LECTURE 15: The French Revolution and Napoleon

HISTORY 1130: Themes in Global History: Trade, Economy, and Empires

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PART 1

A. INTRODUCTION
1. Timeline and precedents
2. Causes of the French Revolution

B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
1. Beginnings
2. The storming of Bastille
3. The Reign of Terror
4. The Republic and the Directory
5. Legacy of the French Revolution

C. EXTRA TOPICS
1. History of the Guillotine
2. The French Revolutionary calendar
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A. Introduction
A.1. Timeline and precedents

Ancien Regime Figures and Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louis XV ruled</td>
<td>1715-74</td>
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<td>Louis XVI ruled</td>
<td>1774-1792 (executed 1793)</td>
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Lead up to Revolution

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>The Fiscal Crisis</td>
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<td>Assembly of Notables 1787</td>
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<td>1788 Coup d'État of Parlements</td>
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Start of the Revolution - 1788-1789

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abbey Sièges: What is the Third Estate?</td>
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<td>Estates General - May 5th 1789 at Versailles</td>
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<td>National Assembly - June 17th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis Court Oath - June 20th 1789</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Assembly takes name National Constituent Assembly - June 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1789 - The Great Fear in the countryside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall of the Bastille - July 14th 1789</td>
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<td>August 4th Laws - abolish &quot;feudalism&quot;</td>
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<td>Declaration of the Rights of Man - August 27th 1789</td>
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<td>Civil Constitution of the Clergy July 1790</td>
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A.1. Timeline and precedents

Reaction to the Revolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Burke: Reflections on the French Revolution 1790</td>
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<td>The beginning of modern conservative thought.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Paine: The Rights of Man 1791</td>
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<tr>
<td>Olympe de Gouges: The Rights of Women 1791</td>
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<td>Mary Wollstonecraft: Vindication of the Rights of Woman 1792</td>
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Radicalization 1791-1792

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution of 1791</td>
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<td>The Legislative Assembly (1791-1792)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paris: The Jacobins, Citoyens/Brisotins - Jacques-Pierre Brissot</td>
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<td>The Sans Culottes (those who do not wear &quot;culottes&quot; - i.e. fashionable leggings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WAR - April 20 1792 - war declared on Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 10th 1792 Aramis on Tuileries Palace</td>
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<td>September 1792 [September Massacres]</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Convention - 1792-95 meets September 21, 1792 - France declared a republic.</td>
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Revolution, Terror, Coups – Towards Dictatorship

1793

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 21: Execution of Louis XVI</td>
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<td>February 1: War declared against Britain, Holland, Spain</td>
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<td>April 9: Power centered in two committees, Committee of Public Security</td>
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<td>July 13: Assassination of Marat</td>
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<td>August 23: Levy of entire male population</td>
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<td>September 17: Establishment of the maximum price</td>
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<td>October 31: Execution of Girondists</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10: Abolition of the worship of god: cult of Reason</td>
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A.1. Timeline and precedents

1794
- March 24: Execution of Havreton
- April 6: Execution of Danton
- June 18: Law of 22 Prairial (move to revolutionary tribunal)
- June 20: Battle of Fleurus (French victory in Belgium)
- July 27: Fall of Robespierre (9 Thermidor)

1795
- April 1: Bred riot in Paris
- June 8: Death of the dauphin (Louis XVI)
- August 22: Constitution of 1795
- October 18: Convention dissolved

1796
- March 1: War against the empire
- March 9: Marriage of Bonaparte and Josephine
- May 10: Battle of Lodi (Napoleon in Italy)

1797
- April 10: Peace of Luneville
- July 6: Consulate Republic established
- September 6: Corp d’Etat at Paris (republicans over reactionaries)
- October 17: Treaty of Campo Formio

1798
- July 21: Battle of the Pyramids
- August 1: Battle of the Nile
- December 24: Alliance between Russia and Britain

1799
- June 17:10: Battle of the Tithia (Survivors defeat French)
- August 24: Napoleon leaves Egypt
- November 9: The Corp d’Etat of France (18 Brumaire)
- December 24: Constitution of the Year VIII. Dictatorship of Napoleon established
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A.2.

B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

B. 1. Beginnings

The Estates-General of 1789

- According to the model of 1614, the Estates-General would consist of equal numbers of representatives of each Estate. The Third Estate demanded, and ultimately received, double representation (which they already had in the provincial assemblies). When the Estates-General convened in Versailles on May 5 1789, however, it became clear that the doubled representation had not changed the balance of power: voting would occur "by orders", which meant that the collective vote of the 578 representatives of the Third Estate would have no more effect than that of each of the other Estates.

- Royal efforts to focus solely on taxes failed totally. The Estates-General reached an immediate impasse, debating (with each of the three estates meeting separately) its own structure rather than the nation's finances.
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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
B. 1. Beginnings (cont.)
The National Assembly
- On May 28, 1789, the Abbé Sieyès moved that the Third Estate, now meeting as the Communes (English: "Commons"), proceed with verification of its own powers and invite the other two estates to take part, but not to wait for them. They proceeded to do so, completing the process on June 17. Then they voted a measure far more radical, declaring themselves the National Assembly, an assembly not of the Estates but of "the People". They invited the other orders to join them, but made it clear that they intended to conduct the nation's affairs with or without them.

- Louis XVI shut the Salle des États where the Assembly met; the Assembly moved their deliberations to the king's tennis court, where they proceeded to swear the Tennis Court Oath (June 20, 1789), under which they agreed not to separate until they had given France a constitution. A majority of the representatives of the clergy soon joined them, as did forty-seven members of the nobility. By June 27 the royal party had overtly given in, although the military began to arrive in large numbers around Paris and Versailles. Messages of support for the Assembly poured in from Paris and other French cities. On July 9, the Assembly reconstituted itself as the National Constituent Assembly.

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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
B. 2. The Storming of the Bastille
- On July 11, 1789, the king, acting under the influence of the conservative nobles of his privy council, banished the reformist minister Necker and completely reconstructed the ministry. Much of Paris, presuming this to be the start of a royal coup, moved into open rebellion. Some of the military joined the mob; others remained neutral.

- On July 14, 1789, after four hours of combat, the insurgents seized the Bastille prison. Parisians released only seven prisoners, nonetheless the Bastille served as a potent symbol of everything hated under the ancien régime.

- The king and his military supporters backed down, at least for the time being, new governmental structure known as the commune.

- Nonetheless, after this violence, nobles -- little assured by the apparent and, as it was to prove, temporary reconciliation of king and people -- started to flee the country as émigrés, some of whom began plotting civil war within the kingdom and agitation for a European coalition against France.

- Necker, recalled to power, experienced but a short-lived triumph. An astute financier but a less astute politician, he overplayed his hand by demanding and obtaining a general amnesty, losing much of the people's favor in his moment of apparent triumph.

- Insurrection and the spirit of popular sovereignty spread throughout France. In rural areas, many went beyond this: some burned title-deeds and no small number of châteaux.
Taking of the Bastille
This color print emphasizes the populace's participation in the storming of the Bastille, contributing to what has become the widespread view that the taking of the Bastille was a spontaneous, brave, and widely popular revolt against royal authority.

Storming the Bastille
This representation of the storming of the Bastille by an untrained contemporary artist—a local baker who took part—shows civilians and members of the Paris militia, the "conquerors of the Bastille," attacking this medieval fortress-prison. This successful action had enormous practical and symbolic significance, and July 14 has long been France's most important national holiday.
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Abuses to Suppress
This print depicts the Third Estate—represented by the peasant at the rear of the chariot, the worker leading the horse, and the merchant driving—delivering to the National Assembly a petition listing “abuses” to be remedied.

This print shows the attack on the Tuileries Palace (Aug 10, 1792), which housed the royal family. Although the place was well-defended, many troops simply defected. When the artillery quit, the King and his family hastened across to the nearby meeting hall of the Legislative Assembly for protection. But the battle continued when a number of the defenders—particularly the Swiss guard—resisted. A full-scale engagement ensued with some 600 Swiss killed and about double the number of insurgents dead. Casualties notwithstanding, the attackers won. The victory sealed the demise of the monarchy and ensured that it would be replaced by a republic.
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Parisian women march on Versailles
When the market women of Paris marched to Versailles and forced the royal family to return to Paris with them, they altered the course of the French Revolution. In this drawing the women are armed with pikes and swords and drag a cannon. Only the woman on the far left is clearly middle class, and she is pictured hesitating or turning away from the resolute actions of the poor women around her. (Bibliotheque nationale de France)

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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
B. 3. The Reign of Terror
-The hardliners still wanted the King out of the way and put him on trial. He was condemned to death and guillotined on 21 January 1793. His wife, Marie-Antoinette, suffered the same fate on 16 October that year. Their son, the Dauphin, died terribly in prison.
-From the chaos emerged a hard man in the form of Maximilien Robespierre who, with his Jacobin allies and the Committee of Public Safety, plunged France into even more bloodshed than before. The guillotine was kept busier than ever as thousands of people were denounced as anti-revolutionary traitors.
-It is believed more than 40,000 people died during the Terror.

-Price and wage maximums were unevenly enforced, and acceptance of the inflated paper currency, the assignats, was made mandatory. A revolutionary calendar, with 10-day weeks, was adopted.
-The fanatic Jacques Hébert, who had introduced the worship of a goddess of Reason, was arrested and executed in Mar., 1794, along with other so-called ultrarevolutionaries. The next month Danton and his followers were executed.
-Members of the Convention arrested Robespierre on July 27, 1794, and had him guillotined; a majority of Commune members were also executed. On 21st of September, the Republic of France was announced.
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An Exuberant Executioner
As 80,000 crowded into the square to watch the execution of Louis XVI, they cannot have been unaware that the guillotine sat where a statue of Louis XV had been. Here Sanson, the executioner, snatches the detached head of Louis XVI to show to the crowd. He leans forward with approving eagerness. If the head of the King was the most recognizable old regime symbol, then the demise of that symbolic system becomes now complete. Waving on a pike, facing the King, is a Phrygian cap, now no longer placed on his head, as in other prints. In this way the engraver indicates a final severance of a complicated compromise.

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Act of Justice
Here Robespierre’s death is depicted as divine retribution, as in a classical myth. Numerous heads, presumably of those who had perished at the guillotine, watch two male figures (bearing a strong resemblance to Hercules, who had been an early symbol of the Revolution) carry the freshly severed heads of Robespierre and his followers toward the mythological river Styx, guarded by the three–headed dog Cerberus.
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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
B. 4. The Republic and the Directory

- Another wave of executions began, termed the White Terror, as the former hunters were themselves hunted down and put to death for their excesses.

- Two more attempts at overthrowing order were made - those of Germinal and Prairial - but each were quashed by the National Guard. A new constitution now saw power in France being placed in the hands of the Directory of Seven and this sparked a royalist coup attempt that ended when Napoleon Bonaparte sent his “whiff of grapeshot” into the mob.

- The Convention drew up a new constitution, setting up the Directory and a bicameral legislature. The rule of the Directory was marked by corruption, financial difficulties, political purges, and a fateful dependence on the army to maintain control.

- It was the Paul Barras-Roger Ducos-Napoleon Bonaparte coup in 1799, that of Brumaire, that succeeded in throwing out the corrupt and unpopular Directory.

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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
B. 5. Legacy of the French Revolution

- The French Revolution, though it seemed a failure in 1799 and appeared nullified by 1815, had far-reaching results. In France the bourgeois and landowning classes emerged as the dominant power. Feudalism was dead; social order and contractual relations were consolidated by the Code Napoléon. The Revolution unified France and enhanced the power of the national state. The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars tore down the ancient structure of Europe, hastened the advent of nationalism, and inaugurated the era of modern, total warfare.

- The French Revolution was the deserving death knell for the old system of monarchy in Europe. Unfortunately, in too many places the governments which replaced ancien regimes was as bad or worse than those which preceded them (from Napoleon on up to Lenin and the fascists). The chaos and violence which Napoleon helped bring about has only in the last fifty years been successfully worked out of the European system.

- Although some historians view the Reign of Terror as an ominous precursor of modern totalitarianism, others argue that this ignores the vital role the Revolution played in establishing the precedents of such democratic institutions as elections, representative government, and constitutions. While major historical interpretations of the French Revolution differ greatly, nearly all agree that it had an extraordinary influence on the making of the modern world.
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B. SHORT HISTORY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

B. 5. Legacy of the French Revolution (cont.)

-In general, the Revolution took its toll on France. With the final fall of the Napoleonic Empire, France was left exhausted and embittered. At the beginning of the Revolution, France had been the most prosperous country in Europe. Economic growth would be crippled for a quarter century after 1815. France lost the international and industrial lead to its arch-rival England and would never be the imposing superpower of the absolute monarchy. Although people had been given a greater say in their government, this manifested itself more by unrest than actual solutions. The gap between rich and poor was greater than ever, and growing with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. France had a hard time settling into republicanism, haunted forever by the gory moments of 1794, and would have 4 republics and 4 times as many constitutions before settling into the Fifth Republic of today.

-The impact that the French example had on other countries was equally as great and disturbing. For the two hundred years since the Bastille fell, countries from Europe, Africa, Asia and South America have been inspired by the French Revolution. Often, the revolutions that have resulted have been even deadlier than the original. The French Revolution, as the "Mother of Modernity" as well as the "Mother of Revolution" is responsible for the conception of the three basic and sometime intermingling political undercurrents of the past two centuries; democracy, communism, and fascism.

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C. EXTRA TOPICS

C. 1. History of the Guillotine

-Doctor Joseph Ignace Guillotin (1738 - 1814) belonged to a small reform movement that sought to banish the death penalty completely. Guillotin argued for a painless and private capital punishment method equal for all the classes, as an interim step towards completely banning the death penalty.

-Guillotine-like killing devices had already been used in Germany, Italy, Scotland and Persia for aristocratic criminals. However, never had such a device been adopted on a large institutional scale, for that reason the guillotine was named after Doctor Guillotin.

-The first guillotining took place on April 25, 1792, when Nicolas Jacques Pelletie was guillotined at Place de Grève on the Right Bank. Ironically, Louis XVI had his own head chopped off on January 21, 1793. Thousands of people were guillotined during the French Revolution and executions became more of a public celebration. The last execution by guillotine took place in Marseilles, France on September 10, 1977, when the murderer Hamida Djandoubi was beheaded.

*Total weight of a Guillotine is about 1278 lb
*The guillotine blade with weight is over 88.2 lb
*The heights of the guillotine posts average about 14 feet
*The guillotine blade drop is about 88 inches
*The falling blades rate of speed is about 21 feet/second
*The actual beheading takes 2/100 of a second
*The time for the guillotine blade to fall down where it stops takes 70th of a second
*The power when the guillotine blade stops at the bottom is 888,5 lb
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A. TIMELINE 1769-1820

B. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

C. NAPOLEONIC WARS
   - Excursion: Trafalgar 1805

D. CODE NAPOLEON

E. POLITICAL LEGACY OF NAPOLEON AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: THE 19TH CENTURY
   - Excursion: Total war

PART 2.

An Ordinary Guillotine
LECTURE 15: The French Revolution and Napoleon

A. TIMELINE 1769-1820

1769 to 1792
Bonaparte's early years - the French Revolution - the First Coalition - Valmy - Jemappes.

1793 to 1795
Execution of Louis XVI - Neerwinden - Dumouriez's defection to Allies - siege of Toulon - Wattignies.

1796 to 1797

1798 to 1799
Campaign in Egypt - the Pyramids - Aboukir - battle of the Nile - the Second Coalition - Acre - Mt Tabor - Coup of Brumaire - Allies invade Holland - Bonaparte becomes First Consul.

1800 to 1802
Austria attacks Italy - Bonaparte crosses the Alps - Marengo - Hohenlinden - assassination attempt on Bonaparte.

1803 to 1805
France sells Louisiana to America - France and Spain become allies - plot against Bonaparte - arrest of General Moreau - introduction of Civil Code - creation of the marshals - Bonaparte crowned emperor - the Third Coalition formed - Austria attacks Bavaria - Trafalgar - French occupy Vienna - Austrofleic.

LECTURE 15: The French Revolution and Napoleon

A. TIMELINE 1769-1820 (cont.)

1806 to 1808

1809 to 1811

1812 to 1813

1814 to 1815 & later
B. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France (1769-1821)

- Not a Frenchman by birth, Napoleon Bonaparte was born at Ajaccio on Corsica on 15 August 1769, never fully mastered French and his spelling left a lot to be desired.
- The revolutionary fever that was spreading when Bonaparte was a teenager allowed a talented individual the opportunity to rise far beyond what could have been achieved only a few years previously.
- His first real military opportunity came as a captain of artillery at the siege of Toulon, where he expertly seized crucial forts and was able to bombard the British naval and land forces, eventually forcing them to sail away.
- Now a brigadier-general, Bonaparte served in the army campaigning in Italy but found himself arrested and jailed for being an associate of the younger brother of Maximilien Robespierre.
- Bonaparte eventually became involved with a member of the Directory, Paul Barras, who used the young man's zeal to put down a royalist mob in 1795 with the now legendary "whiff of grapeshot".
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B. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS (cont.)

- With his loyalty and ruthlessness proven, the next year Bonaparte took up command of the Army of Italy and set off on a campaign that was to take him to absolute power in France and Europe.
- Initially treated with suspicion, and not a little contempt, by the older generals he superceded, Bonaparte won over his badly treated soldiers with promises of great things to come and a large helping of personal bravery. Like Caesar, he was not afraid to get into the thick of the fighting to inspire his men.
- Desperate to be both at Britain and pushing his own reputation, Bonaparte planned an expedition to Egypt to threaten his foe's trading routes. He sailed from Toulon in 1798 and, after capturing Malta, made it to Egypt in early July.
- The campaign began brilliantly when he smashed the power of the ruling Mamelukes at the Battle of the Pyramids, but was crippled when Nelson's hound-pack fleet finally caught up with the French navy at Aboukir (Battle of the Nile) and sank all but four of the 17-ship force.
- Stricken with disease and wary of a mass revolt in Cairo, the French made a horrendous march through the deserts of the Sinai, but arrived at Aboukir in good enough condition to crush another Turkish force.

Realizing the potential success of his campaign was now limited, if not impossible, Bonaparte decided to abandon his army and get back to the centre of power - Paris - and make sure his position had not been undermined.

- Popular with the people, Bonaparte found the loathed Directory very cool towards his surprise arrival and no doubt took pleasure in their discomfort when he, Abbe Sieyes and Roger Ducos seized power in the Coup de Brumaire, which saw them share power as equal consuls. Within months Bonaparte was First Consul and had eased his "equals" into early retirement.
- The next stage in Bonaparte's career came in 1800, when he again moved into Italy with another brilliant maneuver, leading the French army over the Alps and surprise the occupying Austrians.

- Together with the victory at Hohenlinden, Marengo forced the Austrians to the table and the resulting Peace of Leoben in 1801 and Peace of Amiens (1802) brought to an end a decade of revolution, strife and war.
- He also got France back in to the good books of Rome through the Concordat with the Pope, which eased the restrictions and penalties imposed on the church by the Revolution.
- Bonaparte's popularity was now unprecedented and he was voted Consul for life. Setting about much-needed civil reforms he turned upside down the old system of running France and introduced the Civil Code.
- Still, in 1804, the general felt confident and secure enough to declare himself Emperor and the next day created the Marshalate for his most trusted and talented soldiers.
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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS

First Coalition
1792 to 1797

Campaign of the First Coalition, 1792 to 1797

Almost all of Europe united against the revolutionary government in France and sent major armies to destroy the French nation. Read how France’s main armies were tested in battles such as Valmy, Jemappes and Napoleon’s superb performance at Toulon, which catapulted him towards power.

Egypt Adventure
1798 to 1801

Napoleon’s Egyptian Adventure, 1798 to 1801

Napoleon Bonaparte launched an invasion on Egypt to attack British interests in India. He was murdered when Admiral Nelson destroyed his fleet at the battle of the Nile. Read about the battles, the soldiers, look at maps and the discovery of the Rosetta Stone.

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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

Second Coalition
1798 to 1801

Campaign of the Second Coalition, 1798 to 1801

The campaigns against the Second Coalition included Napoleon’s expedition to Egypt, major clashes in North Italy, Germany and Switzerland. Descriptions of the battles of the Pyramids, Marengo and Jena-Bittenfeld, plus images and much more.

Third Coalition
1805

Campaign of the Third Coalition, 1805

One of the most brilliant military campaigns in history saw Napoleon Bonaparte out-think and out-fight the armies of the Third Coalition. The surrender of Ulm and the crushing victory at Austerlitz over Russia and Austria are included.
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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

Fourth Coalition
1806 to 1807

In 1806 Napoleon attacked a combined Prue/Spain and in a lightning campaign destroyed his enemy's armies at Jena and Auerstadt. Included are descriptions of the follow-up battle for Poland and the nightmarish battle in the snow at Eylau.

Fifth Coalition
1809

Taking advantage of France's preoccupation with the Peninsula, the Austrians launched a surprise attack. Read about how Napoleon recovered and the 1809 Campaign on the Danube. Included are the battles of Aspern-Essling and Wagram, together with battle maps and much more.

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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

The Peninsular War
1808 to 1814

Known as the Spanish Ulcer, the Peninsular War blunted Napoleon's efforts to liberate Spanish and French troops. Read about the bloody fight with the Duke of Wellington's British army, including Talavera, Rolica, Vittoria and Salamanca, see the brutality of guerrilla warfare through the images of Goya.

The Russian Campaign
1812

One of Napoleon Bonaparte's biggest blunders was to invade Russia. The march on Moscow, the battle of Borodino and key clashes, eyewitness accounts of the horrors of the disastrous retreat and the death of the French army.
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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

Liberation of Germany 1813

Weakened by the disastrous losses in Russia, Napoleon Bonaparte was on the back foot when the Allied powers marched into Germany. Read about the battle at Jena and the battle of nation at Leipzig.

France Invaded 1814

The 1814 invasion of Napoleon's France by the European allies saw Bonaparte back to his brilliant best. Outnumbered and outmatched, he directed his forces with battle after battle.

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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

The 100 Days 1815

The 100 Days or Waterloo Campaign decided the fate of modern Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte launched a desperate strike at the Coalition, who had suffered a series of defeats at Jena, Austerlitz, and Friedland. Napoleon's forces were decisively defeated at Waterloo by the British army, led by the Duke of Wellington.

The War of 1812 1812-1815

The War of 1812 was a sideshow compared to other major Napoleonic campaigns, but it decided the independence of the United States. Read about the various battles, including the bloody battle of New Orleans and the burning of Washington, look at maps and images and much more.
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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

The West Indies
1793 to 1810

Campaigns for the West Indies, 1793 to 1810

The battles for the rich West Indies islands were lengthy and costly in casualties. Read about the slave revolt of San Domingo, Toussaint l’Ouverture and much more.

The Naval War
1793 to 1815

Van Nameen War, 1793 to 1815

Details of the naval struggle during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. Naval balance, ships, crews, battles, landing sailors, Terrain and much more.

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C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

Map of Waterloo

Map of Waterloo
The Battle of Austerlitz, also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors, was one of Napoleon's greatest victories, effectively destroying the Third Coalition against the French Empire. On December 2, 1805, French troops, commanded by Emperor Napoleon I, decisively defeated a Russo-Austrian army, commanded by Tsar Alexander I, after nearly nine hours of battle. The battle took place at Austerlitz (Slavkov u Brna) about 6.5 km (four miles) east of Brünn (Brno) in Moravia. Despite difficult fighting in many sectors, the battle is often regarded as a tactical masterpiece.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Austerlitz

***Excursion: Trafalgar, 21 October, 1805***

- This great deciding naval battle of the Napoleonic Wars took place between 27 British ships under Admiral Nelson and 33 French and Spanish vessels under Admiral Villeneuve.
- Needing to clear the British from the English Channel to allow an invasion of his implacable national enemy, Napoleon Bonaparte wanted his navy to escape the British blockade, draw it away from Europe to the West Indies and then, after joining up with the Spanish, returning to hold the narrow stretch of water long enough to allow the crossing of his army.
- Surprisingly, Villeneuve did manage to slip through the blockade and a rare error by Nelson gave the French more than a week's head start. By the time he reached the West Indies the combined enemy fleet had begun returning towards Europe and safe harbor in Cadiz.
- Determined to bottle up and destroy his foe, Nelson and his fleet prowled waiting for an opportunity and that came faster than expected.
- Bonaparte, believing there was only a small blockading force outside Cadiz, ordered Villeneuve from port and into the Mediterranean.
C. NAPOLEONIC WARS (cont.)

**Excursion (cont.):**

_Trafalgar, 21 October, 1805_

-To his horror, the French admiral found himself caught between Nelson's fleet and cut off from safety by the blockading squadron.

On 21 October, Nelson sighted his prey and gave the order "England expects that every man will do his duty."

-After outlining a radical plan of attack to his captains, Nelson ordered the British fleet to head in two lines towards the in-line French and Spanish.

-This would open up his vessels to enemy broadsides, but would split their formidable line, reduce the odds and then allow the better-trained British sailors to use their superior gunnery and sailing skills to destroy at close range.

-The plan worked brilliantly and with the French vanguard cut out of the battle by the British slicing through the fleet, Nelson's men proceeded to take the enemy fleet apart.

-Britain did not lose a ship, while 18 enemy vessels were destroyed. Some 14,000 French and Spanish sailors were lost, ten times the British casualties.

-However, the most notable death at Trafalgar was Nelson who was shot by a sharpshooter as the Victory passed by the Redoubtable.

-On his return to France, the humiliated Villeneuve killed himself with a dagger, unable to put up with the shame of defeat.

-Trafalgar ended any chance France had of invading Britain and, from 1805 onwards, Bonaparte largely kept his military operations to terra firma.

D. CODE NAPOLEON

-Napoleon wanted to replace a series of existing laws - that varied in each French province - and replace them with a standard code for all French people.

-He had already reformed the French taxation system bringing to his imperial coffers almost 700 million francs annually. The sources for the money came from taxes on income and a series of levies on goods - such as wine, tobacco and salt.

-In 1800 he added to his overhaul of the financial system by creating the Bank of France.

-Napoleon did not play a part in its formation, which was handled by an official commission from 1801, nor did he look many of the 2281 suggested laws before they had been debated by the Council of State.

-But once that had happened Napoleon focused his attentions on it and used his exceptional administrative talents to influence its overall impact.

-The principal tenet of the Civil Code was that every French person was equal before the law.
D. CODE NAPOLEON (cont.)

- He showed great foresight in beginning a program of public works that included building canals, harbors and made roads better and safer by improving their condition and cracking down on brigands.
- Education was improved for many, although the majority of children did not gain benefit from his new specialized and high schools. He encouraged the creation of private schools and sowed the seeds of community-wide literacy.
- The Civil Code was officially enacted in 1804 and in 1807 was renamed Code Napoleon. It applied to all French domains and territories as well as being adopted by countries within the sphere of French influence.

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E. POLITICAL LEGACY OF NAPOLEON AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: THE 19TH CENTURY

- The era itself can be split into two periods: The French Revolution, and the Napoleonic Empire. The Revolution and ensuing republic saw the toppling of the old French monarchy and its replacement by a series of sporadically violent civilian administrations. At the peak of the violent period, known as "The Terror," the former king and queen were cruelly put to death.
- The events which followed were typical in the history of revolutions; an army general seized control of the government. This general however, named Napoleon Bonaparte, was of unusual intelligence and charisma, and he had seized control of what today would be called a superpower. The presence of this charismatic military genius as the head of France vastly complicated Europe's political landscape and broadened the atmosphere of confrontation which was destined to continue until one of the two sides was defeated.
- As with other wars which involved great internal strife, the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars left a rancorous legacy of conflict. Like most other leaders of that era, Napoleon's actions caused the unnecessary deaths of thousands. In the end though, it is difficult to separate his actions from other leaders of his time. People of that era tended to share romantic views of war which were not abandoned until a hundred years later with the consecutive slaughters of World War One and World War Two, and all can share some of the blame for the years of war which began in 1792 because of the overthrow of a French Monarch.
LECTURE 15: The French Revolution and Napoleon

E. POLITICAL LEGACY OF NAPOLEON AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION: THE 19TH CENTURY

Excursion: Total War

-Note! Certain aspects of the Napoleonic Wars fall into this category:
civilian casualties, destruction of resources (Russian Campaign), war economy, multi-theater war
-The most identifiable consequence of total war in modern times has been the inclusion of civilians as targets in destroying a country’s ability to engage in war.
-Total war also resulted in the mobilization of the so called home front. Propaganda became a required component of total war in order to boost production and maintain morale. Rationing took place to provide more material for waging war.
-The first recognized, famous total war: World War I.

LECTURE 15: The French Revolution and Napoleon

Five questions. Getting three right = attendance. Getting five right = automatic half a point of extra credit.

1. Which of the following statements is true of the French Revolution? [A] It was a bloodless revolution. [B] It did not undermine the power of the Catholic Church. [C] It inspired the American Revolution. [D] It did not undermine traditional monarchy. [E] It did not create an enduring form of representative democracy.

2. Which of the following was not one of the contributors to the financial crisis that triggered the French Revolution? [A] costs of the Seven Years War [B] failure to collect taxes from the nobility [C] costs of the War of Austrian Succession [D] costs of the American Revolution [E] failure to collect tithes from the clergy

3. As economic depression, hunger and high bread prices combined in 1789, a Parisian crowd: [A] protested the building of Fountainbleu. [B] burned the Palace at Versailles. [C] petitioned to have Joan of Arc made a saint. [D] attacked the Bastille. [E] took the king and queen hostage.


5. Napoleon became Europe's first popular dictator because he: [A] promised order to an exhausted society. [B] threatened to overpower the French people. [C] held the promise of a new French empire. [D] was needed since France was occupied by foreign armies. [E] was strikingly tall and handsome.
ANY QUESTIONS ON TODAY’S LECTURE?
ANYTHING ELSE?