

1. Liberalism and nationalism

- Liberalism is both an ideology and a political and economic doctrine based on a set of principles:
 - The citizens possess **national sovereignty** and choose representatives by voting.
 - A **separation of powers** to avoid all the power being held by one person.
 - A **constitution** that guarantees the rights and duties of citizens.
 - An individual's right to property and a free market economy in which the state does not intervene.
 - The **liberal revolutions** ended absolutism and gave rise to the liberal state in the form of parliamentary monarchy or republic.
 - **Nationalism** advocates the right of nations to create their own state. The nation can be defined as a group of individuals who have a set of their own cultural ties and choose to live together.
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2. The French Revolution (1789-1792)

- The **causes** of the French Revolution were diverse:
 - Poor harvests caused food prices to increase, which led to popular protests.
 - Serious economic crisis.
 - The unpopularity of the estates class system which left the bourgeoisie politically marginalised and exempted the privileged classes from paying tax.
 - Facing serious economic crisis the king summoned the Estates General. The vote in this institution was normally carried out by estate rather than person. In order to increase its representation, the Third Estate requested individual suffrage. The king rejected the request.
 - The **National Assembly** and the **storming of the Bastille** meant that Louis XVI had little choice but to recognise the Constituent National Assembly.
 - The first phase of the French Revolution, **constitutional monarchy** (1789-1792), aimed to:
 - **Abolish feudalism** and approve the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the citizen**.
 - Draw up a **Constitution (1791)**, which included the separation of powers, national sovereignty and equality before the law. Census suffrage was also introduced.
 - The formation of the **Legislative Assembly**, which took further steps to ensure the equality of citizens.
 - Separate the Church and state through a civil Constitution of the Clergy.
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3. The First French Republic (1792-1799)

- **The Democratic Republic** (1792-1794) shows two distinct phases:
 - **The Girondist Convention:** The Girondists were elected by universal male suffrage and created the National Convention. They sentenced the king and his wife to death on the guillotine. They also had to deal with other European monarchies who formed a coalition against France after the royal executions.
 - **The Jacobin Convention:** The Jacobins ruled through the Committee of Public Safety, led by Robespierre. They ruled by terror, executing enemies of the revolution. A new Constitution was approved by universal male suffrage. A series of social laws were also passed to meet the demands of the sans-culottes. In 1794, the bourgeoisie led a coup to remove the Jacobins from power.
- The **bourgeois revolution** (1794-1799): following the coup, the conservative bourgeoisie retook power. Its leaders implemented a new Constitution and under the new government executive power was came in the form of the Directory. The vote by consensus was re-established. In 1799, one of the board members, Napoleon Bonaparte, led a coup and stated a new government called the Consulate.

4. The Napoleonic period (1799-1815)

- In 1799, Napoleon was named consul which saw the beginning of rule under the **Consulate** (1799-1804) This was a period of authoritarian rule. Napoleon represented the interests of the moderate bourgeoisie, implementing economic liberalism and signing an agreement with the Church called the Concordat. At the same time, a set of codes (civil, criminal, trade) were drawn up. He also made education and financial reforms.
- The highlight of this period was territorial expansion: much of Europe was annexed or came under French influence. In these territories the new revolutionary ideas (consecration of liberty and legal equality, implementation of economic and religious freedom, the right to property) were imposed.
- French occupation sparked strong nationalist feelings in the conquered territories and large parts of the populations in these territories rose up against Napoleon's France.
- In 1814, following defeats in Spain and Russia, Napoleon abdicated. He returned to power briefly in 1815 but was defeated at Waterloo. A return to the Ancien Régime seemed inevitable.

5. Restoration and liberal revolutions (1815-1848)

- The **Congress of Vienna**(1814-1815) brought together the powers that defeated Napoleon in order to stop the spread of liberal ideas and restore absolute monarchy in Europe.
- The signing of the **Holy Alliance** (1815) established a mutual aid agreement that stated that they all had to help each other in the case of liberal revolution in any of the countries.
- However, between 1820 and 1848, **absolutism** had to face strong revolutionary movements.
- From 1820 onwards, revolutionary movements grew in strength. In 1830, a series of uprisings saw the bourgeoisie seize power in many parts of Europe.
- In 1848, a series of revolutions took place that called for liberal reforms and for the introduction of universal suffrage, the sovereignty of the people and social equality. In France and parts of the Austrian Empire it became clear that liberal ideals were changing society.

6. Nationalist movements

- The Napoleonic expansion and the Holy Alliance provoked a nationalist sentiment in many European countries. Liberal revolutions were also accompanied by nationalist demands.
 - The major independence movements were in Greece (Ottoman Empire), Belgium (Netherlands) and the Spanish colonies in mainland America, who rebelled against Great Britain.
 - **Italian unification** took place between 1859 and 1870. The kingdom of Piedmont, ruled by Cavour, began the process, which involved a war against Austria and the annexation of the Italian states.
 - Germany was divided into thirty-six states. Prussia and Austria were the strongest of them all. In 1861, Otto von Bismarck became Chancellor, the first move towards a united Germany were made. War was declared on Denmark, Austria and France. Prussian troops triumphed and in 1871 Germany was unified.
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