

Chapter 19 Glossary

Abbé Sieyès: Author of the well-known pamphlet, *What is the Third Estate?* In it, Sieyès wrote "What is the Third Estate? EVERYTHING. What has it been thus far in the political order? NOTHING. What does it demand? To become SOMETHING."

American Revolution: its success proved to many Europeans that the liberal political ideas of the Enlightenment *philosophes* could be realized

Assembly of Notables: Failed, last ditch attempt by Charles de Calonne, Louis XIV's controller general of finance, to revamp the fiscal and administrative system of the French state

Bastille: This symbol of French absolutism and tyranny was famously stormed by the citizens of Paris on July 14, 1789

bourgeoisie: This group comprised about 8% of the French populace; owned approximately 20-25% of the land; this group was often excluded by the nobles from social and political privileges

bread: spikes in bread prices could result in riots in urban centers like Paris; everyday urban people typically spent between a third and half of their income on this key staple of their diet

cahiers de doléances: statements of local grievances, which were drafted throughout France during the elections to the Estates-General; these statements tended to advocate a regular constitutional government that would abolish the fiscal privileges of the church and nobility as the major way to regenerate the country

Civil Constitution of the Clergy: infamous 1790 act of the National Assembly by which both Catholic priests and bishops were to be elected by the people and paid for by the state; it proved counterproductive as the forces of counterrevolution rallied against it

Code Napoleon: also known as the Civil Code, many consider it Napoleon's towering political achievement as it preserved most of the revolutionary gains by recognizing the principle of the equality of all citizens before the law, the right of individuals to choose their professions, religious toleration, and the abolition of serfdom and feudalism

Committee of Public Safety: 12-man executive committee, established by the National Convention, supervised the elimination of the "enemies of the revolution"

Concordat: deal orchestrated by Napoleon with the Catholic church in 1801 which no longer made the church an enemy of the French government

Constituent Assembly: alternative name for the National Assembly

Continental System: abortive Napoleonic policy put in place after the defeat at Trafalgar that attempted to starve the British into submission

Corsica: birthplace of Napoleon

coup d'etat: literally a "strike against the state"; Napoleon led one against the Directory in November 1799

Jacques-Louis David: famous Neoclassical painter of the French Revolution and Napoleonic era; his paintings include *The Death of Marat* and *The Tennis Court Oath* and several portraits of Napoleon

Declaration of Piltz: issued on August 27, 1791, and authored by the kings of Austria and Prussia, it called on fellow European monarchs to help restore the rightful power of the French monarchy over their people

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen: provided the ideological foundation for the actions of the National Assembly; it was based on many of the core ideas of the Enlightenment *philosophes* and modeled after the American Declaration of Independence

Olympe de Gouges: author of the *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen*, which advocated equal rights for men and women

delegates: in summoning the Estates-General in May 1789, the government was merely looking for a way to solve the immediate financial crisis; the monarchy had no wish for a major reform of the government, nor did the delegates who arrived at Versailles come with plans for the revolutionary changes that ultimately emerged

Directory: five-man executive authority of the French government after the Constitution of 1795

Estates: name for the legal categories into which French society (and the rest of Europe too) was divided before the revolution; also called orders

Estates-General: convened by Louis XVI in May 1789, this group had not met in nearly two centuries

First Estate: political order comprised of the clergy; numbered about 130,000 (of 27 million); owned about 10% of the land and were exempt from the chief tax, the *taille*

Girondins: Jacobin moderates who represented the provinces and advocated imprisoning the king instead of executing him

Grand Army: name of Napoleon's army, which had over a million soldiers, the largest force to date ever assembled in European history

Great Fear: panic that spread like wildfire in France from July 20 to August 6, 1789 and which had been caused because a possible invasion of foreign troops aided by a supposed aristocratic plot

guillotine: "more humane" method of execution was nicknamed the "national razor"

Holy Roman Empire (HRE): in 1806, Napoleon disbanded this loose collection of German states that had existed for over a thousand years and replaced it with the so-called Confederation of the Rhine

Hundred Days: period that began with Napoleon's escape from Elba and ended with his final defeat at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

Immediate cause of the French Revolution: the near collapse of government finances

Legislative Assembly: representative body that replaced the National Assembly after the Constitution of 1791 had been written

Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité : literally "Liberty, Equality, Brotherhood," it was the French revolutionary slogan

limited monarchy: kind of government in France after the Constitution of 1791

Toussaint L'Overture: led a slave revolt against French plantation owners in Hispaniola

"Madame Deficit": Nickname of the frivolous Queen Marie Antoinette

Jean-Paul Marat: published the exceptionally popular and radical newspaper *L'Ami du Peuple*

Marquis de Lafayette: Commander of the Parisian citizens' militia called the National Guard

Marseillaise: French revolutionary war song that would later become the national anthem

Mountain: Jacobin radicals that favored regicide

nationalism: Besides the survival of the British, perhaps the key reason for the undoing of Napoleon's Grand Empire

Paris Commune: radical Parisian group that controlled the local government; this group purged the National Convention of the Girondins in June 1793

Parlements: 13 law courts which were supposed to register royal decrees, could play the role as "defenders of liberty" against arbitrary monarchy by not registering the decrees

Peninsular War: Name of the Spanish uprising (who were aided by the British) against Napoleon's rule that was fought between 1808-1814

Privilege: Before the Revolution, French society was grounded in the inequality of rights or the idea of _____

Reign of Terror: Lasted from July 1793 to July 1794 and claimed approximately 50K lives

Robespierre: Key Jacobin leader and ultimately head of the Committee of Public Safety; his intellectual idol was Rousseau. Well-known quote: "The king must die so that the country can live."

rural peasants: This group comprised about 75 to 80% of the French population; they owned about 35-40% of the land, and even though serfdom was seldom practiced, many in this class still owed feudal obligations to their local landlords

Invasion of Russia: this disastrous invasion in 1812 by Napoleon cost his army over 500,000 soldiers

Saint: word removed from Parisian street names after de-Christianization

Saint Helena: island that Napoleon was exiled to after his defeat at Waterloo (and where he died in 1821)

sans-culottes: radical urban working classes of Paris; their name was emblematic of their style of dress (*sans-culottes* literally means “without breeches”; they chose to wear trousers instead of knee breeches, which were associated with the aristocracy)

Second Estate: political order comprised of the nobility (be it nobility of the robe or nobility of the sword); owned approximately 25 to 30% of the land; generally exempt from taxes like the *taille*

Temple of Reason: name given to the Cathedral of Notre Dame after de-Christianization efforts

Tennis Court Oath: taken by the members of the new National Assembly on June 20, 1789; declared they would continue to meet until they had written a French constitution

Thermidorean Reaction: relatively conservative period after the Reign of Terror: the powers of the Committee of Public Safety were curtailed by the National Convention and the Jacobin club shut down

Third Estate: political order comprised of the commoners of society, which made up the vast majority of the French population; this order was divided by important differences in level of education, occupation, and wealth

Tithe: mandatory 10% tax paid by the third estate to the Church

Battle of Trafalgar: Famous 1805 sea battle at which Napoleon's navy was destroyed by the British fleet under the command of Lord Horatio Nelson

universal male suffrage: basis by which the National Convention was elected

Varennes: where Louis XVI and his family were captured as they tried to flee to the Austrian Netherlands

Vendée: department (region) of France that was the epicenter of counterrevolutionary activity and which rejected the authority of the National Convention

Voting by Head: one delegate, one vote; favored by the Third Estate and reforming members of the other two

Voting by Order: one estate, one vote; favored by the conservative members of the First and Second Estates

Duke of Wellington: British commander who defeated Napoleon in the historic battle of Waterloo

Women's March: Famous assault on Versailles in early October 1789 led by the Parisian fish-ladies (*poissonards*) who demanded bread for their children