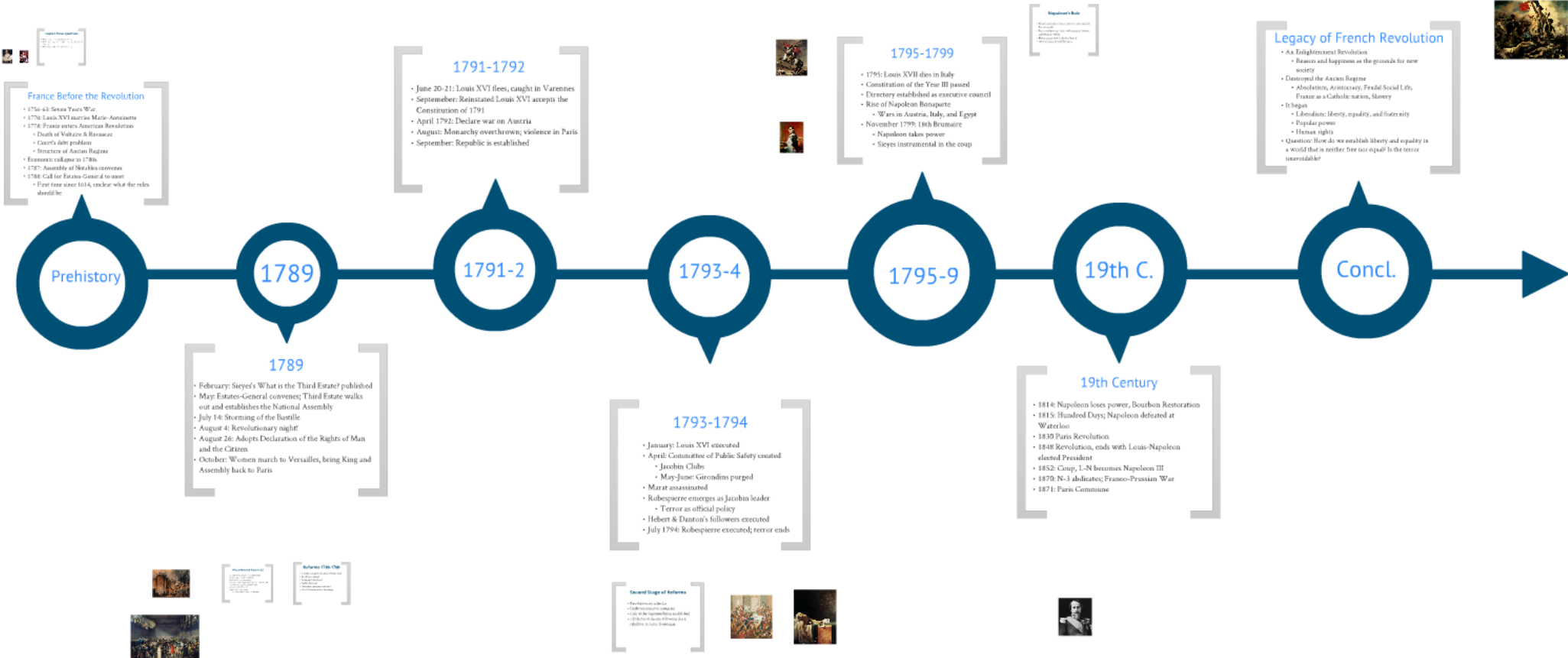


The French Revolution



France Before the Revolution

- 1756-63: Seven Years War
- 1770: Louis XVI marries Marie-Antoinette
- 1778: France enters American Revolution
 - Death of Voltaire & Rousseau
 - Court's debt problem
 - Structure of Ancien Regime
- Economic collapse in 1780s
- 1787: Assembly of Notables convenes
- 1788: Call for Estates-General to meet
 - First time since 1614, unclear what the rules should be



Sieyes's Three Questions

- What is the Third Estate? Everything
- What has it been until now in the political order?
Nothing
- What does it want to be? Something

1789

- February: Sieyes's What is the Third Estate? published
- May: Estates-General convenes; Third Estate walks out and establishes the National Assembly
- July 14: Storming of the Bastille
- August 4: Revolutionary night!
- August 26: Adopts Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
- October: Women march to Versailles, bring King and Assembly back to Paris

Why a National Assembly?

- Extraordinary Representative Body (Sieyes)
- Nation is what is held in common
- The Third Estate is everything
- Aristocrats and Clergy are not a part of it because they live under privilege, not common order
- Rousseau and General Will
- Sieyes: Constituent power!
 - Vs. Government as constituted power

Reforms 1789-1790

- Foreign conquest renounced (temporary)
- Nobility abolished
- Parlements dissolved
- Guilds dissolved
- Church property nationalized
- Civil Constitution for the clergy

1791-1792

- June 20-21: Louis XVI flees, caught in Varennes
- Septemeber: Reinstated Louis XVI accepts the Constitution of 1791
- April 1792: Declare war on Austria
- August: Monarchy overthrown; violence in Paris
- September: Republic is established



1793-1794

- January: Louis XVI executed
- April: Committee of Public Safety created
 - Jacobin Clubs
 - May-June: Girondins purged
- Marat assassinated
- Robespierre emerges as Jacobin leader
 - Terror as official policy
- Hebert & Danton's followers executed
- July 1794: Robespierre executed; terror ends

Second Stage of Reforms

- Revolutionary calendar
- Dechristianization campaign
- Cult of the Supreme Being established
- Abolition of slavery following slave rebellion in Saint-Domingue

1795-1799

- 1795: Louis XVII dies in Italy
- Constitution of the Year III passed
- Directory established as executive council
- Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte
 - Wars in Austria, Italy, and Egypt
- November 1799: 18th Brumaire
 - Napoleon takes power
 - Sieyes instrumental in the coup

Napoleon's Rule

- New Constitution (many reforms removed; he's First Consul)
- Ends revolutionary wars with peace at Amiens with British (1802)
- Makes peace with Catholic Church
- 1804: Crowns himself Emperor

19th Century

- 1814: Napoleon loses power, Bourbon Restoration
- 1815: Hundred Days; Napoleon defeated at Waterloo
- 1830 Paris Revolution
- 1848 Revolution, ends with Louis-Napoleon elected President
- 1852: Coup, L-N becomes Napoleon III
- 1870: N-3 abdicates; Franco-Prussian War
- 1871: Paris Commune

Legacy of French Revolution

- An Enlightenment Revolution
 - Reason and happiness as the grounds for new society
- Destroyed the Ancien Regime
 - Absolutism, Aristocracy, Feudal Social Life, France as a Catholic nation, Slavery
- It began
 - Liberalism: liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - Popular power
 - Human rights
- Question: How do we establish liberty and equality in a world that is neither free nor equal? Is the terror unavoidable?