7-3-1: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

**NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_AGE OF REVOLUTIONS 7-3**

The Enlightenment, the social imbalance of the Old Regime, great war debts, & the personal spending of King Louis XVI inspired the French people to have a revolution in 1789. There were 3 classes: (a) *First Estate* –Roman Catholic Church clergy (leaders) (b) *Second Estate* – nobility (c)*Third Estate* (everybody else) – lawyers, craftsmen, merchants, & peasants. This 3rd Estate paid most of the taxes & was not represented in the government. The king had spent lots of money on foreign wars, like helping the U.S. in our American Revolution. He needed money, so he called the *Estates-General* (legislative body) together. They asked that each male in France get to vote; he refused, and they left and formed the *National Assembly*. On the king’s tennis court, they wrote a new constitution, called the *Tennis Court Oath*. On July 14, 1789, peasants took over & tore down a prison/armory called the Bastille. This represents the beginning of the revolution and is their national holiday, *Bastille Day*! Peasants killed/looted nobles’ homes because they were so angry and poor! In 1791, a constitutional monarchy was established with the Legislative Assembly in charge. The “*Radicals*” took over, put the king in prison, and created the National Convention. A radical group, the *Jacobins* took over, started a ‘draft’ (mandatory army), and began the guillotine executions of “*enemies of the revolution”*. They formed a Committee of Public Safety, led by *Maximilien Robespierre*, & he started a *Reign of Terror*, with 25,000-40,000 beheaded. The king, queen (Marie Antoinette), and even Robespierre were beheaded. (1793-94) After this, the revolution became more conservative, led by the *Directory*. In 1799 *Napoleon Bonaparte* took over ( a coup d’etat), and did several good things: established a national banking system, set up a new efficient taxing system, ended government corruption, restored position of Catholic Church, developed a uniform system of laws (the Napoleonic Code). He crowned himself emperor in 1804. He began his quest for an empire and took over most of Europe by 1812.

7-3-2: NAPOLEONIC WARS /NATIONALISM

Napoleon controlled most of Europe by 1812. He started this empire-building after he made himself emperor in 1804. It included parts of Spain, Portugal, Italy, & Germany. He never conquered Great Britain or Russia! He made 3 mistakes that ‘killed’ him: (a) He blockaded Britain – called the Continental System (b) the Peninsular War, & (c) He tried to invade Russia. He was captured in the Hundred Days War & sent to Elba first (he escaped) and then St. Helena, after finally losing at the Battle of Waterloo! One good result of Napoleon’s wars was the spread of nationalism and other revolutions around Europe. Nationalism is the belief that you should be loyal to people that share your culture (language, customs, religion, etc.) As they were conquering other nations, Napoleon’s soldiers were spreading Enlightenment ideas/rebellion ideas. They had lived through the French Revolution and knew about limited government. People around Europe began to be sick of Napoleon trying to force the French culture on them. Even some of his soldiers backed/helped revolutions in other countries they were conquering. The French slogan, “Liberty, Equality, & Fraternity” , became the rallying cry for millions across Europe as they began to resent Napoleon’s presence in countries, like Austria, Prussia, Italy, and Portugal. The 1830s/1840s saw lots of nationalist movements, even though some of the monarchs wanted to get back their power (Congress of Vienna)! It was too late! The people loved nationalism. Two main aspects/results of this were (a) unification – people of the same culture joined together & (b) separation – Groups splintered off from their current government to form one that represented their group & interest more. There were many new nations formed after 1815. Nationalist in Europe started with Greece who became independent in 1830.

There were revolutions in Belgium, Italy, and Russia, although most of these were suppressed, or stopped by conservative groups. The one in France was successful with Emperor Napoleon III taking over and stabilizing & industrializing France. German nationalism was led by Austria & Prussia, which were the strongest ‘states’ in this area. People with the same culture & customs wanted to be united! This unification effort was led by Wilhelm I & Otto Von Bismarck (Prussia). His policy of ruling was known as realpolitik, meaning the ‘politics of reality’, a kind of a no-nonsense policy! Mr. Bismarck deliberately provoked his neighbors like France & Austria to start wars with the German states so that the Germans would see the need to unite as one country! It worked; by the late 1870s, Germany was united as one country!

Italian ‘states’ were also united into one country because of nationalism in the 1860s-1870s. Count Camillo di Cavour from the powerful ‘state’ of Piedmont-Sardinia led the northern area to unite, while Giuseppe Garibaldi (the Red Shirts) led the southern Italian states to unite! King Victor Emmanuel II led the new united Italy.

7-3-3: LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS:

Like the American & French Revolutions, the Haitian, Mexican, and South American revolutions were inspired by the Enlightenment and the rise of nationalism! The classes were unequal, and people were mad! At the top were the wealthy peninsulares (born in Spain) and the creoles (born in the Spanish colonies) who had all the power, wealth, & land! Below them were the mestizos, mulattos, and the slaves! Haiti belonged to France, had a lot of slaves, and was freed with the leadership of Toussaint L’Overture in 1804, making it the only successful slave revolt in history! Many of the revolutions in Latin America were led by Creoles as they had been educated in Europe & exposed to Enlightenment and revolutionary ideas! These creoles were worried about Napoleon taking over their colonies and being an absolute monarch! Mexico won independence from Spain due to the efforts of Father Miquel Hidalgo in 1821! Simon Bolivar led many countries in South America to become independent, beginning with his home country of Venezuela, with the help of Jose de San Martin.