

Revolutions Overview

Angry peoples build towards revolutions that will challenge absolute monarchy.

A. Absolute Monarchy – Limited Monarchy – Constitutional Monarchy

1. Absolute Monarchy -- King/Queen has total power
 - a. Divine Right – King/Queen power comes directly from God
2. Limited Monarchy -- King/Queen power limited by legislative body – still powerful
3. Constitutional Monarchy – King/Queen power limited by constitution – ceremonial power only
4. Democracy – people have the power

B. Philip of Spain 1556-1598

1. Centralized royal power
2. Complete authority – divine right

C. Louis XIV of France 1643-1715

1. Ascended to throne at age 5! But a chief Cardinal really ruled until Louis was 23
2. Called himself “Sun King” as he was the center of everything – divine right
3. Said “I am the state”
4. Built Versailles palace – fanciest building in Europe
5. High ranking nobles competed to hold his washbasin or hand him his diamond-buckled shoes

D. England. James I, Charles I, Cromwell, Charles II 1603-1660

1. James I: “Kings are called gods because they sit upon God’s throne on Earth.”
 - a. James I becomes King in 1603; clashed with Parliament over power
2. Charles I becomes King in 1625
 - a. Imprisons opponents without trial
 - b. Parliament demands he sign Petition of Right; Charles signs it, then ignores it
 - c. Then he dissolves Parliament
3. English Civil War 1642-1649 – Oliver Cromwell (general) and pro-Parliament forces win
 - a. Charles I is executed; Commonwealth begins
4. Conflicts begin with pro-monarchy forces in Ireland, Scotland
5. Commonwealth fractures as groups won’t work together (Iraq?) (Congress?)
6. 1660 a newly elected Parliament recalls King Charles II to the throne
7. Charles II resumes absolute monarchy
8. Parliament invites William and Mary of Orange (Dutch) to become King and Queen
 - a. William and Mary overthrow Charles II, sign English Bill of Rights
9. English Bill of Rights
 - a. Superiority of Parliament over monarch
 - b. Trial by jury
 - c. No excessive fines
 - d. No cruel and unusual punishment
 - e. Affirmed habeas corpus – can’t be imprisoned without being charged

10. Created limited monarchy

E. Rise of Austria and Prussia (today's Austria and Germany, Hungary) 1618-48

1. Hundreds of small nation-states fighting each other in Thirty Year's War
2. Mercenaries burned villages, farms, killed without mercy
3. 1648 Peace of Westphalia ends war
4. Hapsburgs unite Austrian empire
5. Hohenzollerns unite Prussian empire
6. Neither unification works well; nation-states remain disorganized

F. Russia: Peter the Great 1689-1725, Catherine the Great 1762-1796

1. Peter was Czar – Caesar – Leader and very autocratic; absolute monarch
 - a. Expanded Russian territory, always trying to find Russia a warm-water port
2. Catherine became Czarina after her Czar husband Peter III was murdered
 - a. Effective but absolute monarch when not horsing around

G. Enlightenment thinkers write about absolute monarchies; set stage for revolutions

1. Thomas Hobbes wrote that people are bad and need a strong government to control them
 - a. wrote that otherwise life would be “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short”
 - b. supported absolute monarchies
2. John Locke wrote that people are good and have basic “natural” rights
 - a. wrote that people must accept laws, rules, limitations to live in civil society
 - b. wrote that absolute monarchies are not civil society
3. Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote about what he called a “social contract”
 - a. wrote that we must give up complete freedom to accept civil (practical) freedom
 - b. wrote that this more practical freedom makes us more free than perfect freedom
 - c. wrote against absolute monarchies
4. Baron de Montesquieu wrote about preventing abuse of power
 - a. wrote that separation of powers prevents abuse of power
 - b. wrote that checks and balances prevents abuse of power
 - c. wrote against absolute monarchies
5. Voltaire wrote that leaders must be reasonable
 - a. right makes might, not might makes right
 - b. wrote about tolerance and freedom of speech and religion
6. Mary Wollstonecraft wrote about women's rights
 - a. women are equal to men in all ways, but they need the proper education to actively participate in society...and many women had no access to education
7. Cesare Beccaria wrote about fair treatment of the accused
 - a. opposed the use of torture as punishment
8. Adam Smith wrote about the Invisible Hand of Markets
 - a. Capitalism – laissez-faire (the government leaves the economy alone)

H. American Revolution: colonists revolt against English government

1. After Seven Years' War, colonists feel oppressed by English Government
 - a. Britain regulates colonies; taxes colonies; "taxation without representation"
2. 1770 -- Boston Massacre – British soldiers open fire on angry crowd in Boston, MA
3. 1773 – Boston Tea Party – colonists throw tea in Boston Harbor to protest tea tax
4. 1774 – Continental Congress – how to respond to British oppression?
5. 1775 – War begins
6. 1776 – July 4 Continental Congress declares independence – D of I
 - a. built on popular sovereignty – power to the people
7. 1775-1781 – War drags on
 - a. Colonists fight British Army, Navy plus also Loyalists; colonists who support Britain
 - b. British had professional soldiers, money; Colonists had local knowledge, motivation
8. 1777 – France helps US after the colonists defeat the British at Saratoga, NY
 - a. Later, Netherlands and Spain help US too
9. 1781 – Colonists (with French help) force British surrender at Yorktown, VA
10. 1783 – Treaty of Paris signed; Britain recognizes USA independence

I. USA forms a government

1. Articles of Confederation – no strong central power – no teamwork – fails
2. Constitution – power shared between national and state governments

J. French Revolution is next

1. France had an outdated social system
 - a. First Estate: clergy – priests etc.
 - b. Second Estate: nobles
 - c. Third Estate: the peasants – 98% -- 90% poor
2. The Third Estate resented its "betters"
3. Third Estate mostly poor; vulnerable to tax or price increases
4. France was in economic trouble due to deficit spending, wars, poor harvests
5. 1789 brings poor harvests, bread shortages, tax increases
6. King Louis XVI calls for a meeting of the Estates General – the Three Estates
7. But each estate gets only one vote, and the first two estates always outvote the third
8. Third Estate declares itself the National Assembly and writes a constitution
9. Meeting hall locked; Third Estate meets in a tennis court; Tennis Court oath
10. King calls troops to surround the National Assembly
11. People respond by storming the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789; French Independence Day
12. Revolution! Fighting begins
13. People write the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
 - a. Constitutional monarchy
 - b. Equality
 - c. Free speech, press
14. King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette eventually guillotined

15. In the end, budding democracy loses out to authoritarian rule; Napoleon

K. Napoleonic France

1. Napoleon Bonaparte born 1769 in Corsica
2. Anti-French until he starts military school in France at age 10
3. Rises through military, becomes head of Army in 1796
4. Takes over government in 1799
5. Makes new constitution; Napoleonic Code; merit system
6. Seeks to expand French land through war; very successful
7. Attacks Russia September 1812; takes Moscow October 1812
8. Lack of food and harsh winter causes retreat back to France
9. 590,000 of 600,000 soldiers die due to cold, starvation
10. Disgraced, Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to Elba
11. 1815 Napoleon escapes Elba and returns to take over France
12. Starts battles again to expand France
13. Loses at Waterloo; exiled again; dies in 1821
14. Leaves a legacy of increased Nationalism in Europe that leads to conflicts, wars

L. Industrial Revolution

1. Following the agricultural revolution Paleolithic/Neolithic life hadn't changed for thousands of years
2. Everybody farmed, and people were born, worked, died in same village
3. New technologies in farming; plows, fertilizer etc. lead to increased farm efficiency
4. More crops, more food, healthier people, longer lives
5. Fewer farm jobs lead people to move to cities; urbanization
6. Increased technology and inventions lead to work in factories, including children
7. Coal powers factory machines and trains
8. Result: lives utterly changed; for good or bad?
9. Industrial revolution still going on today; what does our future look like?

M. Impact of Industrial Revolution

1. Difficult working conditions led to formation of labor unions
 - a. labor unions organized to bargain for better wages and working conditions
2. Economic inequalities led to new belief systems
 - a. Capitalism – investment for profit – favored by wealthy business owners
 1. Good for prices and quality, but leads to inequality
 - b. Communism – people (government) control production and allocation
 1. Good for resolving inequality, but inefficient
 - c. Socialism – people (government) control production but not allocation – blend of the two
 - d. Marxism – inevitable struggle between owners (bourgeoisie) and workers (proletariat)

N. More European revolutions lead to independence through Nationalism

1. Serbia – 1815-1830 wins independence from Ottoman Empire
2. Greece – 1821-1830 wins independence from Ottoman Empire

3. France – more revolutions in 1830, 1848 – mostly about economic inequality
4. Belgium – 1830-1831 – wins independence from the Netherlands (Holland)
5. Unsuccessful revolutions in Poland, Italy, Germany; power stays in the hands of dictators

O. Latin American revolutions and independence

1. Colonies in Latin America had great social and economic inequality
2. Spanish colonies included peninsulares ruling over creoles, mestizos, mulattoes, slaves
3. Haiti gains independence from France 1791-1802
 - a. Slaves revolt in 1791
 - b. 1798 slaves freed
 - c. 1804 Haiti declares independence and 1820 becomes a republic
4. Mexico gains independence from Spain 1810-1821
 - a. Father Miguel Hidalgo organizes peasants to rise up against Spain in 1810
 - b. After years of fighting, full independence in 1821
 - c. Separate nations emerge in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica
5. South American peoples revolt against Spain 1810-1824
 - a. Simon Bolivar leads people against the Spanish in today's Venezuela
 - b. Next, Bolivar leads people across Andes to attack Spanish in Bogota (Colombia)
 - c. In 1824 Spanish colonies became one independent country, Gran Colombia
 - d. Soon Gran Colombia splits into Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia