

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

### ***The French Revolution and Napoleon (Chapter 19)***

#### **SECTION 1**

- 1). What is a conflict of interest (critical thinking)?
  
- 2). Explain why the “nobles of the robe” power to either support or reject laws limiting their own power is an example of a conflict of interest (p.434)?
  
- 3). Wealthy families *inherited* a series of feudal privileges that other segments of French society did not enjoy. Explain why the bourgeoisie, peasants and city workers resented the First and Second Estates (p.434).
  
- 4). List three factors that contributed to the economic crisis in France (p.434-436). Firstly, the need for economic reform, e.g. the nobles had to pay their fair share; secondly, massive state debt made the monarchy insoluble (or incapable of governing); and thirdly, the combination of drought along with rising food prices and stagnant wages destabilized France from below. All three of these factors unlocked reform-oriented forces hitherto suppressed by the strength of the monarchy and traditional power.
  
- 5). The political philosopher John Locke argued that a king or queen only had a right to rule insofar as they had the confidence of the ruled, i.e. the king made decisions that benefited society as a whole or broadly instead of just a narrow segment. He further argued that as soon as the monarch started behaving like a tyrant the people had a “right” to overthrow him. When Louis XVI wanted to pass a new tax into law people responded “this is illegal.” He responded by asserting “it is legal because I wish it!” Based on Locke’s argument, and what you’ve read so far, were the people of France justified or not in overthrowing Louis in 1789 (p.436 and critical thinking).

**Identify:** Louis XVI (p.435).

## SECTION 2

- 1). What fundamental problem did the *Estates-General* suffer from when it comes to democratic decision-making (p.437)?
- 2). What fundamental reform did the Third Estate want to introduce to the *Estates-General* to make decision-making more equitable (p.437)?
- 3). What did the *Declaration of the Rights of Man* attempt to establish (p.438)?
- 4). The text book describes Louis XVI riding into Paris “on horseback, escorted by a cheering crowd. He wore the tricolor, the red, white, and blue ribbon that the revolutionaries had adopted as their symbol.” The text claims that by forcing the king to wear the tricolor, the French people showed that they were directing events in France. In your opinion, is Louis’ wearing the tricolor an example of fate, i.e. France was destined to become more democratic, etc. or the weight of circumstances, i.e. he was vulnerable and had no choice but to go along? Explain (p.438).

**Identify:** National Assembly (p.437), Tennis Court Oath (p.437).

## SECTION 3

- 1). What circumstances made the revolutionaries of France more radical (p.440-441)?
- 2). After Robespierre’s death in July 1794, a tide of “reaction” swept across France. The “radical” phase of the revolution was over. What do the political terms “reactionary” and “radical” mean (*Google* and critical thinking)?

**Identify:** Committee of Public Safety (p.443), Reign of Terror (p.443), Robespierre (p.443).

## SECTION 4

- 1). In what sense was Napoleon both a reflection of the forces of reaction and radicalism in France (p.446-447)?
- 2). What does the word “illiberal” literally mean (*Google*)?
- 3). Taken at face value the French Revolution was fought to expand freedom, liberty and human rights; however, the Reign of Terror and Napoleon’s seizure of power

demonstrated that the revolution had changed direction. Historians actually argue that the French government—especially under Robespierre and Napoleon in turn—provided the model that Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Communist Russia would all follow in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Based on what you have read on pages 446 and 447 what three policies did Napoleon follow that could accurately be described as “reactionary and illiberal” (critical thinking)?

**Identify:** Directory (p.444), Napoleonic Code (p.447).

## SECTION 5

1). The era of the French Revolution and Napoleon had many lasting effects on France and the rest of Europe. Identify and explain the significance of four such effects (p.450-451).

**Identify:** Continental System (p.448), Nationalism (p.449), Guerilla Warfare (p.449).

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

- 1. In the late 1780s, the French monarchy faced a severe economic crisis.** Efforts at reform failed in part because of the class system of the Old Regime and in part because of King Louis XVI’s weakness. Finally, the king summoned the Estates General.
- 2. The French Revolution began in 1789.** The three estates declared themselves the National Assembly. That body abolished feudalism, introduced sweeping religious reforms, and prepared for the *Constitution* of 1791.
- 3. The Revolution became more radical after 1792.** France was attacked from the outside by other European nations and from the inside by people who opposed the revolution. To defend the revolution, radical revolutionaries launched the Reign of Terror, executing thousands of French people.
- 4. In 1795, reaction to the Reign of Terror led to the creation of the Directory.** However, Napoleon Bonaparte overthrew the Directory in 1799 and eventually crowned himself emperor. He reaffirmed many ideals of the revolution in the *Napoleonic Code* and other reforms.

**5. Napoleon built an empire across Europe.** Controlling his empire proved difficult, however. Nationalist movements and the ongoing struggle with Britain drained French resources. In 1814, Napoleon's enemies invaded France, forcing the emperor to abdicate. Although the revolutionary era ended, both France and Europe had been greatly changed.

## ***Revolutions and Reaction (Chapter 20)***

### **SECTION 1**

1). What is political liberalism (p.455)?

2). What is political conservatism (p.455)?

3). What ideas did liberals support (p.456)?

4). What ideas did conservatives support (p.456)?

5). Both conservatives and liberals believe social, political and cultural change is inevitable (they just tended to disagree on the speed and tolerance of that change). If change is in fact inevitable, which of the two political philosophies—liberalism or conservatism—best reflects the way the world actually works (critical thinking)?

**Identify:** Edmund Burke (p.456), Prince Metternich (p.457), Legitimacy (p.457), Congress of Vienna (p.457), Concert of Europe (p.458), *Status-quo* (p.458), Carlsbad Decrees (p.459), Balance of Power (*Google*).

### **SECTION 2**

1). In your opinion, why did France find it so difficult to establish a stable government 1815 and on (p.455 and critical thinking)?

2). The three French kings—Louis XVI, Louis XVIII and Charles X—all shared one fundamental flaw in common when it came to their understanding of their own authority and the direction French society was taking. What was this flaw (critical thinking)?

**Identify:** July Ordinances (p.460), Louis Blanc (p.461), Socialism (p.461), Second Republic (p.461).

### SECTION 3

1). Why did the July Revolution in France and the nationalist revolt in Belgium succeed (p.462)?

2). Why did most of the revolutions of 1848 ultimately fail (p.465)?

**Identify:** Louis Kossuth (p.463), Giuseppe Mazzini (p.164).

### CHAPTER SUMMARY

- 1. In 1814, the Congress of Vienna met to restore peace and stability to Europe.**  
The victorious powers redrew political boundaries and restored monarchs to the thrones lost during the Napoleonic wars.
- 2. The ideals of the French Revolution continued to inspire demands for reform in France.** In 1830, Parisians revolted, forcing King Charles X to flee. In 1848, another uprising in Paris caused Louis Phillippe to flee and resulted in the Second Republic. Louis Napoleon was chosen president but soon made himself emperor.
- 3. The revolutions of 1830 and 1848 in France ignited forces of liberalism and nationalism in other parts of Europe.** In 1830, the Belgians won independence, but efforts by Poles and others to gain freedom failed. The revolutions of 1848 were at first successful in Bohemia, Hungary, and northern Italy. However, conservative forces soon reasserted their power.