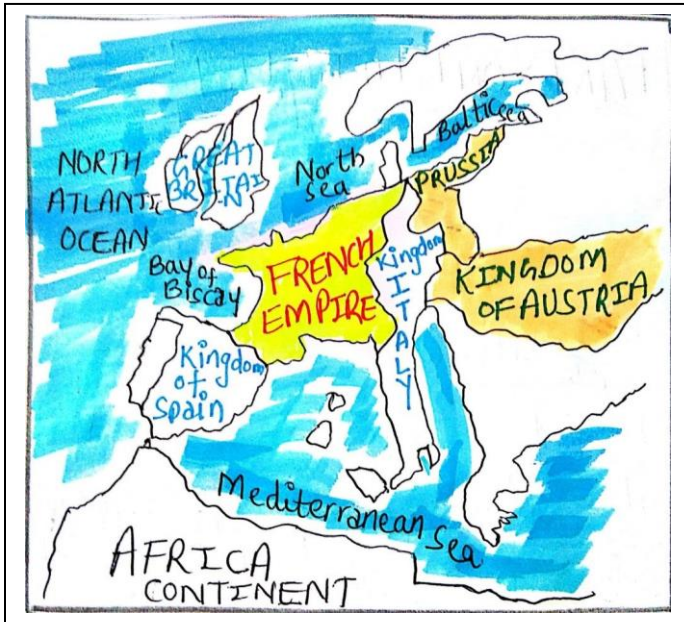
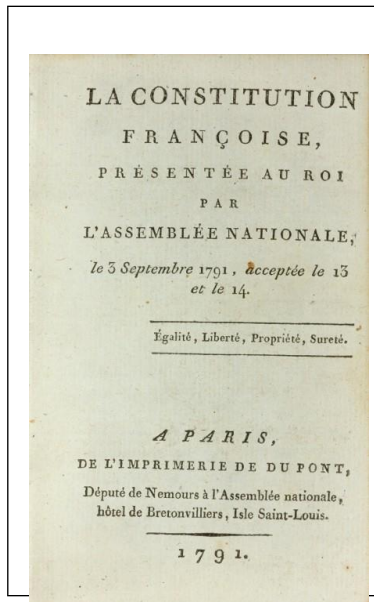
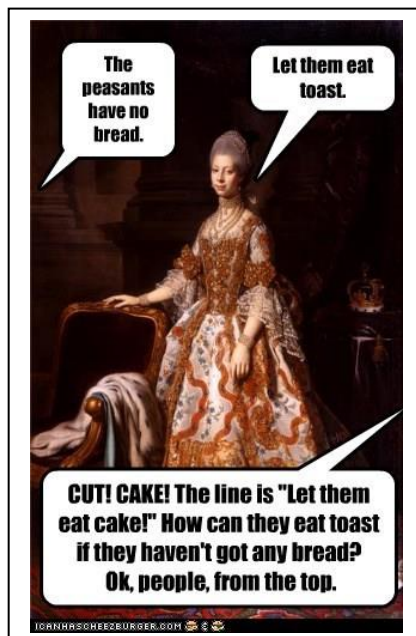
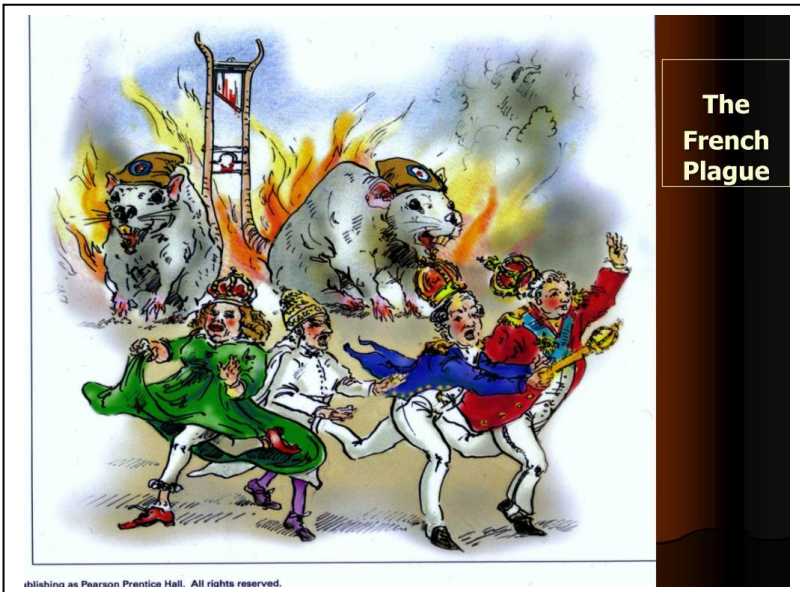


Aim #5: How did the National Assembly attempt to reform France?



Mini Lecture

- In France, the political crisis of 1789 coincided with a terrible famine. Peasants were starving & unemployed. In such desperate times, rumors ran wild. Inflamed by famine & fear, peasants unleashed their fury on nobles.
- The Storming of Bastille & the peasant uprisings pushed the National Assembly into action which changed France in many ways. In late August, the Assembly issued the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen**- which proclaimed that all male citizens were equal before the law. It also provided the people with such basic rights as freedom of speech, press, & religion. It also guaranteed the right of the people to participate in the government.
- Upset that women did not have equal rights, journalist **Olympe de Gouges** wrote the **Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Female Citizen** that provided for this (the Assembly did not adopt it).
- Much anger was directed at the queen, **Marie Antoinette**, who lived a life of great extravagance.
- The Assembly produced the **Constitution of 1791**, which reflected Enlightenment goals- set up a limited constitutional monarchy (called the **Legislative Assembly**, a law-making body) which checked the power of the king. It ensured equality before the law for all male citizens, & ended Church interference in government.
- Events in France stirred debate all over Europe. Some applauded the reforms of the National Assembly. Rulers of other nations, however, denounced the French Revolution. Horror stories were told by emigres who had fled France. Rulers of neighboring monarchies (Austria & Prussia) increased border patrols to stop the spread of the “French plague” of Revolution. They prepared to invade France to restore the power of the king. The revolutionaries declared war on those 2 countries.



Review Questions:

1. What did the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen and the Constitution of 1791 do? How did they both reflect Enlightenment ideas?
2. How did rulers of European monarchies react to the French Revolution? Why?

August, 1789: The National Assembly Passes Laws to Change France

August 26, 1789: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen was adopted by the National Assembly on August 26, 1789. The Declaration was prepared by the Marquis de Lafayette, who fought in the American Revolutionary War, in collaboration with future American President Thomas Jefferson, and Honoré Gabriel Riqueti (the Comte de Mirabeau). The document identifies the natural rights that its writers believed were granted all people and it became a foundational document for the French Revolution.

Excerpt from the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen:

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible [in law] rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
6. Law is the expression of the general will. Every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its foundation. It must be the same for all, whether it protects or punishes...
9. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty...
11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may, accordingly, speak, write, and print with freedom, but shall be responsible for such abuses of this freedom as shall be defined by law.

1. What rights are identified in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen?
2. Which Enlightenment philosopher's ideas are reflected in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen?
3. Which issues in France in the 1780s would have been addressed if the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen were enforced?

September 3, 1791: The Constitution of 1791

The Constitution of 1791 was the first constitution written during the French Revolution.

3. The **legislative** power is delegated to a National Assembly, composed of temporary representatives freely elected by the people, to be exercised by it, with the **sanction** [approval] of the King, in the manner hereinafter determined.
4. The government is monarchical; the **executive** power is delegated to the King, to be exercised, under his authority, by ministers and other responsible agents in the manner hereinafter determined.
5. The **judicial** power is delegated to judges who are elected at stated times by the people.

1. Which Enlightenment philosopher most influenced this document? What is his idea called?
2. When the National Assembly creates a law, who has the power to approve it?
3. According to the Constitution of 1791, what role does the King have in the government?

April 1792: France declares war on Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland, and Spain

The **Constitution of 1791** established a new government that set up a limited monarchy instead of an absolute monarchy. In June 1791, King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette along with their children attempted to escape Paris in disguises, however, they were caught and brought back to France. By 1792, European monarchs were concerned that the revolution could spread to their countries. When the **émigrés**, former members of the nobility and **anti-revolutionaries**, arrived in the neighboring countries, they told stories about the chaos of the revolution. The king of Prussia warned the revolutionary French government that if the revolution spread to their country then they would declare war. Other European monarchs made similar threats. France did not want to wait to be attacked so the revolutionary government declared war on Austria in April 1792. They then went on to declare war on Prussia, Britain and other European monarchs.

1. What did the Constitution of 1791 accomplish for the French revolutionaries?
2. How did King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette respond to these changes? Why?
3. Why were European monarchs concerned in 1792?
4. Why did the revolutionary French government declare war on European monarchs?