

French Revolution Events

I. Political crisis leads to revolt

A. The Great Fear

1. Inflamed by famine and rumors
2. Peasant fury unleashed on nobles.

B. Paris Commune comes to power.

1. Factions compete to gain power.
2. Paris Commune mobilizes neighborhoods.

II. The National Assembly acts

A. Special privilege ends.

1. Nobles vote to end their own privileges.
2. Delegates abolish feudalism.

B. Declaration of the Rights of Man

1. Modeled on the American Declaration of Independence
2. Equal rights for women not granted.

C. Women march on Versailles.

1. Anger at Marie Antoinette's extravagant lifestyle
2. Demand that the king return to Paris

III. The National Assembly presses onward

A. The Church is placed under state control.

1. Civil Constitution ends papal authority and dissolves convents and monasteries.
2. Angry reaction by bishops, priests, pope, and French peasants

B. The Constitution of 1791 establishes a new government.

1. Replaces absolute monarchy with limited monarchy
2. Reflects Enlightenment goals

French Revolution Events (cont.)

C. Louis's escape fails.

1. Royal family attempts disguised escape across the border.
2. Louis's escape attempt makes him a traitor to the revolution.

IV. Radicals take over

A. Rulers fear spread of revolution.

1. European rulers increase border patrols to stop "French plague."
2. Fears fueled by stories from émigrés.

B. Threats come from abroad.

1. King of Prussia and emperor of Austria issue the Declaration of Pillnitz.
2. Revolutionaries in France prepare for war.

C. Radicals fight for power and declare war.

1. Newly elected Legislative Assembly survives less than a year.
2. Sans-culottes and Jacobins demand a republic.

D. The National Assembly declares war on tyranny.

1. Radicals gain upper hand in the Legislative Assembly.
2. Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria, Prussia, and Britain.