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Period 2, Unit 8

December 8, 2013

**Notes Pgs. 547-557**

The Crisis of the Monarchy

1. French Revolution would shatter most of the political social, and ecclesiastical structures of Europe.
   * Late 1780s: the French royal government could not command sufficient taxes to finance itself
   * Louis XVI and his ministers were in such a deadlock that they summoned the First Estates General, which had not met since 1614
   * None of this would have occurred if the monarchy had not reached a state of financial crisis that meant it could no longer function within the limit and practices of existing political institutions

The Monarchy Seeks New Taxes

1. French monarchy emerged form the Seven Years’ Wars defeated, deeply in debt, and unable tie put its finances on a sound basis

* + **Parlement**: French court
  + Twenty-five years after the Seven Years’ Wars, the monarchy tried to develop a plan to tax the wealth of the nobility, but was opposed
  + Louis XV – sexually scandalous life was known throughout France

1. 1770- Louis XV appointed René Maupeou ad chancellor
   * René Maupeou – abolished the *parlement*, then began to make the administration more efficient
   * 1774 – Louis XV died of smallpox
   * Louis XVI – successor of Louis XV, wife was Marie Antoinette, lived as Versailles, rarely left he grounds or dwelled in Paris
2. The monarchy was unable to rally public opinion to its side because it had lost most of its moral authority.
   * Marie Antoinette – wife of Louis XVI, reputation of sexual misconduct and personal extravagance

Necker’ Report

1. 1781 – debt was larger due to the aid of the Americans in the American Revolution

* Jacques Necker: a Swiss banker who produced a public report that the situation was not so bad as it ahd been feared, argued the budget was in surplus

Calonne’s Reform Plan and the Assembly of Notables

1. Charles Alexandre de Calonne: minster of finance, proposed to encourage international trade, to lowers some taxes, sought t remove international barriers to trade and remove government regulation, wanted to introduce a new land tax

* ***Gabelle***: tax on salt
* ***Corvée***: peasants labor services of public works

1. Monarchy had little to no room to maneuver

* February 1787 – met with the Assembly of Notables, nominate by the royal ministry from the upper ranks of the aristocracy and the church, to seek support for his plan
* Claimed the only the Estates General of France could consent to new taxes

Deadlock and the Calling of the Estates General

1. Charles Loménie de Brienne – replaced Calonne, archbishop of Toulouse and the chief opponent of Calonne at the Assembly of Notables, appealed to the Assembly of the Clergy to approve a large to fund part of the debt

* ***Don Gratuit***: reduced the voluntary contribution

1. July 1788: the king agreed to convoke the Estates General the next year

* Brienne resigned and Necker replaced him

The Revolution of 1789

The Estates General Becomes the Nation Assembly

1. First Estate (clergy), Second Estate (nobility), and the Third Estate everyone else in the kingdom

* All representatives in the Estates General were men

1. Abbé Siéyès: priest, published a pamphlet in 1789, the spokesman for the Third Estate

Debate over Organization and Voting

1. September 1788: Parlement of Paris ruled that voting in the Estates General should be conducted by order rather than by head
2. The Third Estate experienced various forms of political and social discrimination from the nobility

Doubling the Third

1. The royal council eventually decides that strengthening the Third Estate would best serve the interest of the monarchy

* December 1788: the council announced the Third Estate would elect twice as many representatives as either of the nobles or the clergy

The Cahiers de Doléances

1. ***Cahiers de doleances***: lists of grievances, registered by the local electors, criticized government waste, indirect taxes, church taxes, and corruption, and the hunting rights of the aristocracy

* There was broad agreement that the government needed major reform, that greater equality in taxation and other matters was desirable

The Third Estate Creates the National Assembly

1. The complaints, reforms, and hopes to reform of the *cahiers* could not be discussed until the questions of the organization and voting in the Estates General had been decided

* June 1: the Third Estates invited the clergy and the nobles to join them in making a new legislative body
* June 17: that body declared itself the National Assembly
* June 19: The Second Estate voted to join the Assembly

The Tennis Court Oath

1. June 20: finding themselves unusually locked out of the place they were meeting in, the National Assembly moved to a near indoor tennis court

* Tennis Court Oath – members would continue to sit until they had given France a constitution
* Louis XVI ordered the Nation Assembly to desist

1. June 27: capitulated and formally asked the First and Second Estates to meet with the National Assembly, where voting would occur by head rather than by order

* The National Assembly (Nation Constituent Assembly), was composed of a majority of members drawn from all three orders, who shared liberal roles for the administrative

Fall of the Bastille

1. Louis XVI attempted to regain to political initiate by mustering royal troops near Versailles and Paris

* July 11: Louis dismissed Necker, his minister of finance

1. The mustering of royal troops in Paris crated anxiety in they city, where in 1789, high prices for bread had created/produce riots
2. July 14: shopkeepers, tradespeople, artisan, and wage earners marched to the Bastille to get weapons for the militia

* Troops in the Bastille fired into the crowd, killing ninety-eight people causing the crowd to storm the Bastille

1. July 15: the militia offered to command to Marquis de Lafayette

* Marquis de Lafayette: young liberal aristocrat, hero of the American Revolution, crated the flag of France
* ***Cockade***: badge, eventually the tricolored flag of the revolution

1. ***Journées***: day on which the populace of Paris redirected the course of the Revolution

The “Great Fear” and the Night of August 4

1. **“Great Fear:”** popular urban disturbances that swept across much of the French countryside, saw the burning of the *châteaux*, the destruction of legal record sand documents, and the refusal to pay feudal dues

* Peasants were reclaiming rights a property they had lost through administrative tightening of the collection of feudal dues during the past century as well as venting their anger against the injustices of rural

1. August 4, 1789: aristocrats in the National Assembly tried to halt the spreading disorder in the countryside, renounced feudal rights, dues, and legal exemptions, ALL French citizens were subject to the same and equal laws
   * Opened new positions
2. Many people suffered form hunger
3. The political, social, and economical grievance of many sections of the country became combined

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

1. August 27, 1789: the Assembly issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
2. Declaration of the Right of Man and Citizen: drew on the political language of the Enlightenment and that the state of Virginia had adopted in June 1776
3. Two most powerful universal political ideas in the constitution were civic equality and popular sovereignty: 1 challenged the legal and social inequalities of European life, 2 asserted that governments must be responsible to the governed.
4. Declaration specifically applied to men and not women

* Women were particularly concerned with property, inheritance, family, and divorce
* Declaration of the Right of Man and Citizen would provide an intellectual framework for bringing into the realm for active civic life

The Parisian Women March on Versailles

1. Louis XVI stalled before ratifying the Declaration and the aristocratic renunciation of feudalism

* Bread remained scarce and expensive
* October 5: some 7,000 Parisian women armed with pikes, guns, swords, and knives marched to Versailles demanding more bread
* Parisians also demanded that he and his family return to Paris with them
* October 6: the king’s carriage followed the crowd into the city of Paris, where they would now be living Both Paris and France remained peaceful until the summer of 1792