

History B 356

French Revolution and Napoleon



French National Archives
Hôtel de Soubise, Paris (Jan. 2005)

www.indiana.edu/~b356

French Revolution and Napoleon



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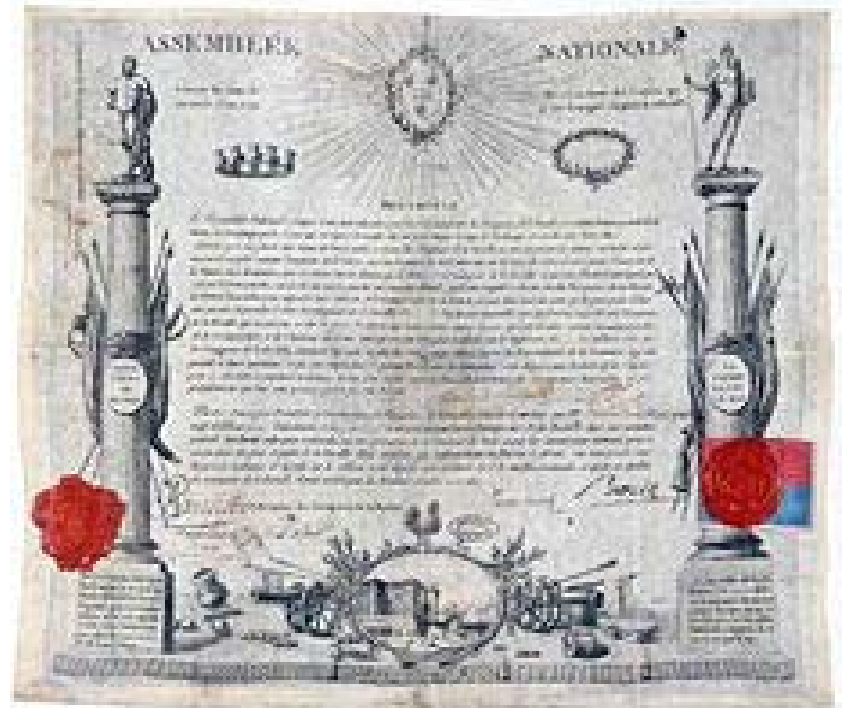
French Revolution and Napoleon

two short assignments (5% each)
participation (20%)
midterm exam (15%)—March 4
final paper (30%)—approx 10 pages *
final exam (25%)—Wednesday, May 4

late work will be marked off 1/3 grade per day

you must complete *all* work to pass the course

more than two absences from discussion
may result in a failing grade



diploma awarded by the French National Assembly
to “conquerors of the Bastille” (June 1790)

* Students registered for Hutton Honors College credit will write a 12-15 page research paper

French Revolution and Napoleon

Discussion Class Schedule

Wednesday, 3:35-4:25	SE 240	20	2
Friday, 10:10-11:00	BH 146	09	
11:15-12:05	BH 144	11	
(Honors) 12:20-1:10	BH 144	15	2
1:25-2:15	BH 144	20	



It was the best of times,...

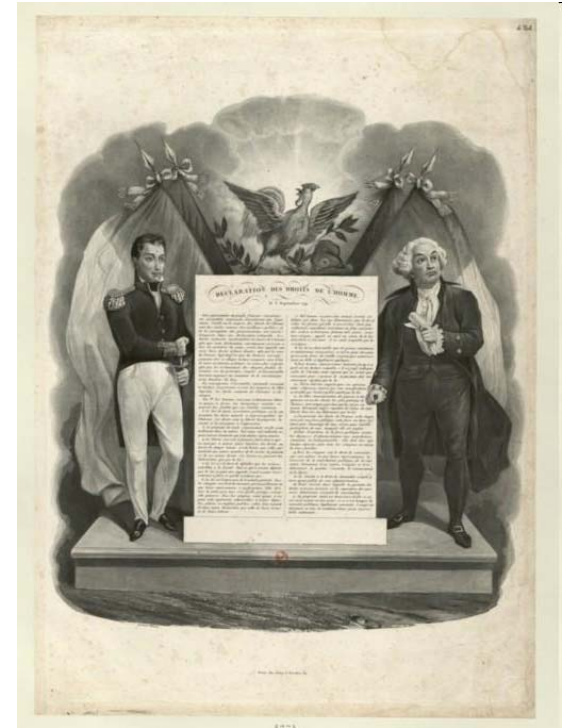
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).

Idea(l) of “human rights” enters public, political debate

divorce legalized
slavery abolished
heresy decriminalized

Enormous expansion of participation in public life

editorship abolished
political clubs for men and women
1792 election—universal manhood suffrage

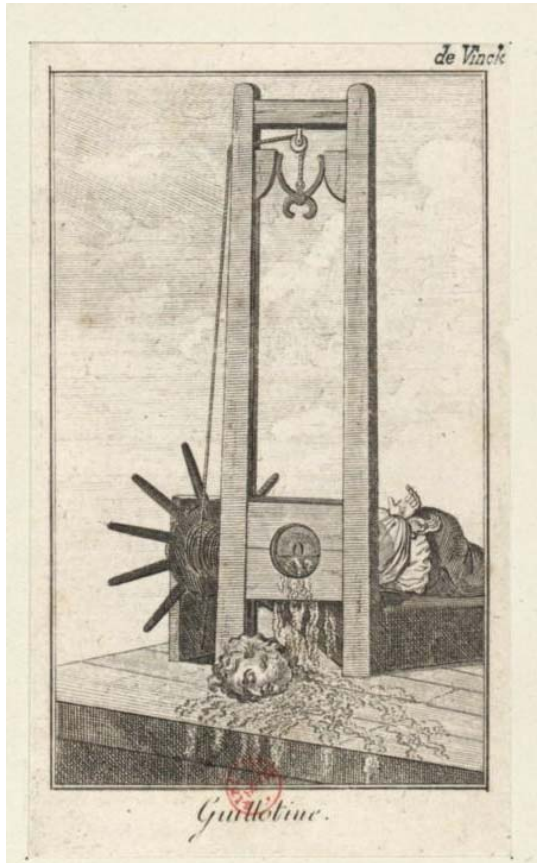


Nineteenth-century depiction
of the “Rights of Man”

Why Study the French Revolution?

It was . . . the worst of times...

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).



summer 1793-summer 1794 ("The Terror")

approx. 500,000 men and women jailed
16,000 tried and beheaded
thousands more killed in military repression

March 1793-summer 1795

Civil War in the Vendée; 250,000 deaths (?)

1803-1815

slavery re-established in French colonies
divorce effectively outlawed
censorship re-imposed

Why Study the French Revolution?

Napoleon Bonaparte

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

Oct. 1795 puts down royalist uprising in Paris
Jan. 1796 commander-in-chief of Italian Army
1798-1799 invades Egypt with 35,000 soldiers and 165 artists, writers, scholars

9 November 1799 (18 brumaire VIII) military *coup* brings Bonaparte to power

August 1802 Referendum = “Consul for Life”
May 1804 Referendum = “Emperor Napoleon”

1807-1808 French Empire at its largest
1812 attempted invasion of Russia
1814 Napoleon abdicates; exile in Elba

1815 Returns to rule for “Hundred Days”;
defeated at Waterloo, imprisoned

1821 dies on St. Helena;
1840 remains returned to France



Jacques Louis David, *Napoleon Crossing the Alps* (1800).
oil painting (approx 10.5 x 7 feet)

Historical Interpretation

analyze primary sources

develop arguments with
reference to secondary sources

present conclusions in synthetic,
“tertiary” fashion (textbooks,
Wikipedia)



Rowlandson, “The Beast as described in the book of Revelations, chapter 13, resembling Napolean Buonaparte” (1808)

13:1 Then I saw a beast come out of the sea with ten horns and seven heads; on its horns were ten diadems, and on its heads blasphemous names...

13:3 Fascinated, the whole world followed after the beast. ...

13:7 ...and it was granted authority over every tribe, people, tongue, and nation.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...

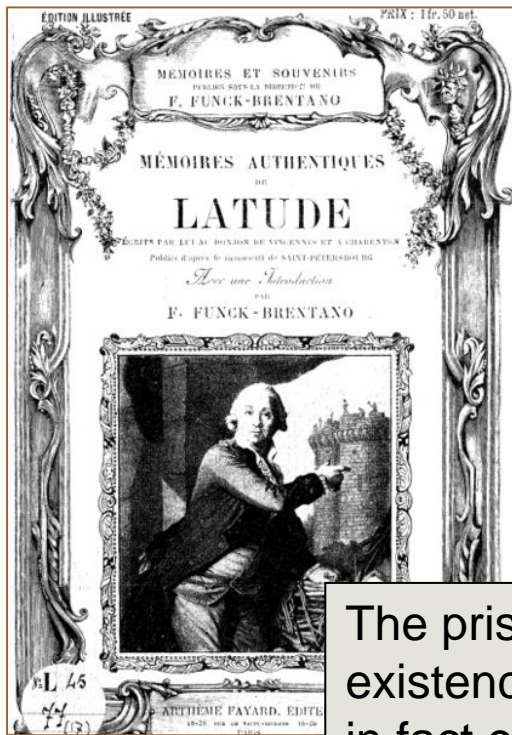
Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859).



Storming of the Bastille

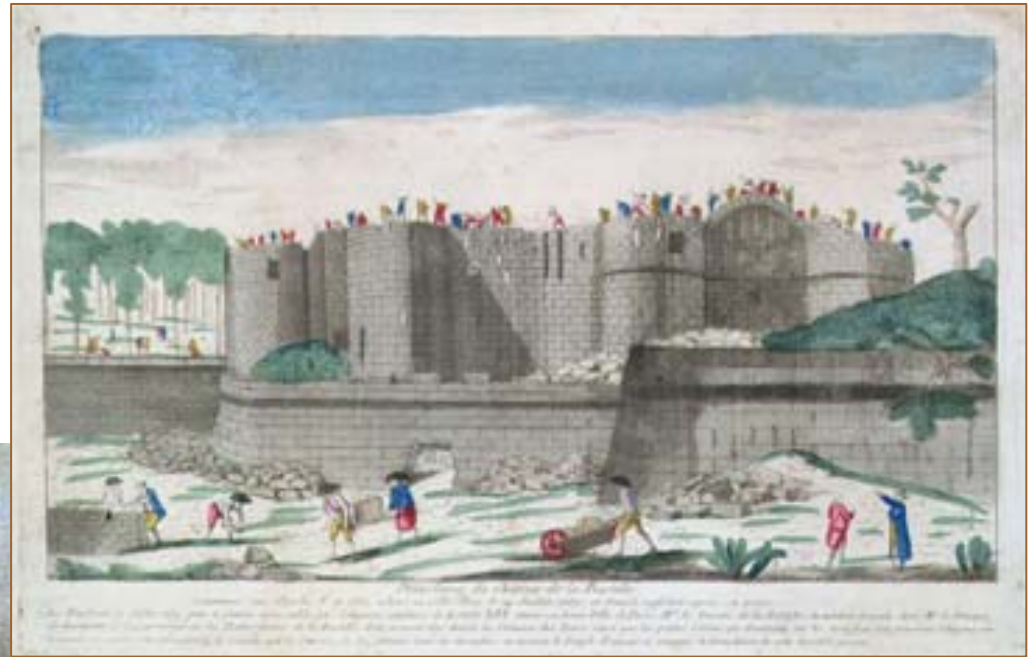
watercolor, Jean-Baptiste Houël, 1789

Best of times: an example of interpretation and analysis



For 35 years, I vainly belabored these infernal vaults with my sighs and despair; my spirit bruised by fits of rage and despair; my spirit bruised by fits of rage and distressed by endless pain; ... my body gnawed by the most repulsive of animals, my limbs torn by the weight and friction of my chains.
Henri Maser de Latude, *Despotism Unveiled, Memoirs of Thirty-Five Years as a Prisoner* (1790).

The prisoner in the Bastille is surrendered to total silence, to a void existence more cruel than death since it does not exclude grief, but in fact causes it... With no resources, with no diversions but his own thoughts or alarms, the state prisoner is given over to the most bitter sentiments that can agitate a heart. Abandoned to all the horrors of listlessness, of inaction, he is daily aware of the approaching end of his existence and he is at the same time aware that his jailers prolong his existence, only to prolong his suffering.
Simon-Henri Linguet, *Memoirs of the Bastille* (1783).



The Bastille in its first days of demolition,
Robert Hubert, 1789

Analysis: Why was the Bastille so important?



de Mont

VUE DE LA FÊTE DONNÉE SUR LE PLAN DE LA BASTILLE

3857

P22470

Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France



Dessiné par Monnet.

Gravé par Hellman. Pl. 5.

La Fontaine de la Régénération.

Sur les débris de la Bastille, le 10 août 1793.

The Fountain of Regeneration, on the rubble of the Bastille, 10 August 1793 (engraving, 1796)

Paris chez l'Auteur, rue Honore N. 1497. Section Balle des Moulins.



It wasn't enough for me to have helped overturn the walls of this fortress, it was necessary to perpetuate the memory of its horrors. From one Bastille, I made 83. I dedicated them to the *départements* and so it's ruins are spread all across France and will forever remind its virtuous citizens of the atrocities committed by its despots.

Pierre François ("Patriot") Palloy, letter to departmental officials in Rouen (Archives départementales de la Seine Maritime L 225), Oct. 26, 1790.

Model of the Bastille, carried by four men to a civic festival
Lesueur brothers, 1790.

Place de la Bastille, Paris

Column of Liberty, 1835
Bastille Opera House, 1989



Image Credits

2. medallion, member of Surveillance Committee, Merignies (Nord); images.bnf.fr
3. "Conqueror of the Bastille" diploma; www.histoire-image.org
4. "Conqueror of the Bastille: peace to households, war to the castles, victory or death. The tyrants are walls* [sic]." undated print, gallica.bnf.fr
5. (undated) image of the Declaration of Rights; gallica.bnf.fr
6. (undated) print of a guillotine; gallica.bnf.fr
7. David, "Napoleon crossing the Alps" wikimedia
8. Rowlandson, "Beast... book of Revelations" ; Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, Library, Brown University; <http://dl.lib.brown.edu/napoleon/>
9. Houël, "Storming of the Bastille"; gallica.bnf.fr
10. *Mémoires authentiques de Latude*, front cover; gallica.bnf.fr
11. Museum of the French Revolution 84.660; <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution>
12. gallica.bnf.fr
13. gallica.bnf.fr
14. <http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution>
15. photos; RL Spang and wikimedia

* In French, "les tyrans sont murs." *Murs* means "walls" but it may also be a mis-spelling of *morts* ("dead").