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

Chapter 19 Reading Guide *Western Civilization - 10th Ed. -Spielvogel*

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**MAJOR THEMES / BIG QUESTIONS:**

**(as you work through the chapter, bear these questions in mind)**

* How did political, economic, and social factors lead to the French Revolution? (PP-10, OS-7, OS-9, SP-1, SP-4)
* To what extent and in what ways did the nobility bring about its own destruction in revolutionary France? (PP-10, OS-7, OS-9, SP-1, SP-4)
* What did the middle class, urban poor, and peasants want from the Revolution? What methods did they use to effect change? Did they achieve their goals? (SP-5)
* What caused the French Revolution to change from a time of idealism to one of terror and then back to a more conservative period? (SP-1, SP-4, SP-7)
* How did women participate in the French Revolution, what were their goals, and did they achieve them? (SP-9)
* How was Napoleon able to rise to power? To what extent did Enlightenment philosophy and French revolutionary ideals influence Napoleon’s foreign and domestic policies? (SP-3, SP-13, SP-16. SP-17, PP-10)
* Was Napoleon’s fall from power mainly due to mistakes that he himself made, a coalition of powers working against him, or a combination of the two? (SP-16, SP-17)
* In what ways did governments use the arts to influence the populace? (OS-10)

1.) Read the blue section on page 559-560. What happened to Marquis de Launay? What location was he defending? Who slaughtered him?

**19.1 The Beginning of the Revolutionary Era: The American Revolution**

2.) Continuing on the yellow section on page 564, why does Spielvogel say that it might be more accurate to say the French Revolution was actually liberal movement rather than a democratic revolution? What were the three main principles of the slogan of the French Revolution? What do they mean?

3.) Why did the American colonies of Great Britain revolt against the British Empire? What enlightenment ideals inspired this movement?

4.) Describe the Continental Army established by the Second Continental Congress. Who led it? What main concerns did they have? What role did the French play in this conflict?

5.) What was the original document that established the government of the United States? Was it centralized or decentralized? Why? Did it succeed? Why or why not?

6.) What happened in 1787? Did they revise the Articles of Confederation? What role did the federal government play in the newly formed United States?

7.) Describe in detail the impact that the American Revolution had on Europe. What role did Marquis de Lafayette have when he returned to France?

**19.2 Background to the French Revolution**

8.) Spielvogel says that the causes of the French Revolution can be attributed to both immediate causes and long term causes. Below, list a few of each. Generally speaking, (think premises of an argument in a thesis statement) what kinds of ideas could you say were either long-term versus immediate causes of the French Revolution? (hint, you may want to come back to this question after having responded to the rest of the reading guide as a sort of summary question)

9.) The French social order was divided into three orders, or estates (classes). Describe IN DETAIL each of the classes below:

First Estate:

Second Estate:

Third Estate:

Bourgeoisie:

Peasantry:

Urban Workers:

10.) Explain how the upper bourgeois classes were both similar to, and different from, the nobility.

11.) How did the ideas of the philosophes play a role in the French Revolution?

12.) How did the Monarchy and the parlements relationship change in the 18th century? What effect did this have?

13.) What was the financial crisis happening in France? (hint: you may want to explain with specifics, in the event it comes up on a future LEQ/DBQ)

14.) Who was the king of France at the outset of the Revolution? Describe his qualities and how he responded to the economic crises France faced.

**19.3 The French Revolution**

15.) Read the excerpt by Jacques Necker on pg 570. Explain the extent to which Necker supports the idea that the French government’s financial woes contributed to the start of the Revolution. (hint, excellent DBQ question…)

16.) What was the “assembly of notables”? What was the estates-general? When was the last time it had been called together?

17.) Describe the differences between the delegates of the first, second, and third estates at the Estates-General meeting.

18.) What was the cahiers de doleances?

19.) What was the voting discrepancy? Why did the third estate desire to make a change to the voting rules? How did they want it to work?

20.) Who was Emmanuel Joseph Sieyes? From which estate did he emerge? What role did he play at the start of the Revolution?

21.) Describe the Tennis Court Oath. Why did it happen? What did the Third Estate do at this particular event?

22.) What was the reaction of the Parisian common people in the days immediately following the establishment of the National Assembly? What was the most major event of this particular period?

23.) What was the Great Fear? Who was most responsible for these uprisings?

24.) What was the first order of business of the National Assembly? Why?

25.) What is the significance of the Declaration of the Rights of man and Citizen? What principles did it suggest? (be specific)

26.) Who is Olympe de Gouges? Why is she such a critical figure of the French Revolution?

27.) What was the womens’ march to Versailles all about? How did it end? What were their demands? How did Louis XVI respond?

28.) What happened to the Roman Catholic Church in France after the start of the Revolution? How did the role of the clergy change at this time?

29.) Explain the “Civil Constitution of the Clergy.”

30.) When did the National Assembly complete the constitution? What kind of government did it establish and how was it structured? What was the new name of the body that replaced the National Assembly?

31.) What were the grievances of various opposition groups in Paris. (Of course, by opposition it refers to those groups who opposed how the revolution was being carried out). Which groups were most opposed?

32.) What was the Jacobin Club (aka, the Jacobins)? What kinds of people were part of the Jacobins and what was their stance?

33.) What did Louis XVI try to do in the midst of all this dissent in June of 1791? What was the result of this?

34.) What was the response of foreign monarchs to the French Revolution? In particular, explain the reactions of Leopold II of Austria and King Frederick Wilhelm II of Prussia. How well did the two get along? What was the Declaration of Pillnitz? How did the French Legislative Assembly respond? (this should be a substantial answer)

35.) After the start of war, how did the French perform initially? Explain how fears of an invasion stoked some dissent in Paris. What did they have to do in September of 1792? Why did this happen?

36.) What was the Paris Commune? Who were the Sans-Culotte? Who was their leader? And how long did it last?

37.) After the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, what was the brand new legislature called? What was the primary social makeup of this new law-making body? What new form of government did they establish?

38.) Who are the Girondins? What did they stand for? Who were the Mountain? Why were they called this? And what did the Girondins and the Mountain have in common?

39.) With respect to the fate of Louis XVI, what was the major difference between the Girondins and the Mountain? What ended up happening to the King?

40.) What did the Paris Commune (and Sans-Culottes) end up doing to the Girondins? What effect did this have?

41.) The National Convention did not control all of France, what were some places that remained outside their control?

42.) What major foreign threat did France face by the start of 1793? How did the National Convention respond to this crisis?

43.) What was the Committee of Public Safety? Who was Maximilien Robespierre?

44.) How did the Committee of Public Safety go about defending Paris, the newly formed republic, and the overall revolutionary effort? What did Spielvogel mean when he called it a “Nation in arms”? In what way have historians described the French revolutionary army as fundamentally different from those that fought in previous wars? (hint, this is a significant question)

45.) Describe the “Reign of Terror”? Who were some of the casualties of this movement? What kinds of activities, behaviors, or sentiments were targeted as threats during this time?

46.) What is a guillotine? How many met their fate in this manner? Where did the majority of the losses during the reign of terror come from? Why these places?

47.) Describe the social/demographic breakdown of the victims of the Terror? Who was most affected by it?

48.) What is the “Republic of Virtue”? What kinds of measures did they attempt to put into place? Was it success or failure? Why?

49.) What role did women play in the French Rev? Why weren’t men of the revolution receptive to female participation?

50.) What was the National Convention’s approach to religion? What policy did they put into place? What was the catherdral of Notre Dame redesignated? What effect did this policy have on the rest of the French population? (hint, significant question here.)

51.) Describe the new republican calendar. Why was it established (hint, there are several significant purposes to it)? How did people react to it?

52.) Explain the situation in Saint-Domingue (now known as Haiti). Who was Toussaint L’Ouverture and what role did he play in the events?

53.) How did the most radical stage of the French Revolution (the Reign of Terror) end? What happened to Robespierre?

54.) What kind of events comprised the Thermidorean Reaction?

55.) When the new constitution of 1795 was established, how was it different from the preceding one? How was the government to be structured and what was it called?

56.) Who was Gracchus Babeuf? What was his view an early version of? What happened to him?

57.) How well did the Directory function? What were its weaknesses? What is a coup d’etat?

**19.4 The Age of Napoleon**

58.) Explain a little bit about the early background of “Napoleone Buonaparte.” How did Napoleon come to be an artillery commander?

59.) Who was Josephine Beauharnais? What events defined Napoleon’s career from 1795 to 1797?

60.) When Napoleon ran the coup, what kind of government was established (HINT this is kind of a trick question, what was it on the surface, what was it actually)? What was Napoleon’s title?

61.) How did Napoleon go about making peace with the Roman Catholic Church?

62.) What was the Civil Code, aka the Napoleonic Code? How well did it represent the revolutionary ideals the French fought for during the previous decade?

63.) What effect did the Napoleonic Code have on women?

64.) How did the French bureaucracy become more administratively centralized during Napoleon’s rule?

65.) What role did censorship play in Napoleon’s growing despotism?

66.) Who were France’s enemies in the early part of Napoleon’s consulate? What did he do early on in his reign at Amiens? How successful was this?

67.) Describe the importance of the Battle of Austerlitz.

68.) What was the Treaty of Tilsit (pronounced TIL-see)?

69.) What 3 parts comprised Napoleon’s Grand Empire? How did Napoleon administer such a vast territory? What role did his family play in this?

70.) What was the biggest problem Napoleon faced with regards to Great Britain? What happened at the Battle of Trafalgar?

71.) Explain what nationalism is and why it was such a massive obstacle for Napoleon’s effective conquering of distant territories.

72.) Who was Johann Gottlieb Fichte? What made his philosophical ideas significant? How did Napoleon’s vision of France influence change in Prussia?

73.) What was Napoleon’s connection to Tsar Alexander I of Russia? How did the nature of their relationship change over time. (Hint, you may want to do some outside reading on this one.)

74.) Did the French win or lose the Battle of Borodino? Be analytical. Did France conquer Russia? What happened?

75.) What happened when Napoleon was first exiled? Where did he go? What was the “100 Days”? How did it end? Then what happened? (looking for a substantial answer on this one…)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR PRIMARY SOURCES (BOXED DOCUMENTS)**

1. “The Argument for Independence”: What influence did John Locke's social contract and his theory of revolution have on the American Declaration of Independence? How would a member of the British Parliament respond to this declaration? What might have been the influence of America’s Declaration of Independence and the Revolution upon various segments of European society? (page 562)

2. “The State of French Finances”: Questions in box. (page 570)

3. “The Fall of the Bastille”: Is the Parisian newspaper report of the fall of the Bastille on July 14, 1789 an objective account? Why and/or why not? Discuss the fall of the Bastille and indicate why its fall came to mark the triumph of French “liberty” over despotism? Why did the fall of the Bastille become the great

ymbolic event of the French Revolution? (page 568)

4. Opposing Viewpoints: Questions in box (page 570-71)

3. “The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen”: What “natural rights” does this document proclaim for the French? How do those natural or inalienable rights differ, if they do, from those setdown in the American Declaration of Independence? If they do differ, how and why? To what extent do you believe that this document was influenced by the ideas or ideals of the philosophes? If so, from which of the philosophes? (Handout)

4. “The Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen”: What rights for French women does this document assert? Given the nature and scope of argument in favor of women's rights here, what key effects on European society can you now attribute to the French Revolution? Are there any of

Olympe de Gouges’ “Rights of Women and of Female Citizens” which have yet to be achieved in western society? If so, which ones, and why? (Handout)

5. “Justice in the Reign of Terror”: Was there anything “just” about the revolutionary courts? What explanations or rationales could be given to justify such a system? In the late nineteenth century, the guillotine was considered a humane instrument? Why? Compare the Bastille and the guillotine as revolutionary symbols. (page 577)

6. “Robespierre and Revolutionary Government”: How did the radical revolutionary leader Robespierre justify the violent activities of his regime? In your opinion, how justifiable are his explanations of his actions? How does this document glorify the state and advance preservation of the state as the highest goal of modern politicians and statesmen? (page 578)

7. “De-Christianization”: Questions in box (page 580)

8. “Napoleon and Psychological Warfare”: What themes did Napoleon use to play upon the emotions of his troops and inspire them to greater efforts? In 1796, which of those themes might have been most inspiring and convincing? Do you think Napoleon believed any of these words? Was Napoleon a revolutionary? Why or why not? (page 584)

**Key Terms and Identifications**

1. July 14, 1789, the Bastille

2. natural rights

3. the marquis Lafayette

4. First, Second, and Third Estates

5. the *taille*

6. Third Estate

7. the bourgeoisie

8. Abbe Sieyes

9. National Assembly

10. Voting system and Tennis Court

Oath

11. *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*

12. Olympe de Gouges

13. Civil Constitution of the Clergy

14. The Jacobins

15. Declaration of Pillnitz

16. Paris Commune and *sans-culottes*

17. Georges Danton

18. National Convention

19. Girondins and the Mountain

20. the Vendee

21. Committee of Public Safety and Max. Robespierre

22. Reign of Terror

23. Temple of Reason

24. Toussaint L’Ouverture

25. Thermidorean Reaction

26. Directory

27. Napoleon Bonaparte

28. First Consul and Emperor

29. the Concordat

30. the Civil Code

31. Germaine de Stael

32. Austerlitz and Trafalgar

33. *fraternitie*

34. the Grand Army

35. Elba and Saint Helena