

# French Revolution

## Kagan 18.1 (592-596) The Crisis of the French Monarchy

1. What was the main problem of the French government by the late 1700s?
2. What was the relationship between the monarchy and the aristocracy in the 1770s?
3. Why wasn't the French monarchy popular with common people in the 1770s?
4. Why did Louis XVI agree to assemble the Estates General in 1788?

## Kagan 18.2 The Revolution of 1789 (596-603)

1. Who was represented in each of the Three Estates?
2. Why did Abbé Siyès claim the Third Estate was special?
3. Why did the Third Estate object to the organization of the Estates General?
4. What complaints did French subjects list in the *cahiers de doléances*?
5. Under what circumstances was the "Tennis Court Oath" taken and by whom?
6. When faced with the new National Constituent Assembly, Louis XVI made a crucial decision. What was it and why did he do it?
7. Why was the storming of the Bastilles important since it contained only a few unimportant prisoners?
8. What happened during the "Great Fear?"
9. How did what happened on the night of 4 August 1789 change France? Why was this important?
10. What were the main ideas of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen?
11. Why did poor women from Paris march to Versailles in October 1789? What was the impact of this?

## Kagan 18.3- The Reconstruction of France (603-9)

1. What were the main political, economic, and religious changes that the Constituent Assembly pursued? These changes reflected the philosophy of what group of French society?
2. What powers did the Assembly give to itself in the Constitution of 1791?
3. What was the difference between an active and a passive citizen?
4. What was Olympe de Gouges' big idea? Even if few influential people agreed with her, why was her argument important?
5. Why did the Assembly's early actions disappoint both urban workers and rural peasants?
6. Why did the Assembly confiscate the lands of the Church? How did *assignats* work?
7. Why was the Civil Constitution of the Clergy a "major blunder?"
8. Who were the émigrés? What did they want?
9. Why was Louis' flight to Varennes important?

## Kagan 18.4 The End of the Monarchy: A Second Rev.

1. Why did the National Constituent Assembly disband in 1791?
2. What were the main ideas of the Jacobins? Who were the Girondists and what were their main policies?
3. What were the political implications of the events of 10 August 1792 and the September Massacres?
4. How was the Convention different from the Legislative Assembly?
5. Who were the *sans-culottes*, what did they want, and how did they try to get it?
6. Both "the Mountain" and the Girondists were Jacobins. So what explains the differences between them in the Convention?
7. What problems did the leaders of the Revolution face in early 1793?

## Kagan 18.5 Europe At War With the Revolution(612-614)

1. How did Edmund Burke respond to the events of the Revolution? Thomas Paine?
2. In what ways did the events of the French Revolution begin to affect Britain and Poland?

## Kagan 18.6- The Reign of Terror (615-620)

1. Why did the other nations of Europe go to war against France in 1792 / 1793?
2. How did the Committee of Public Safety respond to the demands of the war?
3. What were the main values behind the "Republic of Virtue" and how did those values manifest themselves?
4. Why did Robespierre think that terror was necessary?
5. What was the Jacobin attitude toward women?
6. Why would advocates of the policy of de-Christianization consider themselves good examples of Enlightenment thinking?
7. What was the trend that took place in the Revolutionary Tribunals between October of 1793 and July of 1794?
8. What brought about the fall of Robespierre?

## Kagan 18.7 The Thermidorian Reaction ( 621-624)

1. What political and social changes made the Thermidorian Reaction distinct from the Revolutionary period of 1792-1795?
2. With the fall of the most radical revolutionaries, did the Directory (the name given to the period that began with the Thermidorian Reaction) return France to the way things were before 1789? What had permanently changed? What had not?
3. What troubles did the Directory face?

