

History B357-Spang

Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

3 September 2008

Modern France: Where, When, What?

Caen (Calvados)
fortifications, c. 1060



www.indiana.edu/~b357

Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

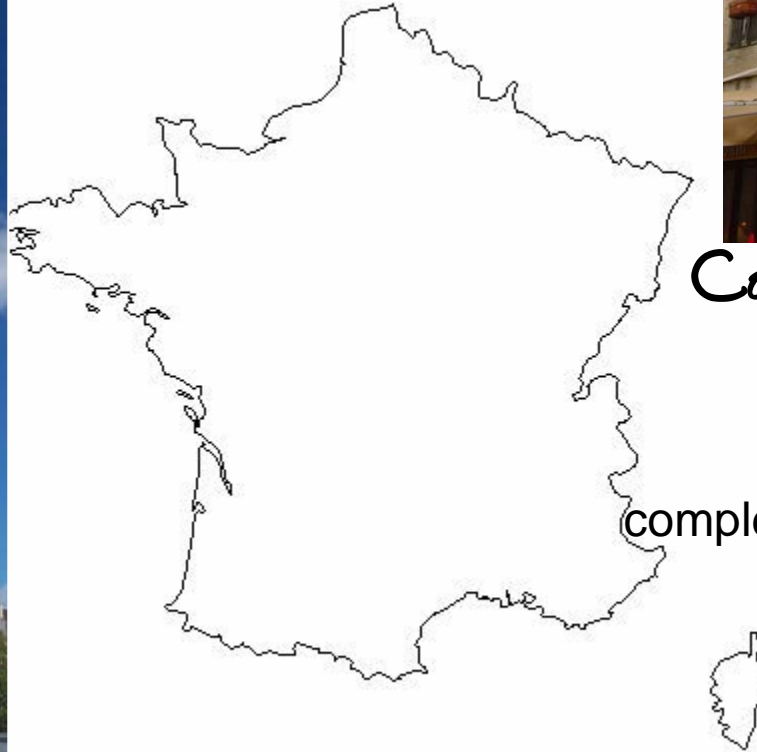
Dr. Rebecca L. Spang

Ballantine 711, Mondays 2:00-3:30

rlspang@indiana.edu



Place de la Bastille, Paris



Course requirements

reading

attendance

participation

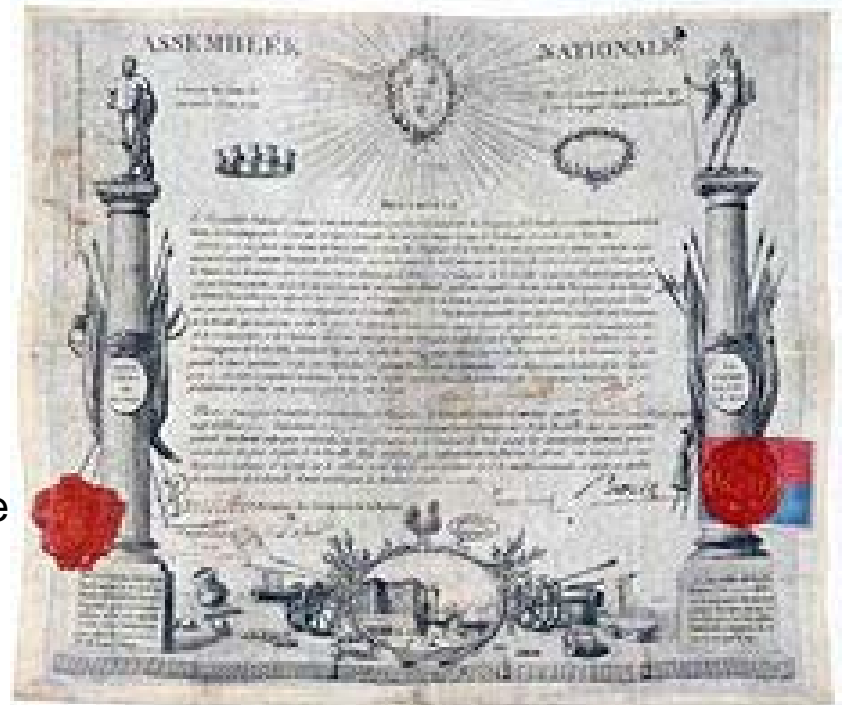
completion of *all* assignments

two short assignments (5% each)
participation (20%)
take-home midterm (20%)—Oct. 8-10
final paper (25%)—approx 10 pages
final exam (25%)—Monday, Dec. 15

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

you must complete *all* work to pass the course

more than four absences *may* result in failing



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

What might be interesting about French history? Why might different people, at different times, be interested in different histories?



“you are here”

France’s revolutionary tradition

Occupation and resistance

imperialism and decolonization

What is “France”? What is “modern”?



Millau Viaduct over the Tarn River

Nineteenth-Century Political and Social Conflict

July Revolution, 1830

Fall of July Monarchy, February 1848

June Days 1848

The Commune, March-May 1871



Daumier, "Massacre in the rue Transnonain"



ruins of Ministry of Finance, May 1871



the "July Column"
(place de la Bastille)

The Fall of France: Vichy, the German Occupation, and the Resistance

France mobilized for war Sept. 1939

Pétain government signs armistice with Germany, June 1940

De Gaulle calls for resistance, June 1940

British destroy much of French navy, July 1940

creation of “Jewish Commission,” March 1941

Free French troops combat Italian and German forces in Syria

first round-up of “foreign” Jews, August 1941

French Socialist party aligns with De Gaulle’s Free France, May 1942

introduction of French “forced labor” in German factories, Feb. 1943

CNR (National Council of the Resistance) created, March 1943

De Gaulle takes command in Algiers, Oct. 1943

Allies land in Normandy, June 1944

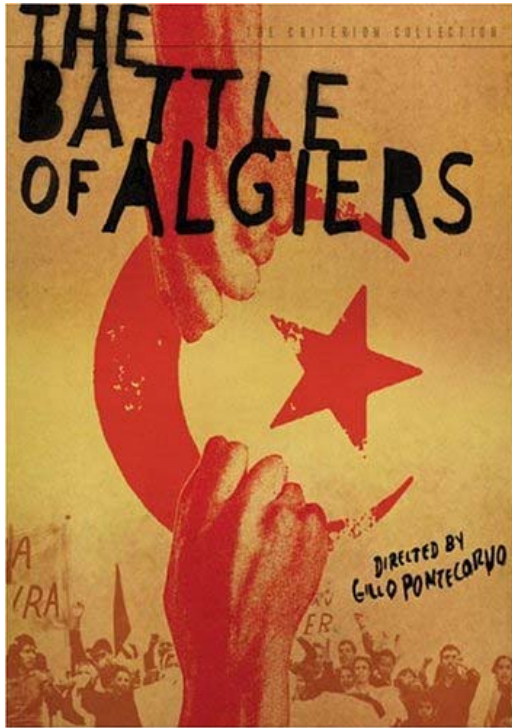
liberation of Paris, 25 August 1944

liberation of Strasbourg, Nov. 1944; La Rochelle, April 1945

Ho Chi Minh calls for insurrection in French Indochina, Aug. 1945



The Algerian War, 1954-1962



France claims Algiers and surrounding territory, 1830

“Algeria” administered as France, 1848

(but “exceptional laws” govern Algerians)

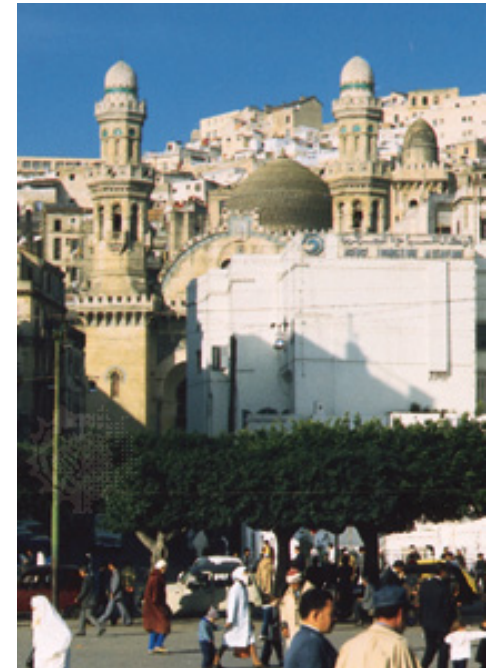
20% of French state spending in 1950s was to “maintain order”
in Algeria

widespread use of torture

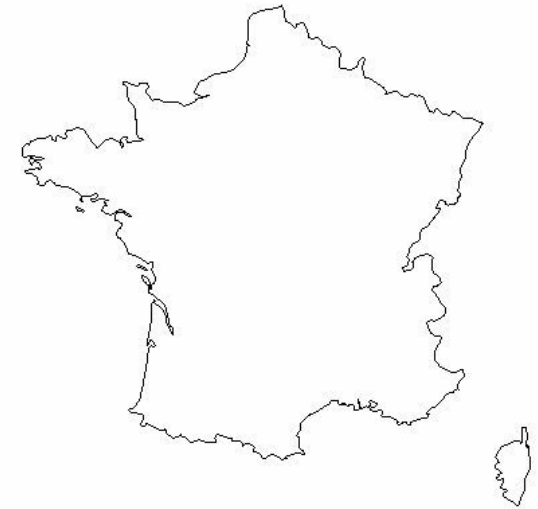
18,000 French military dead (65,000 wounded) + 30,000 “harkis”

150,000 or more Algerian nationalist deaths

1962 emigration of nearly 2 million “European” Algerians to France

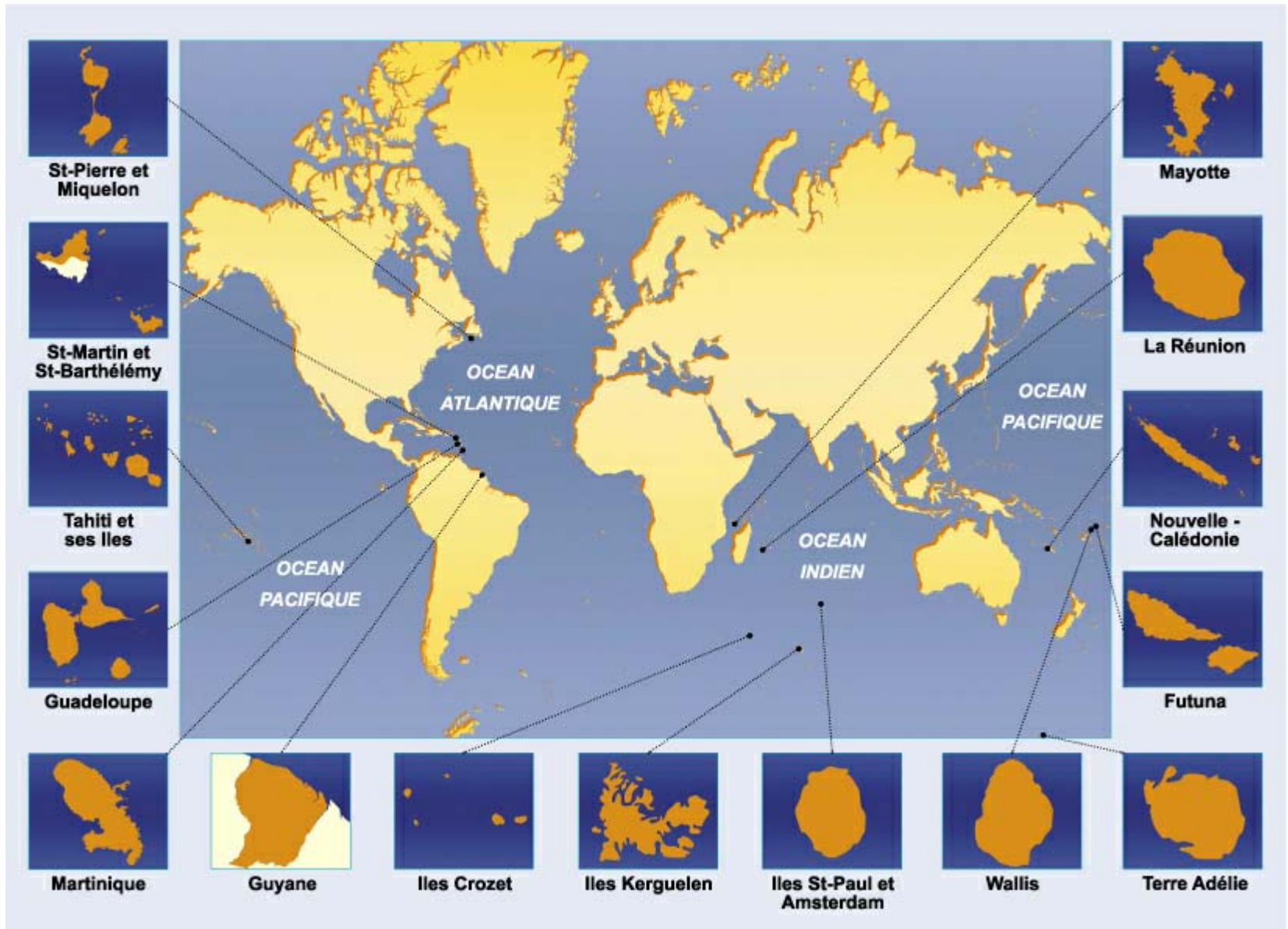


What do we mean by “France”?



What is “France”?

DOM-TOMs = Departments and Territories Overseas



What is "France"?



Normandy



Bordeaux



Auvergne

What is "France"?

Administrative division of France into “departments” (1790)

originally 83, now 100



What is “France”?

When is France “modern”?

‘Modern’ is a prestigious word, a talisman, an open sesame, and it comes with a lifelong guarantee. The success of advertising slogans that use it is an indication of its status (use such-and-such a technology, have such-and-such car, etc.). But if we ask what it means, no answer is forthcoming; indeed, it is a word we are not permitted to question. When we say “modern times” or “modern technology” we think we have said something... but we have merely pointed out an inextricable confusion between fashion, the here-and-now, the ‘valid,’ the lasting, and the contemporary.

There is perpetually something new. ... One of the most arrogant features of the new is that on both an emotive and an intellectual level it manages in some obscure way to give the impression of being synonymous with **creativity**.

Henri Lefebvre,
Introduction to Modernity (1962).

1789 –French Revolution

1850s—rebuilding of Paris

1930s—French population
> 50% urban

1945-1973—
“thirty glorious years”

