

Chapter 19: The French Revolution

Skeleton Outline

1. The French Revolution posed a fundamental challenge to Europe's existing political and social order.
 - a. The **French Revolution** resulted from a combination of long-term social and political causes, as well as Enlightenment ideas, exacerbated by short-term fiscal and economic crises.
 - b. The first, or liberal, phase of the French Revolution established a **constitutional monarchy**, increased popular participation, nationalized the Catholic Church, and abolished **hereditary privileges**.
 - i. Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
 - ii. Civil Constitution of the Clergy
 - iii. Constitution of 1791
 - iv. Abolition of provinces and division of France into departments
 - c. After the execution of **Louis XVI**, the radical **Jacobin Republic** led by **Robespierre** responded to opposition at home and war abroad by instituting the **Reign of Terror**, fixing prices and wages, and pursuing a policy of **de-Christianization**.
 - i. Georges Danton
 - ii. Jean-Paul Marat
 - iii. Committee of Public Safety
 - d. Revolutionary armies, raised by **mass conscription**, sought to bring the changes initiated in France to the rest of Europe.
 - e. Women enthusiastically participated in the early phases of the revolution; however, while there were brief improvements in the legal status of women, citizenship in the republic was soon restricted to men.
 - f. Revolutionary ideals inspired a slave revolt led by **Toussaint L'Ouverture** in the French colony of Saint Domingue, which became the independent nation of **Haiti** in 1804.
 - g. While many were inspired by the revolution's emphasis on equality and human rights, others condemned its violence and disregard for traditional authority.
2. Claiming to defend the ideals of the French Revolution, **Napoleon Bonaparte** imposed French control over much of the European continent that eventually provoked a **nationalistic** reaction.
 - a. As first consul and emperor, Napoleon undertook a number of enduring domestic reforms while often curtailing some rights and manipulating popular impulses behind a façade of representative institutions.
 - i. Careers open to talent
 - ii. Educational system
 - iii. Centralized bureaucracy
 - iv. Civil Code
 - v. Concordat of 1801
 - vi. Secret police
 - vii. Censorship
 - viii. Limitation of women's rights
 - b. Napoleon's new military tactics allowed him to exert direct or indirect control over much of the European continent, spreading the ideals of the French Revolution across Europe.
 - c. Napoleon's expanding empire created nationalist responses throughout Europe.
3. While Enlightenment values dominated the world of European ideas, they were challenged by the revival of public sentiment and feeling.
 - a. Revolution, war, and rebellion demonstrated the emotional power of **mass politics** and nationalism.