



The French Revolution

Causes:

- ★ King Louis XVI and his predecessor spent too much money and imposed heavy taxes
- ★ Farming conditions had been poor for two decades
- ★ The “Third Estate,” or lower-class non-aristocratic majority, were underrepresented in political matters
- ★ Because the French assisted The US in its revolution, many were inspired by its ideas
- ★ Although trade was growing, taxes were taking money out of the hands of the people, making business no longer profitable
- ★ goals were to replace the “ancient regime” with ideals of equality, freedom of speech and representative government.
- ★ French peoples wanted to start from scratch and create a brand new society

Thesis: the French Revolution was an effective revolt caused by lack of equality, tax returns and a generally oppressive government reign. the revolution, with the goal of a republic to replace the monarchy, eventually gave way to violent conflict, ending the King Louis XVI’s harsh dictatorship and giving way to another radical dictatorship lead by Napoleon.

Napoleon's reign successfully increased the political and economic power of France, promoting industrial and agricultural growth and a healthy economy, however, the people’s goals of radical social-political change were only partially (hypothetically?) addressed.

managed to stay consistent throughout this period of immense transition and adjustment.

Effects:

- ★ immense government debt
- ★ Formation of the national assembly
- ★ French conquests spread nationalism, and attempted to spread the republics ideas.
- ★ The Terror under leaders such as Robespierre were disasters, and led to thousands of executions. Eventually Robespierre himself was executed
- ★ Revolutionaries like Napoleon Bonaparte took power.
- ★ The Republic eventually degraded into a military dictatorship lead by Bonaparte
- ★ Universal Suffrage was passed, but never for women. (the issue was raised more explicitly than it was in the US revolution)

Continuities

- ★ agricultural practices
- ★ Government remained Dictatorial
- ★ Increasing population
- ★ Growing Economy

Change:

Rapid growth in industrial production
Brought the issue of women's rights to the forefront (though little changed)
“Napoleonic Code:” new property rights, all men equal
Separation of church and state
Holy Roman Empire collapsed

Thesis: The French Revolution initially greatly expanded the rights of the average citizen, but ultimately failed to become a republic, and remained a dictatorship. It reverted to its later form after Napoleon failed as well, meaning that while the revolution did have an impact on ideology, and was in that way revolutionary, especially in the concept of rights, it failed to implement these ideas successfully

What is Revolution?

★ As it was in France, the revolution was defined as a completely new beginning, as opposed to the American revolution which sought to restore past freedoms.

★ The social system in France was turned upon its head, with the destruction of the elite upper class, and the wiping out of the last remnants of Feudalism.

★ Famous British romantic poet out the revolution as “human nature seeming born again. Bliss it was in that dawn to be alive”

★ The French empire under Napoleon sought also to impose their new system of equality on others. Napoleon proclaimed equality of rights, religious liberty and the eradication of Feudalism

MEHAPPY

Declaration of the Rights of Man & Citizen
- 1789

M- the assembly wished to secure the rights of the average French citizen.

E- “[the french people, believing that] ignorance, neglect or contempt of the rights of man are the sole cause of the calamities and the corruption of governments, have attempted to set forth in a solemn declaration of the natural, inalienable and sacred rights of man,”

H- The French Revolution had recently overthrown the Former monarchic rule of France, establishing a republic in which, after The Terror, attempted to establish rights for the average citizen and secure its own stability.

A- This document was aimed at the average citizen, and government official of France, and was meant to encourage a sense of patriotism.

P- To promote the version of equality and rights espoused by the French Revolution.

P- This article was passed by the French Assembly, a group of French Revolutionaries initially interested in promoting their new ideas. It meant to secure the rights of their fellow “citizens”, as opposed to other governments in France, which were not of the people.

Y- The French revolution set out with high ideals, but ultimately, while changing somewhat reverted to its former state of dictatorship, though some ideas about the rights of man remained

notes

goals of the revolution:

★to establish a constitutional monarchy and promote harmony among the classes

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