Chapter 12
The French Revolution

People
Louis XVI: the French king who failed to solve financial crises and guillotined in the Revolution.
Abbé Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès: bourgeois priest, said the third estate was a nation and should revolt; later led a coup.
Count de Clermont Tonnerre: a Liberal French nobleman who wanted Jews to give up any special status in order to get equality.
Edmund Burke: English political philosopher arguing for tradition and slow change; he supported American, not French Revolution.
Thomas Paine: in supporting American and French Revolutions, he argued that man is good and was free to overthrow its governments.
Olympe de Gouges: self-educated woman who advocated for women’s rights and was executed.
Mary Wollstonecraft: English writer inspired by French to publish a book on women’s rights.
Jean Paul Marat: leader of radical reformers with newspaper advocating violence; a martyr.
Charlotte Corday: French monarch sympathizer who assassinated the radical Marat in his bath.
Maximilien Robespierre: led the Jacobin Reign of Terror and was ultimately executed for setting himself up as a dictator.

Terms
cahiers: lists of grievances drawn up by the French in response to the King’s invitation.
bourgeois: a member of the middle class.
Bastille: a Paris prison that symbolized royal power; its capture by the Parisian mob on July 14, 1789 marked the beginning of the Revolution.
sans culottes: urban workers of the lower classes (without fashionable pants); led second Revolution.
the Terror: a time in which the radical Republicans used violence and extreme measures to save the Revolution; no dissent allowed.
levée en masse: general conscription in which all Frenchmen assisted in the war effort of the nation.
Tricolour: new French flag popularized in the Revolution, to replace the Bourbon fleur-de-lis.
guillotine: the method of execution preferred in revolutionary France, especially in the Terror.
the Marseillaise: the new French anthem adopted by radicals for its revolutionary ideals.

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1.  
   - Hardship and oppression experienced by commoners.  
   - Enlightenment ideas led people to doubt the legitimacy of their system.  
   - Inability of monarchy to deal with financial crisis. (Louis XVI was opposed by privileged elite, so called Estates-General as an emergency measure.)

2.  
   - May 1789: King calls the Estates-General, representatives to bring their lists of grievances (cahiers).  
   - Conflict over voting: to be done corporately or individually?  
   - July 1789: compromise idea fails, third Estate withdraws and takes the Tennis Court Oath.  
   - The Bastille falls.

3.  
   - The Constitution of 1791  
     - It abolished feudal remnants and the privileges of nobility.  
     - “Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen” was passed.

4.  
   - Rights after the revolution:  
     - The poor? Yes, property requirements abolished.  
     - Religious minorities? Yes, non-Catholics as citizens.  
     - Slaves? Yes, after rebellion, then No, then Yes, then No.  
     - Women? No improvement, and perhaps things became worse.

5.  
   - Louis XVI unhappy with limits on his power and on the church. Caught in attempt to flee to Austria and then unpopular.  
   - Pope condemns revolution and forbids clergy oath.  
   - Clergy and nation split in loyalties; war breaks out.  
   - Nobles flee France (émigres) and plot against Revolution.

6.  
   - Girondins: want revolution to go international.  
   - Jacobins: want to extend revolution to lower classes in France and create a republic.  
   - Problems of food shortages, peasant unrest and war led to fear revolution would be undone.  
   - Parisians revolted and arrested king, led by Jacobins and sans culottes. Social upheaval.
   - rural Girondins want stability but are unpopular.
   - urban Jacobins want to extend revolution; they prevail and guillotine Louis.
   - They suspend government, rule by emergency decree and order *levée en masse*.
   - The “Terror” is an extremist use of power to maintain revolution (no dissent).

8. One view: He was a defender of liberty, who can claim success in war, law, education, peace, the economy, and slavery.
   Opposing view: He led the “Terror” as a fanatical dictator, destroying the very liberty he proclaimed.

9. Five Directors in power, a bourgeois republic.
   Balanced power set up a weak government.
   A centrist Party of Order avoided chaos, fearing mob rule, but maintained republic.

10. Old Regime and monarchy were replaced.
    Constitutional government, legal equality, and centralized state born in France.
    Secular nationalism took the place of Roman Catholic religion.
    Pattern for nineteenth and twentieth century revolutions set.