The French Revolution
1789-1799
Louis XIV: "The Sun King"
(1638-1715)
Louis XV “Le Bien Aime” (r. 1723-1774)
The French and Indian War was a great financial and territorial loss for France.
The American War for Independence inspired French Revolutionaries
Louis XVI (r. 1774-1792)
The first revolt: The Nobility rejects Calonne’s Assembly of Notables
2. Nevertheless the civil rights of those of the king's subjects who are not Catholics should be confirmed, and they should be admitted to positions and offices in the public administration...
7. The rights which have just been restored to the nation should be consecrated as fundamental principles of the monarchy, and their perpetual and unalterable enjoyment should be assured by a solemn law, which should so define the rights both of the monarch and of the people that their violation shall hereafter be impossible.
8. Among these rights the following should be especially noted: the nation should hereafter be subject only to such laws and taxes as it shall itself freely ratify.

9. The meetings of the Estates General of the kingdom should be fixed for definite periods
10. In order to assure to the third estate the influence to which it is entitled in view of the number of its members, the amount of its contributions to the public treasury, and the manifold interests which it has to defend or promote in the national assemblies, its votes in the assembly should be taken and counted by head.
13. Since individual liberty is intimately associated with national liberty, his Majesty is hereby petitioned not to permit that it be hereafter interfered with by arbitrary orders for imprisonment.

14. Freedom should be granted also to the press, which should however be subjected, by means of strict regulations to the principles of religion, morality, and public decency.
The second revolt: The Third Estate takes the Oath of the Tennis Court, June 20, 1789
The third revolt: Parisian Sans Culottes seize the Bastille, July 14, 1789
The fourth revolt: The peasants overthrow the nobility
Events of Summer 1789

• Third Estate becomes National Assembly

• “Great Fear” grips the countryside—true social revolution

• NA abolishes feudalism Aug. 4, 1789

• Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen—Aug. 26, 1789
The Women’s March on Versailles, October 5-6, 1789
The Execution of Louis XVI (January 21, 1793)
Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794)
The Reign of Terror (1793-1794)
La Marseillaise

Arise children of the fatherland
The day of glory has arrived
Against us tyranny's
Bloody standard is raised
Listen to the sound in the fields
The howling of these fearsome soldiers
They are coming into our midst
To cut the throats of your sons and consorts

To arms citizens Form your battalions
March, march
Let impure blood
Water our furrows
Napoleon Bonaparte seizes power, 18th of Brumaire
Causes and Agents of Revolution

- Louis XIV, XV, XVI
- Enlightenment
- French/Indian War 1756-63
- American Revolution
- Taxes
- Crop failures
- Calonne
- Nobility revolts against Assembly of Notables
- Third Estate
- Abbe Sieyes
- Sans Culottes
- Peasantry
- National Assembly
Effects/Outcomes of French Revolution

• Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
• End of Feudalism
• End of French Monarchy
• Church weakened
• Nobility declines
• France made a Republic
• Bourgeoisie in power?
• Napoleon Bonaparte becomes Emperor