

# FRENCH REVOLUTION

## Liberty! Equality! Fraternity!

### **General Causes:**

1. Policies of Louis XIV--Abuses of the *ancien regime* (old regime) = bankruptcy
2. Enlightenment and ideas of the philosophes
3. Inequality of French society--3 Estates
4. Weak kings (Louis XV and Louis XVI)
5. Inspiration/success of the American Revolution

### **Immediate Causes:**

1. Financial Crisis of 1789
2. Weak character of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette
3. Estates General Meeting, Spring, 1789
4. *Tennis Court Oath*--National Assembly
5. Fall of the Bastille, July 14, 1789 = mob action against the monarchy\*\*

**\*\*Bastille Day = the Revolution begins!**

### **Summer, 1789 - September, 1792**

1. Constitutional Monarchy
  - a. *Declaration of the Rights of Man*
  - b. end of Feudal privileges
  - c. Constitution
  - d. King and family "escorted" to Paris--"house arrest"
2. Legislative Assembly (1791)
  - a. "Right" = Royalists = Conservatives
  - b. "Center" = Constitutional monarchist Moderates
  - c. "Left" = Radicals (Jacobins--representing the *sans culottes*) = Liberals
3. Emigres pressure royal houses of Europe
4. 1792 = France declares war on Austria
5. King and family arrested/prison--Monarchy suspended.

### **September 1792 - 1795**

1. Republic--Jacobins in control
2. National Convention
3. Committee of Public Safety
  - a. Robespierre, Danton
  - b. Reign of Terror--1793-94
    - Execution of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette
    - Guillotine
    - Execution of Robespierre

### **1795 - 1799**

1. Directory--Bourgeoisie in control
2. Oligarchy
3. Corruption

## **1799 - 1815: Napoleon Bonaparte**

1. Rise of Napoleon before 1799
  - a. Corsica
  - b. Rise in military--revolution opens doors for advancement
  - c. Marriage--Josephine Beauharnais
  - d. fame in Egyptian campaign--initial gains outweigh eventual loss  
(newsy note: Rosetta Stone)
2. 1799--*coup d'etat* --new Constitution: Napoleon = First Consul
3. Napoleonic Reforms
4. 1804--Assumes title of Emperor
5. 1805--Battle of Trafalgar against British Admiral Lord Nelson
6. 1806-1812 -- Master of Europe: Continental System; New wife = Marie Louise of Austria
7. 1812--Invasion of Russia (Alexander I)
8. 1814--Battle of Leipzig--exile to Elba
9. 1815
  - a. Congress of Vienna begins meeting
  - b. Louis XVIII (brother of Louis XVI) restored to throne
  - c. Napoleon's escape
  - d. Battle of Waterloo (British Duke of Wellington)
  - e. Final exile to St. Helena

## **1815 -- Congress of Vienna**

1. Representatives
  - a. Lord Castlereagh (Britain)
  - b. Prince von Metternich (Austria-Hungary) = dominant member
  - c. Alexander II (Russia)
  - d. Prince von Hardenburg (Prussia)
  - e. Talleyrand (unofficial, France)
2. Aims

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Monarchy	Democracy
Conservatism	Liberalism
Legitimacy	Nationalism
3. Formation of Quadruple Alliance (Concert of Europe)\ "Holy Alliance"  
= balance of power politics