Background Information

- 1791
  - Legislative Assembly rules France
  - Members with similar political views sat together
  - Conservatives who thought revolution had gone far enough sat on the right
  - Moderates who wanted some reform sat in the middle
  - Radicals who wanted a Republic and to get rid of monarchy sat on the left

The seating of these representatives gives us our modern political terms of “Right Wing” or “Left Wing”

Sans-Culottes
- Working Class men and women
  - Literally means “without culottes” or the breeches that the upper class wore
  - Demanded a Republic
  - Had no voting rights because most did not own land
  - Found support with the Jacobins
  - Revolutionary political club made up of middle class intellectuals
Foreign Powers threaten France
- King supports War, hopes for French loss
- National Assembly wants to spread revolution to other countries
- Get rid of monarchies in Europe
- War is declared against Austria and Prussia
- Prussia invades

Chaos engulfs France
- Tuileries attacked
  - Mob storms King’s residence and slaughters King’s guards
  - Royal family flees to Legislative Assembly
- September Massacres
  - Prisons that hold political prisoners attacked and inmates are killed
- Radicals take control of Legislative Assembly
  - National Convention takes its place as governing body
  - All males are now allowed to vote regardless of property

Dealing with Threats to France
- Louis XVI is put on trial for treason
  - Convicted by single vote difference
  - Executed January 1793
  - Marie Antionette in October 1793
  - Son Louis XVII, dies in dungeon during revolution
- France at War with most of Europe
  - Invades Netherlands and Italy in 1793
- Committee of Public Safety
  - Formed to deal with counterrevolutionary threats to France
  - 12 member committee with dictatorial powers
  - Led by Jacobin lawyer, Robespierre
- Robespierre
  - Believes in religious tolerance
  - Bans slavery
  - Believes that “Criminal must lose their heads……”
Reign of Terror (July 1793 - July 1794)

- Instituted by Committee of Public Safety
  - 40,000 executed in 12 months

- Executed by Guillotine
  - Humane method of execution

- Committee of Public Safety Arrested
  - Robespierre executed by the Guillotine
  - In reaction to the C.O.P.S., the government is reformed as "The Directory", a five member ruling council with a two-house legislature

The Age of Napoleon

Napoleon's Early Life

- Born on Corsica
- Early military career
  - Left at age 9 to go to French military school
  - Lieutenant by age 20
  - Defeated the British in 1793 at Toulon
  - Defeated the Austrians
  - Captured most of Northern Italy
  - Conquered Egypt in 1798
- Political Career
  - Achieves rank of General by 1799
  - Helps overthrow the Directory and joins three man ruling body called the "Consulate"
- Self-Made Emperor
  - Pope in attendance, he takes crown from pope and crowns himself
France Under Napoleon

- **Reforms**
  - Economic Reforms
    - Regulated economy
    - Modernized finance
    - Encouraged new industry
    - Built new roads and canals
  - Social Reforms
    - Made peace with the Catholic Church
    - Allowed those that fled France to return on the condition they take a loyalty oath
    - Opened up jobs to those with talent
  - Napoleonic Code
    - Full of enlightenment ideals
    - Women lost most of their rights
    - Order valued over individual rights

Subduing an Empire

- Redraws the map of Europe
  - Annexes Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and parts Italy
  - Abolishes the Holy Roman Empire
  - Cuts Prussia in half
  - Puts his friends and family members on the thrones of European countries
  - Brings his brother to Spain
  - Napoleon becomes King of Spain
  - Divorces wife Josephine to marry Maria Antionette’s niece
  - So his offspring would have royal blood

- France vs. Britain
  - Napoleon planned to invade England
  - Admiral Horatio Nelson defeats French at Battle of Trafalgar
  - Establishes Continental System to kill British Commerce
  - Britain responds by blockading European ports
  - Brings US-Britain into War of 1812
  - Fails to stop British trade, hurt prices in Europe, led to widespread smuggling

Napoleon’s End

- Challenges to the Empire
  - Spanish resisted liberal reforms instituted by Joseph Bonaparte
  - Spanish loyal to King and Church
  - Spanish carry out guerrilla warfare against French
  - French defeated in Russia
  - Alexander I resigns from Continental System
  - 600,000 soldiers invade
  - French carry out a scorched earth policy
  - Winter proves deadly for Napoleon’s Grand Army
  - Only 100,000 make journey home
  - Reputation back home is shattered

- Napoleon’s Downfall
  - Alliance of Russia, Britain, Prussia, and Austria defeat Napoleon at Battle of Nations at Leipzig.
  - Napoleon abdicates and is exiled to island of Elba
  - Louis XVIII, brother of Louis XVI becomes king
Transition to Bourbon Rule did not go smoothly. The Napoleonic Code was observed. French who fled returned with revenge on their mind. Economic Depression caused longing for return of Napoleon.

He’s back!

Napoleon escapes from exile and soldiers flock to fight for him. Return only lasts 100 Days.

Battle of Waterloo:

June 18, 1815

British under Wellington and Prussians under Blucher crush the French.

Napoleon exiled again to St. Helena.