

**The French Revolution**  
**(May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1789 – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1799)**

**Causes**

**Enlightenment** – Ideas caused by Enlightenment caused people to revolt, because the Enlightenment made people see the world differently, and wanted a change in the way the government worked to better fit those ideas. Those ideas included the separation of the church and government, more freedom, a better form of government, liberty, etc.

**The Encyclopédie** – This book directly fueled the ideas into people. This book was pretty popular, selling thousands and thousands of copies in France and beyond. It helped make people view the world in a different way, and directly fueled the French Revolution.

**Financial Problems** – Prices were rising, along with taxes as well. These things were making people unhappy, and they revolted against it. Especially for the peasants these price increases were not good, because they just couldn't afford them. These financial problems, along with all the other issues combined, led to the outburst of the French Revolution.

**Events**

**The Tennis Court Oath** – On *June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1789*, took an oath to never separate “until a written constitution had been established for France.”<sup>1</sup> This was proof that their was growing tension against the leadership of the country, and this was the trigger point for the events that would later follow throughout the Revolution.

**Storming of the Bastille** – On *July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1789*, those apart of the Revolution stormed and took control of the Bastille (a French fortress). By the end of it, there was a death toll of around 100 people. This event showed the fact that people were getting serious about their frustrations, and this was the first serious event that started many others later down the road.

**Reign of Terror** – This was a period between *September 1793 and July 1794* in which the real violent part of the French Revolution occurred. In history books you will see lots of images of the Revolution, most of the pictures you see are of this. It was caused by threats being imposed to the Revolution and people trying to stop them, but it ended up becoming a horrible mess. It went to really show how divided the country was at the time. The death toll rose to over 16,000.



### Effects

**The End of the French Monarchy** – The French Revolution resulted in the fall of the French monarchy, with the execution of Louis XVI. France was then declared a republic. This would forever change the way France operated, and the next leader to come would be Napoleon.

**Rise of Napoleon** – After the fall of the French monarchy during the French Revolution and execution of Louis XVI, Napoleon became the Emperor of the French. He made a huge impact to the world with military organization, training, and so many other things.

**Unification of France** – The French Revolution helped to reunify France, as well as increase power within the state, instead of through a monarch as it had been previously before. It helped to turn ancient Europe into modern Europe.

### Picture



Generously Provided to the Museum of St. Helena by  
**Brady Kondek.**