

Reading Guide – Chapter 19

A Revolution in Politics: The Era of the French Revolution & Napoleon

Name _____

Due: _____

1 – The Beginning of the Revolutionary Era: American Revolution, pp. 574-581

1. How did other countries (France) help out the American colonies in their fight with Britain?

2. What impact did the American Revolution have on Europe?

3. Who was in the First Estate?

What were some of the privileges that the First Estate enjoyed?

4. Who was in the Second Estate?

What were some of the privileges that the Second Estate enjoyed?

5. What three groups were in the Third Estate?

What were some of the financial problems of the Third Estate?

6. Describe the other problems facing the French monarchy prior to the revolution.

2 – The French Revolution, pp. 581-588

1. What was the major issue dealt with when the Estates General opened in 1789?

2. What happened between June 17th and June 20th of 1789?

How did this constitute the first step in the French Revolution?

3. What saved the third estate from the king's attempt to stop the revolution?

4. What happened on Aug 4, 1789?

What happened on August 26?

5. How did the revolution deal with the Catholic Church in France?

6. Describe the major provisions of the Constitution of 1791.

7. What was the Declaration of Pillnitz?

How did it backfire?

3 – The French Revolution (cont.), pp. 588-597

1. Who were the *sans-culottes*?

What did they pressure the Convention into doing with the king?

2. Why did the National Convention spilt into factions?

What were those factions?

3. What was the purpose of the Committee of Public Safety?

4. Who were the targets of the Reign of Terror?

How did the Committee justify its actions?

5. What were the Committee's economic reforms?

Were these reforms pro-Smith or anti-Smith? Why? (you must think back to Adam Smith from ch17)

6. How did the National Convention attempt to dechristianize France?

Explain the new revolutionary calendar.

7. What eventually happened to Robespierre?

8. What was the Thermidorian Reaction?

What changes were made in France during this time?

9. Who made up the Directory?

What problems did they face?

4 – The Rise of Napoleon, pp. 597-601

1. What aspects of Napoleon's background do you think helped him become a powerful leader?

2. What happened to Napoleon in Egypt?

3. What powers did the first Consul have under the new Republic's constitution?

4. How did Napoleon Become Emperor Napoleon I?

5. Why would the people of France welcome the authoritarian rule of Napoleon?

6. What did the Catholic Church gain from the Concordat?

What did Napoleon gain?

7. How did the Civil Code further revolutionary ideals?

How did the Civil Code affect women?

8. Evaluate Napoleon's domestic policies. Did they make him more of an enlightened despot or a tyrannical dictator?

5 – Napoleon's Empire & the European Response, pp. 601-604

1. Why did Napoleon want peace with the 2nd Coalition?

2. Between 1803 & 1807, France defeated which countries?

3. Napoleon's Grand Empire was composed of 3 parts. What were those parts and what areas were included in each?

4. What were the 2 main reasons for the rapid collapse of the Grand Empire?

5. What was the purpose of the Continental System?

Why did it fail?

6. What is nationalism?

How did France arouse nationalism in Europe?

7. What event marked the beginning of Napoleon's downfall?

8. How was the invasion of Russia a military disaster?

9. How was Napoleon ultimately defeated?

What was his final fate?