**DUE 2-29 or 3-1 by 9pm**

**The Revolution Begins**

When a people’s army took control of Paris on July 13, King Louis ordered his troops to suppress the revolt. As news of the King’s actions spread, large groups of people in Paris took arms from nearby arsenals and on July 14, 1789, stormed the **Bastille**, an old fortress that had been converted to a jail. The revolutionaries, who included a number of women, believed many innocent people were being held there. The angry mob killed 98 of the prison guards and, displaying the prison commander’s head on a pole, marched through the streets of Paris.

The revolutionary virus spread to the countryside. Peasants began to attack manor houses and burned records detailing their responsibilities and obligations to their lords. Many peasants stopped paying taxes and seized common lands.



**The following excerpt is an eyewitness account of the fall of the Bastille (3 pts)**

“Veteran armies… have never performed greater prodigies [feats] of valor than this leaderless multitude of persons belonging to every class, workmen of all trades who, mostly ill-equipped and unused to arms, boldly affronted the fire from the ramparts and seemed to mock the thunderbolts the enemy hurled at them….

The attackers, having demolished the first drawbridge and brought their guns into position against the second, could not fail to capture the fort...…One of the [soldiers] opened the gate behind the drawbridge and asked what we wanted. ‘The surrender of the Bastille’ was the answer, on which he let us in. At the same time the besiegers lowered the great bridge....

Those who came in first treated the conquered enemy humanely and embraced the staff officers to show there was no ill-feeling. But a few soldiers posted on the platforms and unaware that the fortress had surrendered discharged their muskets, whereupon the people, transformed with rage, threw themselves on the [soldiers]….

… Several… [individuals] contended for the honor of having arrested the Marquis de Launay [the governor of the Bastille]… and a few others undertook to guard him and succeeded in getting him out of the Bastille, though he was roughly handled by the people, who were calling for his death….

But the fury of the crowd continued to increase and their blind wrath did not spare de Launay’s escort…. Exhausted by his efforts to defend his prisoner… he had to separate from M.de Launay... Hardly had he sat down when, looking after the procession, he saw the head of M. de Launay stuck on the point of a pike…. The people, fearing that their victim might be snatched away from them, hastened to cut his throat on the steps of the Hotel de Ville [City Hall]....

In the intoxication [excitement] of victory the unfortunate inmates of the dungeons of the Bastille had been forgotten. All the keys had been carried off in triumph and it was necessary to force the doors of the cells. Seven prisoners were found.”

**What significance did the attack on the Bastille have as a symbol?**

**What do you think about these developments in France?**

**How should the new government, the National Assembly, address these problems?**

**The National Assembly Acts (2 pts)**

On August 4, in a combative all-night meeting, nobles in the National Assembly voted to end their own privileges. They agreed to give up their old manorial dues, exclusive hunting rights, and special legal status. The National Assembly easily got concessions from the frightened King. They issued the **Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen** as a first step to writing a constitution.

* All men were born and remain free and equal in rights
* Natural rights of liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
* All male citizens are equal before the law
* Every Frenchmen had an equal right to hold public office
* Freedom of religion
* Taxes should be levied according to ability to pay

**How do you feel about the ideas in the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen? Why?**

**The Civil Constitution of the Clergy (2 pts)**

In order to pay off the large debt, the Assembly voted to take over and sell Church lands. They also put the French Catholic Church under state control. Under the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, issued in 1790, bishops and priests become elected, salaried officials.

**How do you feel about the Civil Constitution of the Clergy? Do you support it or oppose it? Why?**

**French Revolution Blog (5 pts)**

Read the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen (below) and write a blog entry below (as your social class) – To what extent do you agree or disagree with these articles and why? How do you predict they will affect change in France? Specifically reference AT LEAST 3 articles in your entry.

**Characters: Based on your last name**

Peasants/ Urban Workers (A - D)

Bourgeoisie (E - H)

Noble (I - L)

Clergy (M - P)

Queen Marie Antoinette (Q - T)

King Louis XVI (U - Z)

**Approved by the National Assembly of France, August 26, 1789**

The representatives of the French people, organized as a National Assembly, believing that the ignorance, neglect, or contempt of the rights of man are the sole cause of public calamities and of the corruption of governments, have determined to set forth in a solemn declaration the natural, unalienable, and sacred rights of man, in order that this declaration, being constantly before all the members of the Social body, shall remind them continually of their rights and duties; in order that the acts of the legislative power, as well as those of the executive power, may be compared at any moment with the objects and purposes of all political institutions and may thus be more respected, and, lastly, in order that the grievances of the citizens, based hereafter upon simple and incontestable principles, shall tend to the maintenance of the constitution and redound to the happiness of all. Therefore the National Assembly recognizes and proclaims, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following rights of man and of the citizen:

**Articles:**

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.

2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.

3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.

4. Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.

5. Law can only prohibit such actions as are hurtful to society. Nothing may be prevented which is not forbidden by law, and no one may be forced to do anything not provided for by law.

6. Law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes. All citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law, are equally eligible to all dignities and to all public positions and occupations, according to their abilities, and without distinction except that of their virtues and talents.

7. No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law. Any one soliciting, transmitting, executing, or causing to be executed, any arbitrary order, shall be punished. But any citizen summoned or arrested in virtue of the law shall submit without delay, as resistance constitutes an offense.

8. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary, and no one shall suffer punishment except it be legally inflicted in virtue of a law passed and promulgated before the commission of the offense.

9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty, if arrest shall be deemed indispensable, all harshness not essential to the securing of the prisoner’s person shall be severely repressed by law.

10. No one shall be disquieted on account of his opinions, including his religious views, provided their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.

11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom, but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law.

12. The security of the rights of man and of the citizen requires public military forces. These forces are, therefore, established for the good of all and not for the personal advantage of those to whom they shall be intrusted.

13. A common contribution is essential for the maintenance of the public forces and for the cost of administration. This should be equitably distributed among all the citizens in proportion to their means.

14. All the citizens have a right to decide, either personally or by their representatives, as to the necessity of the public contribution; to grant this freely; to know to what uses it is put; and to fix the proportion, the mode of assessment and of collection and the duration of the taxes.

15. Society has the right to require of every public agent an account of his administration.

16. A society in which the observance of the law is not assured, nor the separation of powers defined, has no constitution at all.

17. Since property is an inviolable and sacred right, no one shall be deprived thereof except where public necessity, legally determined, shall clearly demand it, and then only on condition that the owner shall have been previously and equitably indemnified.

Write your Blog Post Below and sign as your character: