

# NO BELLWORK TODAY

- GET YOUR ATLANTIC  
REVOLUTION CHART OUT  
AND BE READY TO HEAD TO  
FRANCE

# Causes/Background

- French **Monarchs ruled by both Absolutism and Divine Right**
- Louis, as well as the rest of the French royalty/nobility, lived an extremely extravagant life, even for European royalty



King Louis XVI



Marie Antoinette

*Frisure à la Mo  
orne de Fleu  
et de Plum*



*Nouvelle Toque  
à la Candeur  
ou le  
Charme de  
l'innocence*







# Causes/Background

- The best(or worst) example of the French wealth was the palace at Versailles
- Let's let Louis himself show us around...





# Prewar Boundaries 1754

# Postwar Boundaries 1763



# Causes/Background

- Louis was a passionate financial supporter of the American Revolution
  - This was in large part because France was historically an enemy of Britain and saw an opportunity to win back territory
- All that France really gained from it's support of American was even more debt, this new debt required France to levy a new tax
- France was experiencing MASSIVE debt and economic problems

# Causes/Background

• Compromised of 3  
“estates” or Social Classes

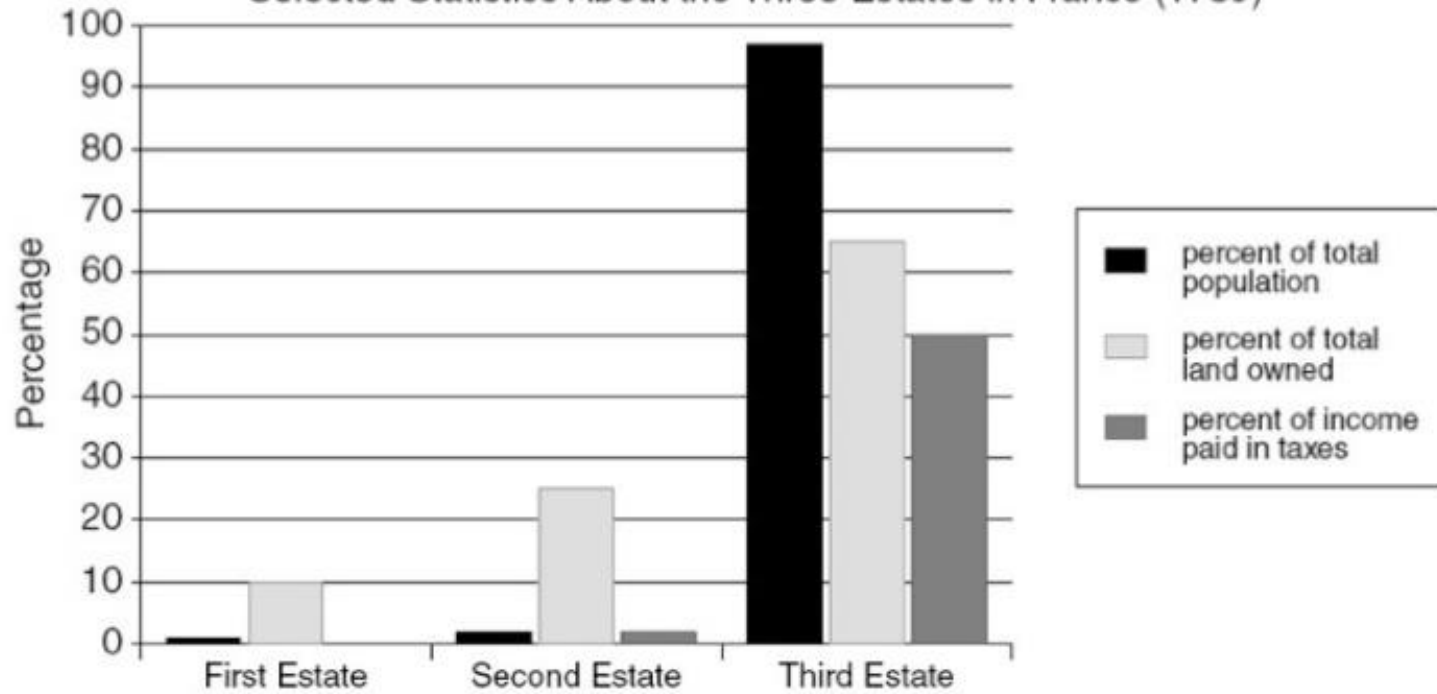
- Estate 1 = the clergy & 1% of the population
- Estate 2 = the nobility & 1% of the population
- Estate 3 = the commoners & 98% of the population



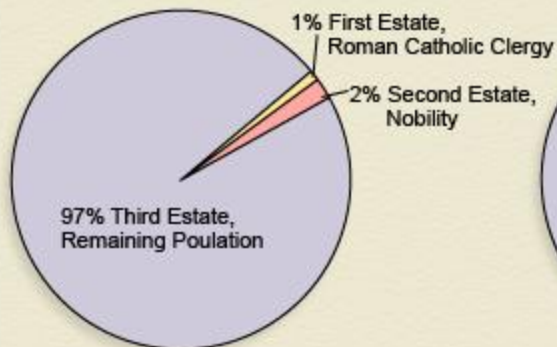
# Causes/Background

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate paid 100% of the taxes
- Each estate had ONE vote in the governing body called the Estates General
- This constantly led to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Estates voting down any proposal from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate

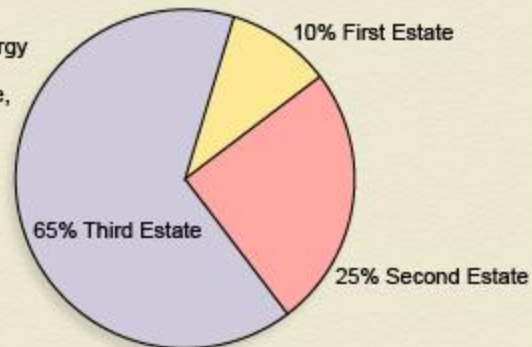
### Selected Statistics About the Three Estates in France (1789)



Percentage of Population



Percentage Land Owned



# Causes/Background



- On the brink of bankruptcy and government in debt
- Commoners upset with higher prices of goods and an increased cost of living
- Wealthy upper/middle class (bourgeoisie) = wanted more political power

# Urban Third Estate

- The urban third estate was made up of craftsmen, merchants, business owners
- They were for the most part well off, or at least financially comfortable
- The more well off members of the Third Estate became known as the Bourgeoisies

# The Bourgeoisies



Gentilhomme à la mode de 1695, jeune homme de la bourgeoisie en 1710,  
d'après des gravures du temps.





# Causes/Background

- Peasants revolted nationwide after 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate were locked out of Estates General and attempt at Tax Reform was blocked



# Causes/Background

- King Louis XVI wanted to reform the tax system to make it more equal and efficient
  - At the time = clergy, nobility, and government officials = exempt from paying taxes
- He called into session the Estates General = an ancient representative body
  - Consisted of representatives from the 3 estates
  - Each estate gets 1 vote



Opening of the Estates General at  
Versailles -- May 5, 1789

# Causes/Background

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate met at indoor tennis court
- National Assembly swore the “Tennis Court Oath” = promised they wouldn’t disband until they had written a new constitution for France



Painting of the National Assembly convening at an indoor tennis court

# Major Changes/Effects



- Wrote the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen”
- Influenced by the Declaration of Independence
- Said all people were created equal
- Guaranteed freedoms of speech, press, and religion

# Major Changes/Effects

- King Louis XVI sensed trouble and called for more troops to protect Versailles and Paris
- Spirit of rebellion was everywhere – from the meetings of the National Assembly to the streets of Paris



The Gathering of French Troops

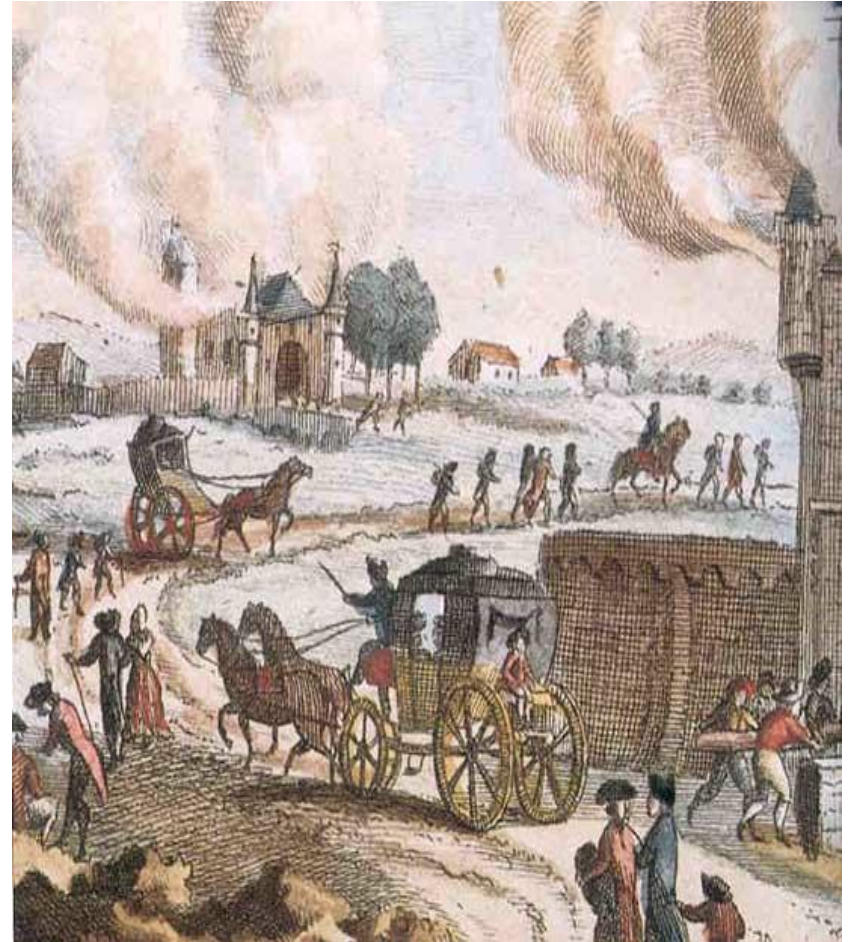
# Major Changes/Effects



- Bastille was a prison in Paris
- Symbolized the injustices of the monarchy
- Mob stormed the Bastille on July 14, 1789
- The prison fell and prisoners were freed

# Major Changes/Effects

- More violence followed = called the Great Fear
  - Peasants armed themselves and prepared for a revolution
  - Peasants attacked the castles of their lords
  - Fields and crops burned
  - Documents of dues and payments burned
  - Buildings attacked and destroyed



# Major Changes/Effects

- In an effort to end the violence:
  - Nobles gave up their aristocratic privileges & tax exemption
  - Feudalism abolished
  - Agreement that all male citizens could hold offices in the government, army, or church





# Major Changes/Effects



Cartoon Representation of the  
Confiscation of Church Lands

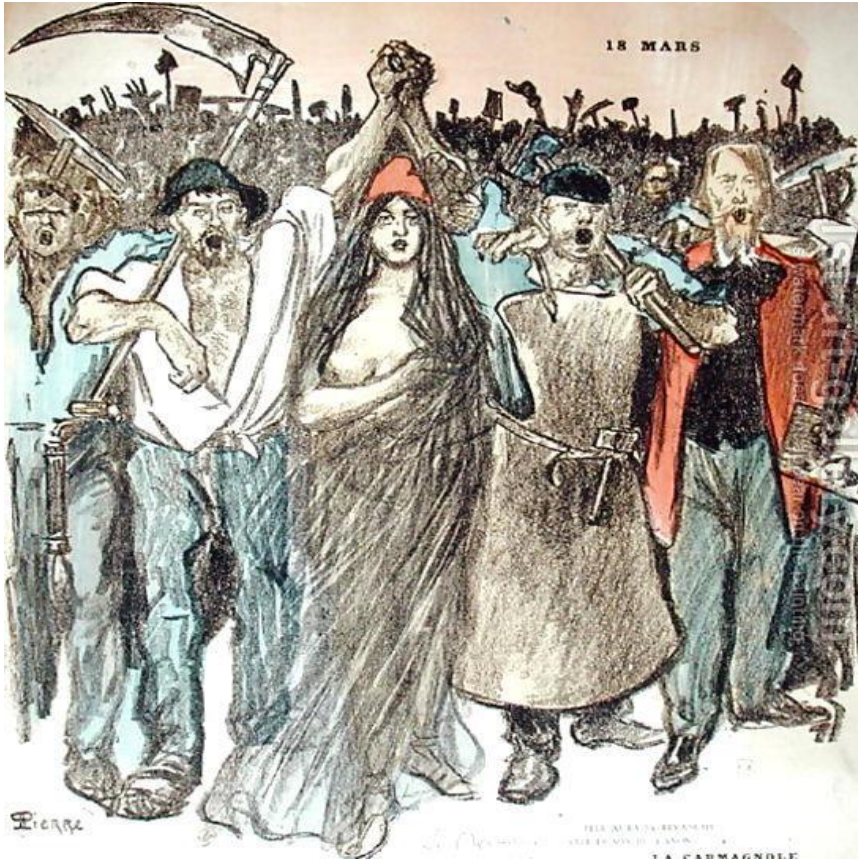
- Church lands were sold to raise revenue and pay government debts
- National Assembly passed the Civil Constitution of the Clergy = put French Church under government control; weakened the Catholic Church

# Major Changes/Effects

- Despite these changes, King Louis XVI still refused to accept the Declaration of Rights and recognize the National Assembly
- March on Versailles led by women who were upset with harsh economic conditions and bread shortages
- Marched to the King's palace and demanded he move the court to Paris → wanted him to show support for the new Assembly



# Major Changes/Effects



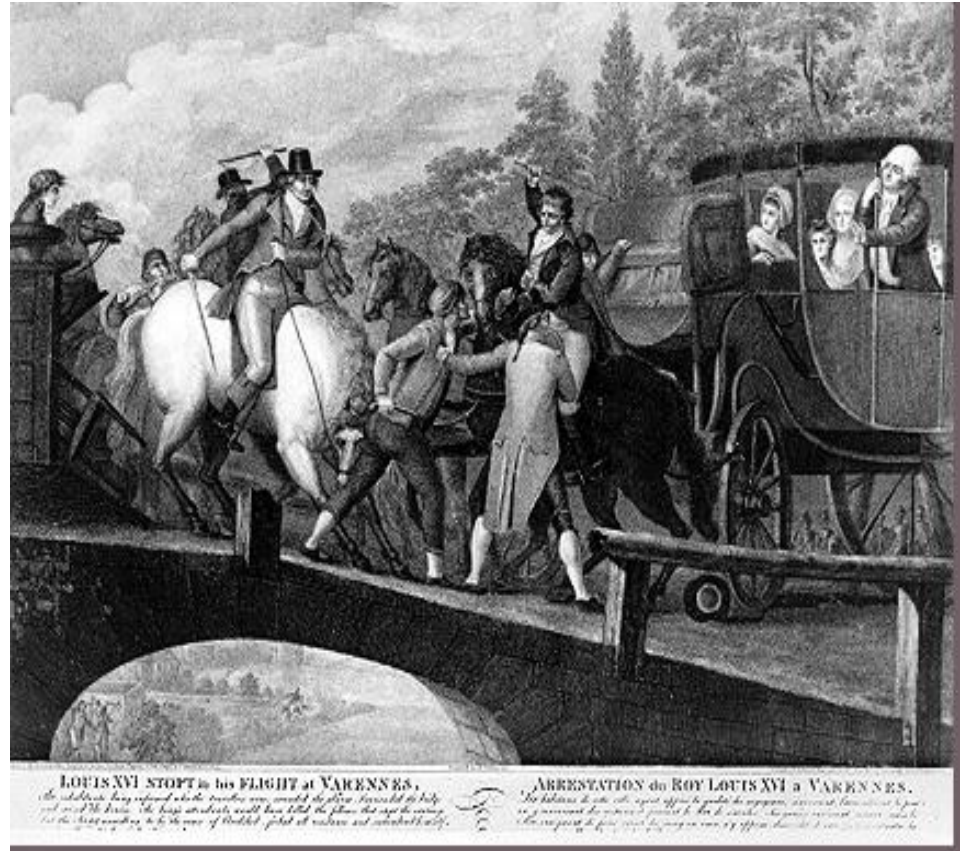
- Huge mob joined with pitchforks and torches
- Guards couldn't fight off the thousands of people
- King Louis XVI agreed to move to Paris

# Major Changes/Effects

- Created a new Constitution in 1791
- Kept the monarchy but limited its power
- Set up a unicameral legislature
  - One-house assembly chosen by the voters
- New constitution led to more unrest → some thought it went too far, others thought it didn't go far enough
  - Violence continued throughout the countryside
  - Fear of breakdown of law and order

# Major Changes/Effects

- In 1791 = King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette tried to escape Paris and go to Austria
  - Feared more violence
  - Were arrested before they got very far
  - Forced to return to Paris



Escape Attempt of the Royal Family in  
June of 1791

# Major Changes/Effects



“Lady Liberty” Leading the People

- France attempted to create a whole new society
- Created a republic
- Wrote a democratic constitution
  - Passed universal male suffrage = every man could vote
- New calendar with “Year 1” in 1792 = marking a new start for France

# Major Changes/Effects

- Absolute Monarchy was overthrown and king was executed
  - Tried and convicted him of treason and conspiring against the nation
  - Beheaded King Louis XVI on the guillotine in 1793
  - Crowds celebrated his death

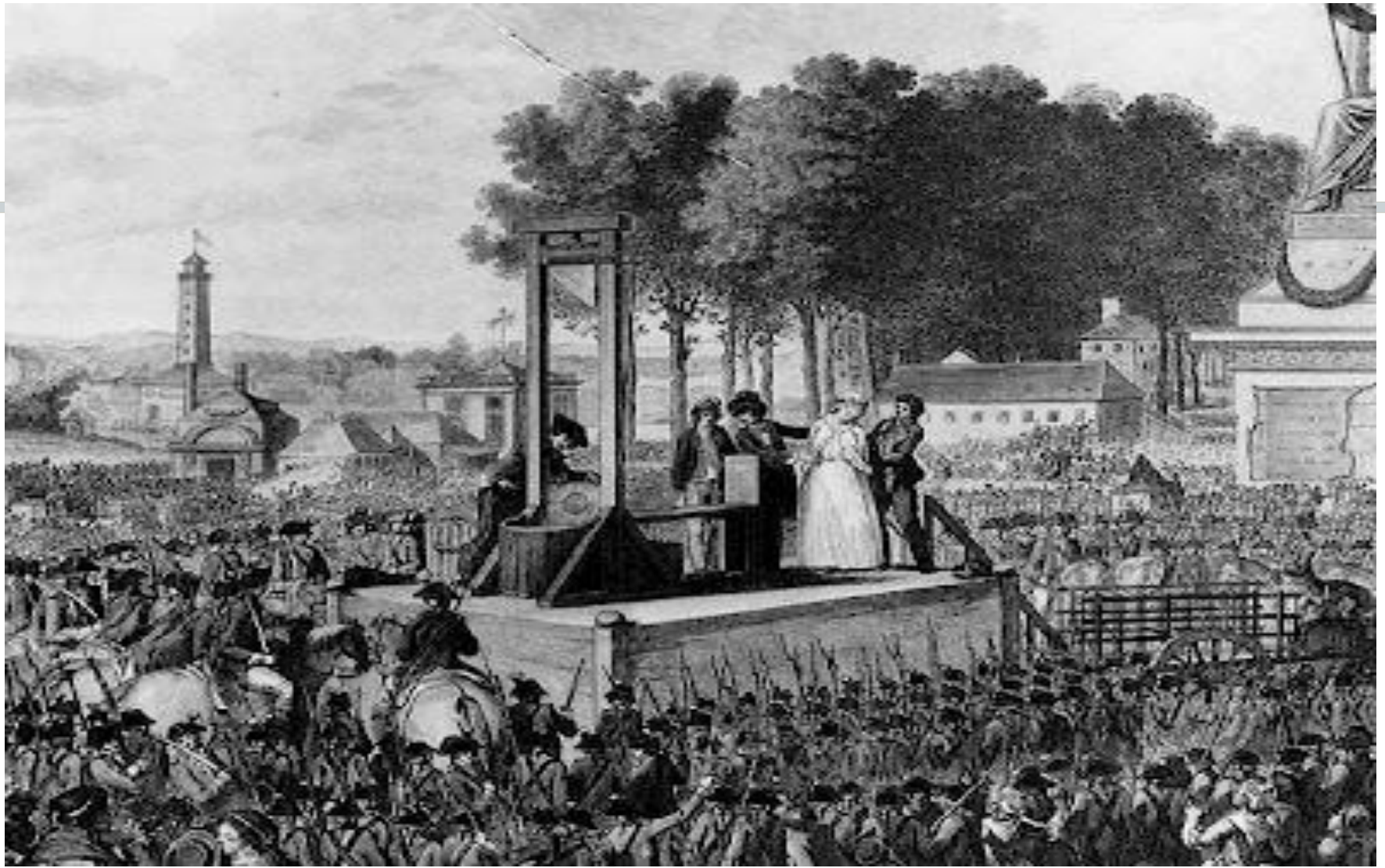


A meme featuring a close-up of a baby's face. The baby has a sad or pouting expression. The text 'YESSSS' is written in large, white, bold letters with a black outline at the top. At the bottom, the text 'LOUIS XVI WAS SENTENCED TO THE GUILLOTINE' is written in smaller, white, bold letters with a black outline. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

**YESSSS**

**LOUIS XVI WAS SENTENCED TO THE  
GUILLOTINE**





Marie Antoinette met the same fate years later

# Major Changes/Effects

- Revolution became **EXTREMELY** radical
- Reign of Terror and Committee of Public Safety killed over 40,000 people in less than a year



# Major Changes/Effects



- Led by Maximilien Robespierre and his Committee of Public Safety
- Traitors and enemies of the revolution were executed with the guillotine
- An estimated 40,000 people were killed in this 1 year



# Major Changes/Effects

- Robespierre was soon arrested himself
- Accused of leading France into tyranny and dictatorship
- Executed with the guillotine



Execution of Maximilien Robespierre

# The Guillotine

Once the executioner cranked the blade to the top, a mechanism released it. The sharp weighted blade fell, severing the victim's head from his or her body.

Some doctors believed that a victim's head retained its hearing and eyesight for up to 15 minutes after the blade's deadly blow. All remains were eventually gathered and buried in simple graves.

*Tricoteuses*, or "woman knitters," were regular spectators at executions and knitted stockings for soldiers as they sat near the base of the scaffold.



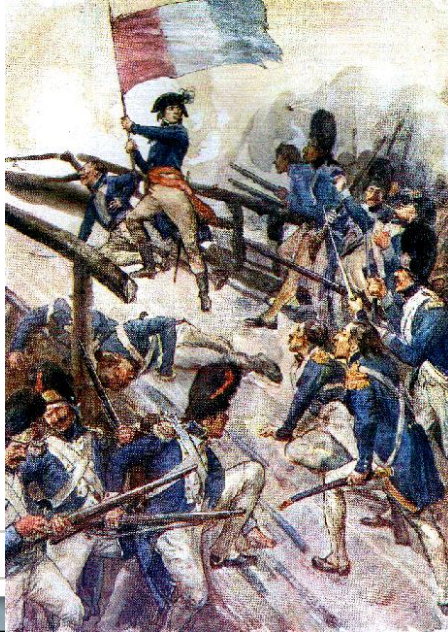
# Major Changes/Effects

- Multiple governments were created throughout the revolutions
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Republic
- Democratic Republic
- Oligarchy
- Long term **laid foundation for future Republic/Democracy** in France

# Major Changes/Effects



- France began a conscription (draft) and went to war with Western Europe
- Men between 18 and 45 had to serve in the military
- Major successes **increased French Nationalism**
  - Feeling of Pride and identity with your nation



# Major Changes/Effects

- French military leader
- Seized power in 1799 and ruled France until 1814
- He and a group of men led a coup d'état = quick seizure of power of the government
- Napoleon tamed the French Revolution in the face of growing issues with its more radical features
- Named himself emperor of France in 1804





# Napoleon's Empire



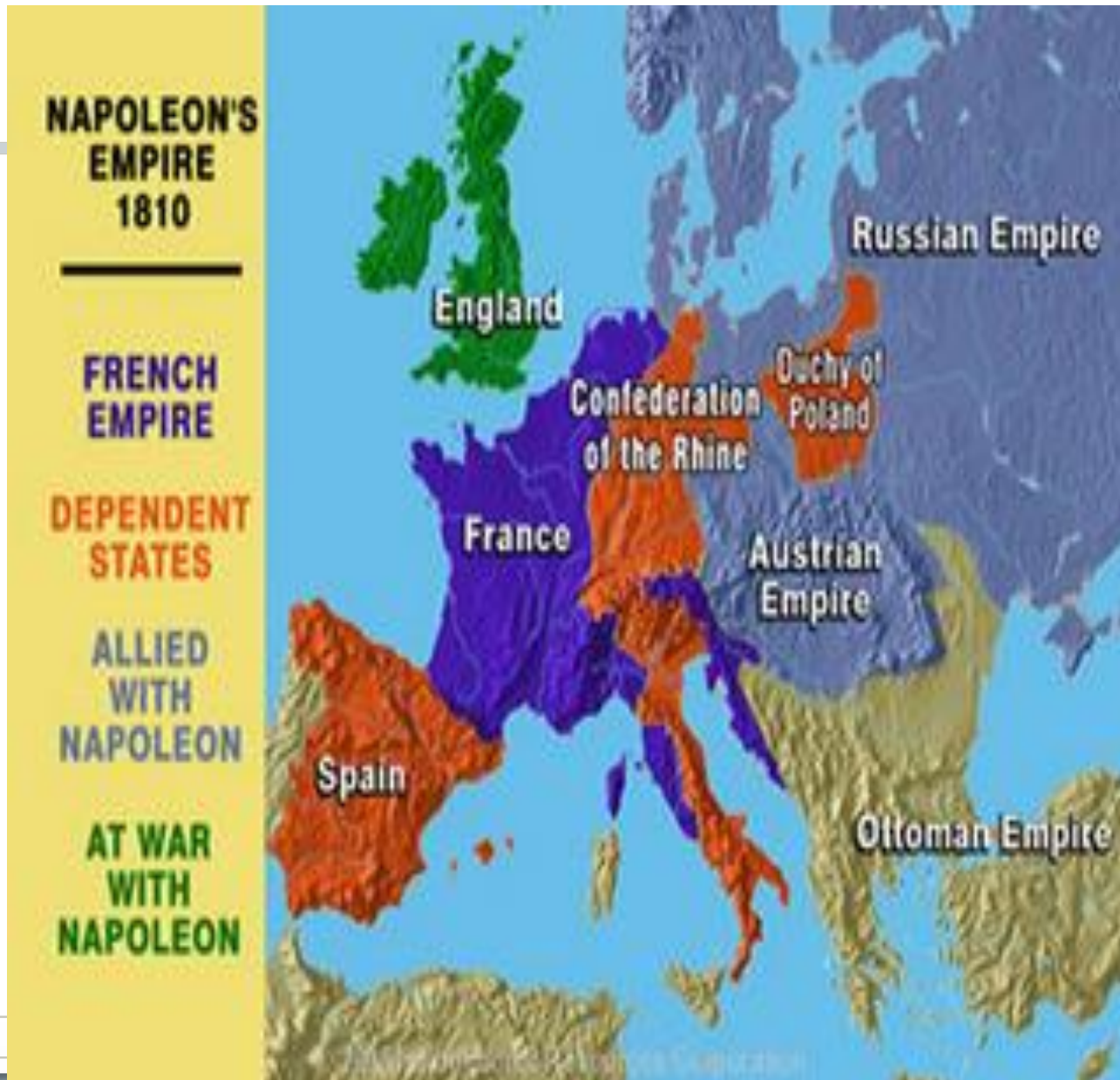
- Napoleon preserved many elements of the French Revolution
- Set up a national school system
- Created the Bank of France
- Required that all citizens pay taxes
- Maintained civil equality
- Secular (non-religious) law code
- Religious freedom

# Major Changes/Effects

- Napoleon took control and led massive European wide war
- By 1812 = Napoleon controlled most of Europe



# Major Changes/Effects



# Major Changes/Effects

- The revolution failed at many stated goals, but there were major long term effects of the Revolution:
- Ended Absolute Monarchy
- Ended Feudalism and Nobility
- Weakened power of the Catholic Church