

# Age of Reason/Age of Revolution Review

## PART I – Age of Reason: Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment

### *Scientific Revolution*

#### **Main Ideas:**

- Advances of Scientific Revolution made people question long established ideas and practices
- Questioned concepts of Divine Right and Absolutism
- Used observation and experimentation to challenge traditional ideas
- Conflict with the Catholic Church (Galileo)

#### **Important People**

Copernicus – Heliocentric Theory, Galileo – Astronomy, Kepler – Elliptical Orbits, Newton - Gravity

### *Enlightenment*

#### **Main Ideas:**

- Questioned concepts of Divine Right and Absolutism
- Used reason/logic to solve societal problems
- If government failed to protect Natural Rights → People should overthrow the gov't
- Encouraged Political Reform

#### **Important People**

Hobbes – “Leviathan”/Absolute Monarchy, Locke – Natural Rights, Social Contract Theory, Rousseau – “General Will”, Voltaire – Free Speech, Religion, Montesquieu – 3 Branches of Government/Separation of Powers

## PART II – Age of Revolutions (French and Latin American Revolutions)

### The French Revolution:

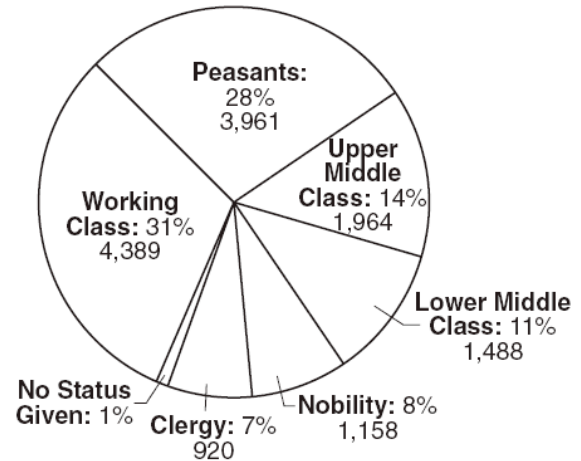
- Causes: Political, Social, and Economic factors
  - Absolutism: Overspending, Weak leadership, No political power for 3<sup>rd</sup> estate
  - Social Inequality: 3 Estate System (social classes)
  - Economic Injustices
    - Huge gap between the rich and the poor
    - Unfair tax system
    - Food shortages and poor harvests
  - The Enlightenment
  - English & American Revolutions
- Stages of the Revolution
  - Old Regime - Conservative
  - National Assembly – Moderate
    - Tennis Court Oath, Storming of the Bastille, Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
  - Reign of Terror – Radical (Maximillian Robespierre and Jacobins)
  - Directory – Moderate
  - Napoleon – Conservative (Return to Stability)
    - Mistakes: Continental System, Peninsular War, & Russian Invasion
- Effects:
  - Congress of Vienna: establish lasting peace in Europe
  - Inspires Latin American Revolutions
  - “Subjects” become “CITIZENS”
  - French Nationalism

### Latin America:

- Causes of Latin American Revolutions
  - Enlightenment ideas
  - American and French Revolutions
  - Social Injustices
  - Leaders:
    - Toussaint L’Ouverture-Haiti, Simon Bolivar-Venezuela, Peru, Colombia, Jose de San Martin-Chile, Dom Pedro-Brazil
    - Mexican Revolution: Father Hidalgo, Emilio Zapata, Pancho Villa
- Effects of Latin American Revolutions → Independence from European nations

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## Executions During the Reign of Terror



Source: Dennis Sherman et al., eds., *World Civilizations: Sources, Images, and Interpretations*, McGraw-Hill (adapted)



Source: *The Way We Saw It: ...*, Highsmith, Inc., 1998

Map A South America, 1790



Map B South America, 1828



Source: Goldberg and DuPré, *Brief Review in Global History and Geography*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

“ . . . The work of Toussaint, Dessalines, Christophe, and Pétion endures in Hayti [Haiti], but what they did went far, far beyond the boundaries of the island. The Haytian revolution has had a profound influence on the history of the nineteenth century. . . . So far the negative aspect. There were others more positive. Hayti gave the impulse to and subsidised [supported] the first national revolutions in Spanish America. When the Spanish American colonies saw that such a small and weak community could win and keep its freedom, they took courage to fight for their own emancipation from European imperialism. In dark days, Bolivar the Liberator, ill and in distress, was welcomed by Pétion, nursed to health and given courage to lead the struggling nationalities against Spain. He failed and returned to Hayti. He was once again befriended. Pétion supplied him with arms, munitions, men, money, and printing material, and thus fortified he left Hayti to begin the campaign which ended in the emancipation of the Five States. Pétion asked nothing in return but the freedom of the slaves. . . .”

*C. L. R. James has stated that the success of the Haitian Revolution was almost entirely the result of the leadership of Toussaint L'Ouverture.*

We are moreover neither Indians nor Europeans, but a race halfway between the legitimate owners of the land and the Spanish usurpers—in short, being Americans by birth and endowed with rights for Europe—find ourselves forced to defend these rights against the natives while maintaining our position in the land against the intrusion of the invaders. Thus we find ourselves in the most extraordinary and complicated situation. . . . The idea of merging the entire New World into a single nation with a single unifying principle to provide coherence to the parts and to the whole is both grandiose and impractical. Because it has a common origin, a common language, similar customs, and one religion, we might conclude that it should be possible for a single government to oversee a federation of different states to eventually emerge. However, this is not possible because America is divided by remote climates, diverse geographies, conflicting interests and dissimilar characteristics.

*Source: Jamaican Letter, Simon Bolivar 1815.*