

Objectives

- Describe the social divisions of France's old order.
- List reasons for France's economic troubles in 1789.
- Explain why Louis XVI called the Estates-General and summarize what resulted.
- Understand why Parisians stormed the Bastille.



Terms and People

- **ancien régime** – the government in pre-revolution France
- **estate** – social class
- **bourgeoisie** – the middle class
- **deficit spending** – when a government spends more money than it takes in

Terms and People (continued)

- **Louis XVI** – king of France from 1774 to 1792; executed in 1793
- **Jacques Necker** – a financial advisor to Louis XVI
- **Estates-General** – the legislative body consisting of representatives of the three estates
- **cahier** – notebook used during the French Revolution to record grievances

Terms and People (continued)

- **Tennis Court Oath** – an oath taken by the members of the National Assembly to meet wherever the circumstances might require until they had created a constitution
- **Bastille** – fortress in Paris used as a prison; French Revolution began when Parisians stormed it in 1789

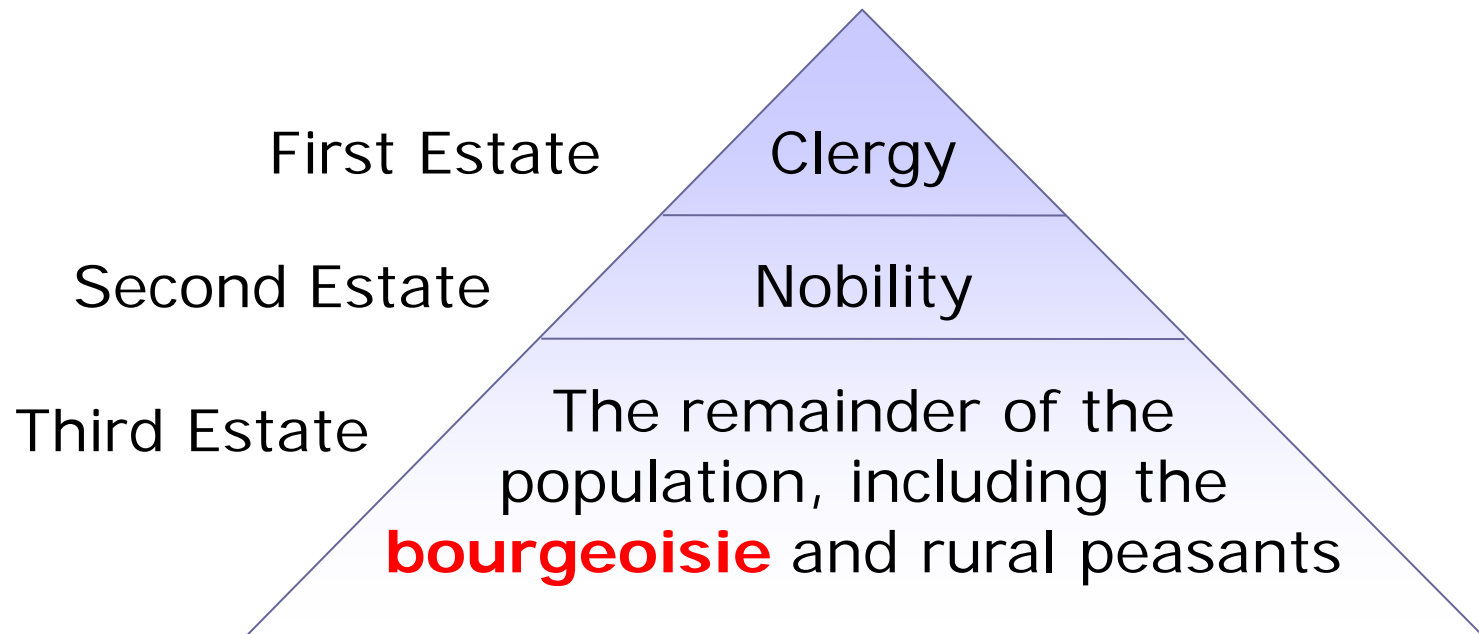


What led to the storming of the Bastille, and therefore, to the start of the French Revolution?

A volatile atmosphere in France resulted from a widespread famine and the influence of reformers inspired by Enlightenment ideas.

The situation exploded on July 14, 1789.

In 1789, France's society was based on a system created in the Middle Ages. The **ancien régime** separated everyone in French society into one of three **estates**:



The first two estates enjoyed most of the wealth and privileges of France.

The Church	The nobility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Owned 10% of the land• Collected tithes• Paid no direct taxes to the state	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Had rights to top jobs in the government, the army, the courts, and the Church• Paid no taxes

The Third Estate was the most diverse and made up 95% of the population in France.

- Bourgeoisie and middle class

Paid taxes on everything from land to soap

- Urban workers
- Rural peasants

Owed fees and services dating back to medieval times

When the ideals of the Enlightenment spread among the Third Estate, many people began to question the existing social order.

Economic troubles added to the social unrest and heightened tensions. Years of deficit spending created a government that was deeply in debt.

The money from the government had been spent on:

- Louis XIV's court
- The Seven Years' War
- The American Revolution
- Rising costs of goods and services

Bad harvests in the 1780s made it harder to recoup this money.

To solve the financial crisis, the government had to increase taxes, reduce expenses, or both.

The first two estates resisted any attempts to make them pay taxes.

Louis XV ran up more debt.

Louis XVI was weak but attempted some economic reforms.

Louis XVI appointed Jacques Necker as his financial advisor. Necker made several recommendations to reduce the debt:

- Reduce extravagant court spending
- Reform government
- Abolish tariffs on internal trade
- Tax the First and Second Estates

When Necker proposed taxing the First and Second Estates, the nobles and high clergy forced Louis XVI to dismiss him.

The pressure for reforms mounted, but the powerful classes demanded that the king summon the **Estates-General**.

The nobles hoped that the Estates-General could bring the absolute monarch under their control and guarantee their own privileges.

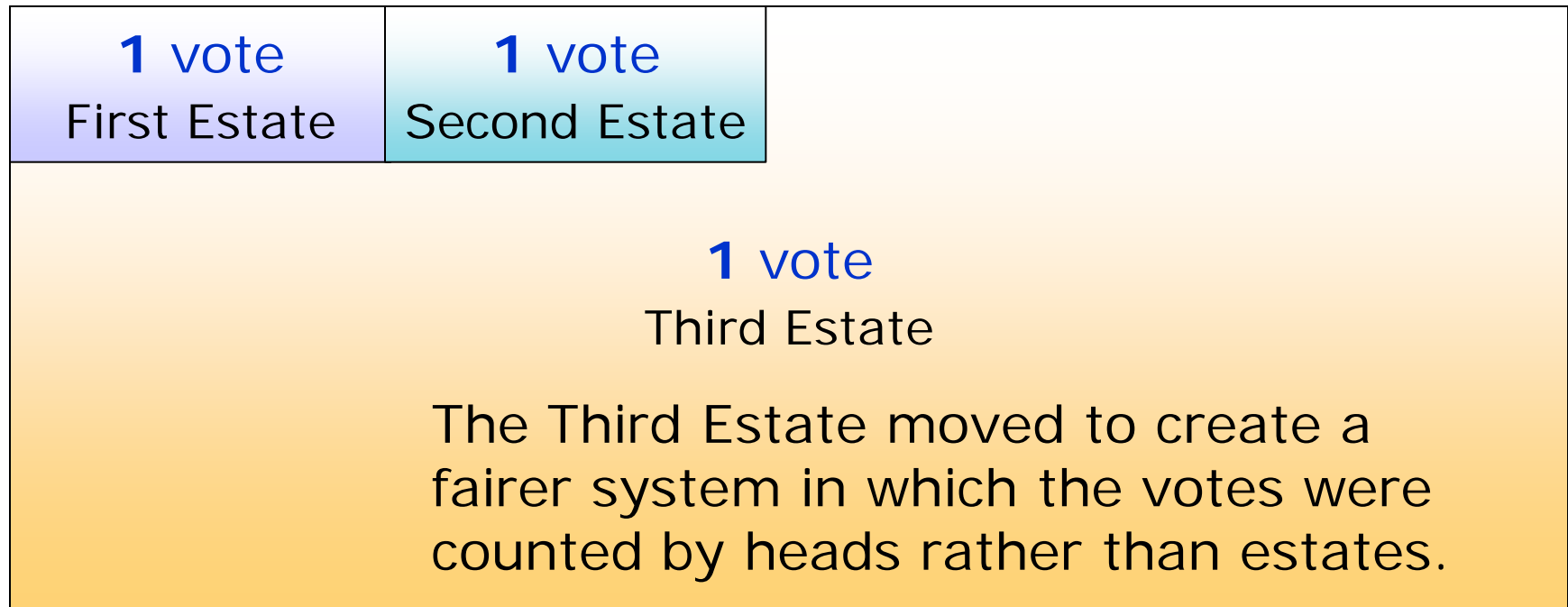
- In the meantime, France was on the verge of bankruptcy.
- Bread riots were spreading and nobles continued to fight against taxes.

Before the meeting, Louis had all the estates prepare **cahiers** listing their grievances.

- Fairer taxes!
- Freedom of the press!
- Regular meetings!

Many delegates from the Third Estate went to solve the financial crisis but also to insist on reforms.

The voting system created a stalemate, because each estate traditionally had one vote.



In June, 1789, after weeks of stalemate, members of the Third Estate declared themselves to be the National Assembly and the true representatives of the people of France.

They were locked out of their meeting hall and moved to a nearby tennis court.

The members of the National Assembly pledged, by the **Tennis Court Oath**, to continue to meet until a constitution was established.

Rumors abounded that the royal troops were about to occupy Paris.



- On July 14, 1789, crowds gathered around the **Bastille** demanding weapons and gunpowder that they thought were stored there.
- The storming and fall of the Bastille represented a challenge to the regime.

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz



Objectives

- Explain how the political crisis of 1789 led to popular revolts.
- Summarize the moderate reforms enacted by the National Assembly in August 1789.
- Identify additional actions taken by the National Assembly as it pressed onward.
- Analyze why there was a mixed reaction around Europe to the events unfolding in France.



Terms and People

- **factions** – dissenting groups of people
- **Marquis de Lafayette** – the leader of the National Guard, a largely middle-class militia; fought alongside George Washington in the American Revolution
- **Olympe de Gouges** – a journalist who believed that the Declaration of the Rights of Man should grant equal citizenship to women
- **Marie Antoinette** – Austrian-born queen of France; Louis XVI's wife

Terms and People (continued)

- **émigré** – a person who flees his or her country for political reasons
- **sans-culottes** – working-class men and women who made the French Revolution more radical
- **republic** – system of government in which officials are chosen by the people
- **Jacobins** – members of a revolutionary political club made during the French Revolution



What political and social reforms did the National Assembly institute in the first stage of the French Revolution?

The members of the National Assembly voted to end their own privileges after the storming of the Bastille.

From providing equal rights to all male citizens before the law, to the abolishment of their exclusion from taxes, the National Assembly aimed to change an unjust system.

Historians have divided the period of the French Revolution into four different phases.

National Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• France became a constitutional monarchy
Reign of Terror	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A radical phase with escalating violence• End of the monarchy
Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A period of reaction against extremism
Age of Napoleon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consolidation of many revolutionary changes• A period of war throughout Europe

The political crisis of 1789 in France coincided with the worst famine in memory. Rumors were rampant and created panic.

- During the period known as the “Great Fear,” peasants believed that government troops were seizing their crops.
- Peasants blamed nobles, who they thought were trying to reinstate medieval dues.

Paris was the revolutionary center of France, in which a variety of **factions** were trying to gain power.

National Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate• Led by the Marquis de Lafayette• A mainly middle-class militia
Paris Commune	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radical• Replaced the royalist government of Paris• Mobilized violent action for the revolution

The National Assembly reacted to the uprisings and voted to end the privileges of the nobility.

- Nobles gave up old manorial dues and exclusive hunting rights.
- Nobles **ended** their special legal status and their **exemptions from paying taxes**.
- The assembly enacted the equality of all male citizens before the law.

At the end of August, 1789, the National Assembly issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.

Modeled after the American Declaration of Independence, it announced:

- Free and equal rights for all men
- Natural rights for all men
- Equality before the law for all men
- Freedom of religion for all citizens
- Taxes levied fairly for all citizens

The Declaration of the Rights of Man did not please everyone.

Many women were disappointed that the Declaration did not grant equal citizenship to women.

Louis XVI did not want to accept the reforms of the National Assembly.

Women marched on Versailles on October 5, 1789. They were angry about the famine, and they demanded to see the king.



- They were also angry at **Marie Antoinette**, who was against reforms and lived a life of luxury.
- The women brought the king and queen to Paris, where they lived as virtual prisoners.

The National Assembly placed the Church under state control.

It dissolved convents and monasteries.

It ended papal authority over the French Church.

It made bishops and priests elected, salaried officials.

This move was condemned by the pope, many bishops and priests, and large numbers of French peasants.

The National Assembly produced the Constitution of 1791. This set up a limited monarchy.

The new Legislative Assembly could:

- Make laws
- Collect taxes
- Decide on issues of war and peace

Moderate reformers felt that the Constitution of 1791 completed the French Revolution.

At the time of the creation of the Constitution of 1791, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette attempted to escape France.

To many, this attempt meant that Louis was a traitor to the revolution.

To other nations, supporting the king meant being against the revolution.

The emperor of Austria and king of Prussia signed the Declaration of Pilnitz supporting Louis and threatening to intervene.

The revolutionaries prepared for war.

Rulers in Europe feared the French Revolution, a fear fed by stories of **émigrés** to their countries.

- The **sans-culottes** and the **Jacobins** held the upper hand in the Legislative Assembly.
- They demanded a **republic** and an end to tyranny abroad.

The radicals moved the Legislative Assembly to declare war on Austria, Prussia, Britain, and other states.

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Know It, Show It Quiz



Objectives

- Understand how and why radicals abolished the monarchy.
- Explain why the Committee of Public Safety was created and why the Reign of Terror resulted.
- Summarize how the excesses of the Convention led to the formation of the Directory.
- Analyze how the French people were affected by the changes brought about by the revolution.



Terms and People

- **suffrage** – the right to vote
- **Robespierre** – leader of the Committee of Public Safety; chief architect of the Reign of Terror
- **Reign of Terror** – period from September 1793 to July 1794 when those who resisted the French Revolution were arrested or executed
- **guillotine** – a bladed execution device used during the French Revolution

Terms and People (continued)

- **Napoleon** – popular military hero who became ruler of France
- **nationalism** – a strong feeling of pride in and devotion to one's country
- **Marseille** – port city in France; the French national anthem was named after it



What events occurred during the radical phase of the French Revolution?

Initially, the monarchy was abolished and a republic was established. War continued throughout Europe.

After the radicals gained control, those who were against the revolution were subject to arrest or execution, including the king and queen, who like thousands of others were sent to the guillotine.

In 1792, the war abroad was going badly for the French.

- Many revolutionaries believed that the king was in league with foreign powers to retain his power.
- **Citizens attacked the palace** where the king was held. The king and his family escaped to the Legislative Assembly.
- **Citizens also attacked prisons** that held nobles and priests.

Violence was spreading.

Radicals took control of the Legislative Assembly and called for the election of a new legislative body—the National Convention.

National Convention

- **Suffrage** was extended to all male citizens.
- Nobles' lands were seized.

In addition, the monarchy was abolished in favor of the creation of a republic.

**Louis XVI was put on trial as a traitor to France.
He was convicted and sentenced to death.**



- In January, 1793, Louis XVI was executed.
- In October, 1793, Marie Antoinette was executed.

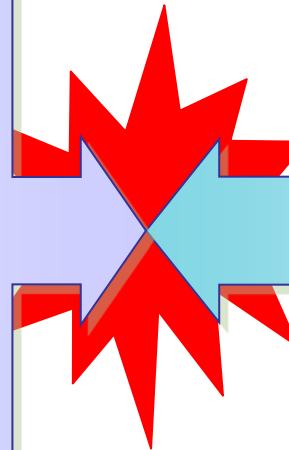
**By 1793, France as a nation was in peril.
External and internal threats were rampant.**

- War continued with the Netherlands, Spain, Britain, and Prussia.
- Royalists and priests led rebellions against the government.
- Sans-culottes demanded relief from food shortages and inflation.
- The Convention was divided between the Jacobins and the Girondins.

The Convention created the Committee of Public Safety to deal with these issues.

The Committee of Public Safety was granted absolute power to save the revolution.

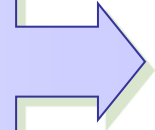
**At war:
French armies
overran the
Netherlands
and invaded
Italy.**



**At home:
France battled
counter-
revolutionaries
through the use
of terror.**

Maximilien **Robespierre** became the leader of the Committee of Public Safety.

He was a reformer, but also supported terror as a way to maintain order.



Robespierre:

- Promoted religious tolerance
- Tried to abolish slavery
- Arrested and tried all those who threatened the revolution

Nearly 300,000 people were arrested and 17,000 executed by **guillotine** for opposing the revolution. The **Reign of Terror** continued until Robespierre was executed in 1794.

In reaction to the Terror, moderates produced the Constitution of 1795 and set up a five-man Directory along with a two-house legislature.

The Directory:

- Made peace with Prussia and Spain
- Continued the war with Austria and Great Britain
- Created a constitutional monarchy

The Directory was also corrupt and did not solve continued problems such as rising bread prices. They appointed **Napoleon** Bonaparte, a popular military hero, to rule France.

By 1799, France had changed dramatically from the country of Louis XVI and his court.

- The term **citizen** applied to people of all social classes.
- Elaborate fashions gave way to practical and simple clothing.
- **Nationalism** rose throughout France.
- **State schools** replaced religious ones.
- Systems were organized to **help the poor, old soldiers, and widows.**

Section Review

QuickTake Quiz



Know It, Show It Quiz



Objectives

- Understand Napoleon's rise to power and why the French strongly supported him.
- Explain how Napoleon built an empire and what challenges the empire faced.
- Analyze the events that led to Napoleon's downfall.
- Outline how the Congress of Vienna tried to create a lasting peace.



Terms and People

- **plebiscite** – a popular vote by ballot
- **Napoleonic Code** – the code of laws created under Napoleon that embodied enlightenment principles of equality, tolerance, and freedom
- **annex** – add territory to an existing state, country, or empire
- **Continental System** – a form of economic warfare that closed European ports to British goods; the foreign policy in which Europe adopted Napoleon's reforms

Terms and People (continued)

- **guerrilla warfare** – a form of warfare using hit-and-run raids
- **scorched-earth policy** – when the movement of an army includes burning crops and villages to make it difficult for the enemy to follow
- **abdicate** – step down from power
- **Congress of Vienna** – a meeting of heads of state within Europe after Waterloo to restore stability and order in Europe

Terms and People (continued)

- **legitimacy** – principle by which monarchies that had been unseated by the French Revolution or Napoleon were restored
- **Concert of Europe** – a system in which the powers of Europe met periodically to discuss any problems affecting the peace in Europe



Explain Napoleon's rise to power in Europe, his subsequent defeat, and how the outcome still affects Europe today.

Napoleon rose to power in the midst of near-chaos in France. His successes on the battlefield along with his strong governmental control encouraged a French nationalism that brought Europe to its knees.

Napoleon's laws were spread throughout Europe during the expansion and remain important in many countries today.

Napoleon Bonaparte was a military hero who rose quickly through the army. He favored republican rule and the Jacobins.

1793

- Drove British forces from Toulon
- Won several victories against the Austrians
- Captured most of northern Italy

1798

- Lost in Egypt

1799

- Overthrew the Directory and set up a three-man governing board known as the Consulate

When Napoleon helped create the Consulate, he became First Consul.

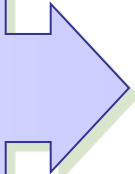
1802—Napoleon became consul for life.



1804—Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of the French.

Each step of the way, Napoleon had held a **plebiscite** and had been strongly supported by the French people.

Napoleon consolidated power by strengthening the central government. He:



- Controlled prices
- Encouraged new industry
- Built new roads and canals
- Set up a system of public schools
- Made peace with the Catholic Church
- Encouraged émigrés to return
- Recognized peasants' right to lands

He implemented a new set of laws known as the **Napoleonic Code**.

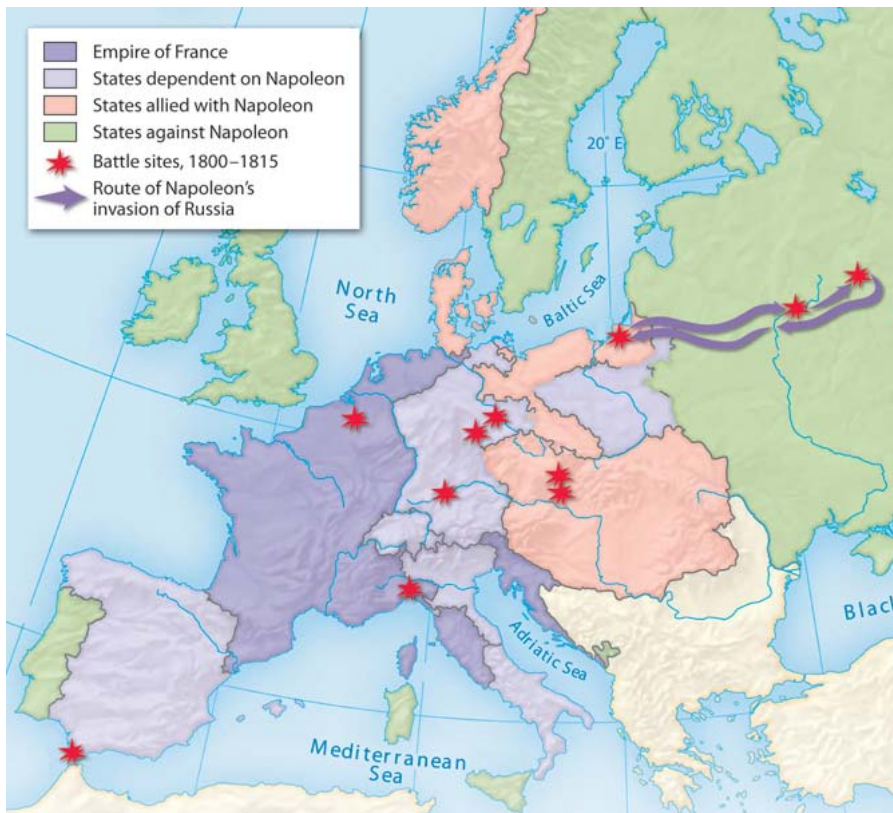


Napoleonic Code

- Equality of all male citizens before the law
- Religious toleration
- Abolition of feudalism

- The code embodied Enlightenment principles.
- But women lost most of their rights of citizenship.

From 1804 to 1812, Napoleon successfully battled most of Europe and created an empire.



France **annexed**:

- The Netherlands
- Belgium
- Parts of Italy
- Parts of Germany

Napoleon **also**:

- Abolished the Holy Roman Empire
- Cut Prussian territory in half

Napoleon was unable to defeat Great Britain at sea or through the use of the **Continental System.**

- Napoleon was defeated in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.
- The blockades created some hardships but Britain was able to maintain its trade routes in the Americas and India.

Many Europeans who had welcomed the ideas of the French Revolution saw Napoleon and his army as oppressors.

- In Spain, people resisted reforms that undermined the king and the Catholic Church.
- Nationalism in occupied countries created revolts and patriotic resistance through **guerrilla warfare**.

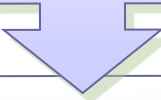
In 1812, the Russian winter stopped Napoleon's army from a victory.

The tsar initially supported Napoleon but ended up withdrawing from the Continental System.

When Napoleon attacked, the retreating Russian army's **scorched-earth policy** made it impossible for Napoleon's army to survive on what they left.

Napoleon retreated, and this disaster created an opportunity: a **Russian-British-Austrian-Prussian alliance against France.**

In 1813, the newly created alliance defeated Napoleon in the Battle of the Nations.



Napoleon **abdicated** in 1814 and Louis XVIII was recognized as king of France.



But Napoleon returned to France in triumph after Louis XVIII's return rekindled fears of the old regime.

Napoleon once again took to the battlefields. He was dealt a crushing blow by British forces at the Battle of Waterloo.



- He was forced to abdicate a second and final time.
- Thus ended the period of the French Revolution.

Napoleon's legacy:

Within France	Abroad
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Napoleonic Code• Expanded suffrage• More citizens had rights to property• More citizens had rights to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failed to make Europe into a French empire• Sparked nationalist feelings across Europe• Created a new Germany• Sold the Louisiana Territory and doubled the size of the United States

After Waterloo, the map of Europe was redrawn.
Diplomats and heads of state sat down at the
Congress of Vienna.

The chief goal was to create a lasting peace while preserving the old order. They wanted to:

- Create a balance of power
- Protect the system of monarchy

The Quadruple Alliance included Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Britain.

- The architects of peace promoted the principle of **legitimacy** and restored monarchies in nations throughout Europe.
- They pledged to act together to maintain the balance of power and suppress revolutionary uprisings.



The creation of the **Concert of Europe** enabled the powers to meet periodically to address any new problems affecting the peace of Europe.

This peace lasted for 100 years, but ultimately failed to recognize how nationalism would shake the foundations of Europe and Latin America in the next decades.

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Know It, Show It Quiz

