon soon died there. Modern tests on his body show that he was slowly poisoned. Famed Baptist preacher, George Truett, wrote about Napoleon:

“Napoleon, that matchless genius in the military world, that man who Gladstone said had the most marvelous brain ever packed into a human skull, that man who had a leadership over men that was amazing and unparalleled, who used that leadership for selfish ends and literally waded through blood to accomplish his purposes, even his mighty strength was all turned away from him, and yonder on the lone island of St. Helena, exiled and defeated, he died.”

~~ Truett, *On Eagles Wings*, p. 128 ~~

In 1848, Napoleon's great nephew, Louis Napoleon, was overwhelmingly elected president of France. Four years later he proclaimed himself Emperor Napoleon III. He attempted to duplicate his famous namesake's conquests but met with little success.

XI. EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM

Now that the European wars of conquest were primarily over and national boundaries were widely agreed to, European nations had to look elsewhere for expansion. European nations began to scramble for new influence in Africa, China, and the Mideast. Attempts to gain new territory in the Western Hemisphere were stopped by the United States and the Monroe Doctrine. This doctrine, crafted by President James Monroe, _____.

XII. THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

European nations began to struggle internally to determine what kind of government they would live under. This led to frequent revolutions, overthrows, and coup d' tat. While some of these revolutions were bloody, they usually were brief.

Greece broke free from the Ottoman Empire and became an independent nation. The French changed governments several times. Holland and Belgium became separate, independent countries. Secret societies led to civil wars in Poland, Italy, and France. The Italian states gradually united into one nation as did the German states. By the end of the nineteenth century, national identities were fairly well established.