

SOCIAL STUDIES 30-1

Unit 1: Active and Engaged Citizenry

Gilets Jaunes (Yellow Vest Movement) Case Study

Use the essay, *A Play With No End: What the Gilets Jaunes really want* by Christopher Ketcham (Harper's Magazine, August 2019) to complete this case study.

1. What were the marchers' goals (pg. 41) and why did three hundred thousand citizens across France protest starting in November of 2018 (pg. 41)?

2. Briefly research the student protests of 1968 (pg. 42) in France and provide information in the space below.

3. On page 42, the French Revolution is referenced a few times. How is the Gilets Jaunes similar to the French Revolution?

4. According to the author what is neo-liberalism and how is it loosening and dissolving French principles of egalite and fraternite (pg. 42)?

5. When Emmanuel Macron was elected in 2017, what was his program for France (pg. 42 and 43)?

6. What “drove the Gilets to agitation” (pg. 43)?

7. What does the word “diktat” mean and how is it relevant to our course thus far (pg. 43)?

8. What was the purpose of Macron's carbon tax and why did the Gilets revolt against it (pg. 43)? Focus on what the author refers to as the "hypocrisy" of the tax.

9. According to the author of this essay, how should climate change be dealt with (pg. 43)?

10. On page 44 of this essay, the Gilets demands are listed. List them below:

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

vii.

11. What were the Gilets' demands in regards to the legislative process (pg. 44)?

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12. On pages 44-46, the author details the misconceptions of the Gilets Jaune in the French and American media. What are the misconceptions and what is the media getting wrong about the movement?

13. Again, on page 46, the author references the French Revolution. How is the Gilets Jaunes similar to the French Revolution?

14. On page 48, the author writes, "I thought it shameful, a sign of mob lashing out, mindless." What is the author referring to, and what are your opinions thus far on this essay and the methods of the Jaune Gilets, and the response by the authorities?

15. On page 49, the author writes, “The disruption, the destruction, the chaos had achieved at least some of the movement’s goals.” List the six results below:

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

16. The second last paragraph of the essay details a brief history of France’s republics. Briefly research and detail each republic in the space below.

	Dates	Significance/Events
First Republic		
Second Republic		
Third Republic		
Fourth Republic		
Fifth Republic		

17. In the final paragraph, the author writes, “The Gilets have demanded a **new republic** based on social, economic, and, not least, ecological justice. Time will tell whether they have the strength and the means to bring France to the necessary point of crisis.” In your opinion, what do think the Gilets demands will be met? Will France receive a Sixth Republic and what might it look like?

