Old Regimes and New

9 January 2008

I.M. Pei, entrance to the Louvre Museum (1989)
Key events in the French Revolution

May 1789    King Louis XVI opens Estates-General (first meeting in 175 years)
June 1789   members of Estates-General call themselves “National Assembly”
14 July 1789 crowds storm the Bastille Prison in Paris
August 1789 National Assembly abolishes feudalism; Declaration of the Rights of Man
for the next three years, France is a constitutional monarchy
April 1792    declaration of war on Austria
10 Aug. 1792 popular uprising in Paris; crowds storm Tuileries Palace; King arrested
22 Sept. 1792 declaration of a Republic; rule by the National Convention
March 1793   beginning of counter-revolutionary civil war in west of France (Vendée)
August 1793  mass conscription; the “nation in arms”
Sept. 1793   intro of Republican calendar; beginning of period known as “the Terror”
Oct. 1795-    rule of The Directory (five-man executive; two-house legislature)
Nov. 1799
France is a new world, and in order to hold on to this achievement, it is necessary to sow the rubble of our old servitude everywhere…

“Patriot” Palloy

Storming of the Bastille (watercolor, 1789?)

Four Men carrying a model of the Bastille to be used in a civic festival, 1790-1791
Republican clock (decimal)

French Revolutionary ("republican") Calendar begins Sept. 22—first day of republic and time of harvest
12 months: 30 days each, divided into three ten-day long décades
months named for natural events (rather than Roman emperors—so thermidor, the "hot month," replaces 22 July-21 August)
days dedicated to crops and tools, not saints

Metric System
created to replace local weights and measures, which were highly varied
system of measurement "for all men, for all time"
based on natural units; one meter = 1/40,000,000 of the Earth’s circumference
decimal basis to make conversion between units easier
Palace of Versailles: Hall of Mirrors and Garden Fountains
built by Louis XIV in 1650s-1660s
French Revolution
elite claims about political sovereignty
episodes of popular, often violent, protest

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights
3. The principle of sovereignty resides in the nation

Jacques Louis David, *Oath of the Tennis Court* (1791) detail
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Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars

enormous armies: France in 1793: 750,000 men in arms and equal number working in munitions or other support roles; first ever universal draft; 1813: 6% of Prussian population in military; British army six times larger than it was in 1789

invasion of Egypt: strategic failure, symbolic success

importance of popular resistance in Spain (guerilla warfare first described), Prussia (“War of Liberation”), and Russia

20% of French people born, 1790-1795, were killed in wars, 1806-1815

**KEY DATES**

1792-1815 series of wars between France and rest of Europe
1795-1797 Bonaparte’s Italian Campaign; “Sister Republics” established in Italy; much of what is today Belgium, Swizerland, and western Germany (Rhineland) claimed as part of France
1798-1799 Bonaparte ordered to invade England; goes to Egypt
Oct. 1805 Austerlitz (“Battle of the Three Emperors”)—French forces defeat Austro-Russian army and effectively end Holy Roman Empire
1806 French defeat Prussian army at Jena
1807 Treaty of Tilsit—Russia becomes French ally
1808 Napoleon’s brother established as “king of Spanish”
Some of Bonaparte’s victories in the first Italian Campaign

- April 1796
- May 1796
- Aug. 1796
- Nov. 1796
- Jan. 1797

Gros, Bonaparte at Arcola (1801)

Egyptian campaign 1798-1799

Gros, Bonaparte in the Pest-house at Jaffa (1804)
“Soldiers! You have come to these lands in order to pull them from barbarism, to bring civilization to the Orient, and to free this beautiful part of the world from English control. We are going into battle. Remember that from the top of these monuments, forty centuries are watching you…”

Bonaparte to the French troops, July 1798.
Napoleon Bonaparte

1769 born “Napoleone Buonaparte” in Corsica
1779-1784 attends Royal Military School (on scholarship)

Dec. 1793 central in re-taking Toulon from the British; promoted to General
Oct. 1795 commands troops that put down royalist uprising in Paris

Jan. 1796 named commander-in-chief of Italian Army
1798-1799 Egyptian campaign

9 November 1799 (18 brumaire VIII) military and constitutional *coup* brings Bonaparte to power as part of “Consulate”

February 1800 Referendum confirms Bonaparte as “First Consul”
August 1802 Referendum makes him “Consul for Life”
May 1804 Referendum makes him “Emperor Napoleon”

1807-1808 French Empire extends to its largest
1812 attempted invasion of Russia
1814 Napoleon abdicates; sent into exile in Elba

1815 Napoleon returns to rule for “Hundred Days”; defeated at Waterloo, imprisoned on St. Helena

1821 dies in St. Helena;
1840 remains returned to France
Congress of Vienna, 1815

Holy Alliance of Russia, Austria, and Prussia
Eugène Delacroix, *The Massacre at Chios* (1824)