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| 1. Peasants in the countryside heard word of the Third Estate’s mistreatment by the Estates-General and there was a revolutionary spirit that permeated France | 5. The peasants amplified their attacks in the countryside over the span of a few weeks, sparking a hysteria dubbed the **Great Fear**. Starting around July 20, 1789, and continuing through the first days of August, the Great Fear spread through sporadic pockets of the French countryside. Peasants attacked country manors and estates, in some cases burning them down in an attempt to escape their feudal obligations. |
| 1. The King, Louis XVI could not get the Parlement of Paris or a Council of Notable to approve his demands that all propertied people (regardless of estate) be taxed. | 10. The King called the Estates General in 1789 (a body that had not been called since 1614). |
| 1. The Third Estate was dissatisfied with the voting procedure in the Estates General (each estate gets one vote) and they saw that neither the King or other estates would listen to their requests. | 3. The National Assembly is formed and the Tennis Court Oath (an oath that declared the National Assembly would not disband until a new constitution was written) is formed. |
| 1. The French pay for and get involved in the Americans’ fight for independence against the British (The American Revolution). | 9. Ideas of liberty against tyranny spread throughout France. The French debt increases. |
| 1. News of Louis XVI’s dismissal of his Finance Minister (Necker) and his gathering of 18,000 troops to disband the National Assembly reach Paris. | 11. Parisians attempt to seize arms from a royal prison (the Bastille). The Prison Governor is killed and paraded around Paris with his head on a pike. |
| 1. The Fall of the Bastille to the National Guard in Paris | 2. The King’s attempt to reassert his authority over the National Assembly is thwarted. Necker is reinstated, and troops are removed from Versailles. |
| 1. Peasant Revolts erupt in the countryside; they attack nobles, their property, and ruin feudal contracts that once kept them in virtual bondage. | 6. The August 4 Decrees are passed which promote equality in taxation and an end to centuries of feudal privileges enjoyed by the first and third estates. Tithes paid to the church were also abolished. |
| 1. New rights are granted to peasants by the August 4 Decrees. | 8. The National Assembly is inspired to move on with its mission of Reform and issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man” which promoted equal rights, natural rights, equality before the law, freedom of expression, and a representative government. |
| 1. After the fall of the Bastille, aristocrats fled France, unemployment increased, luxury markets fell, and the church could no longer afford to help the poor (when tithes were no longer charged). | 4. 7,000 feisty women marched on Versailles and demanded an audience with the National Assembly and the King. |
| 1. The Women’s March on Versailles | 1. The King moved his court closer to Paris and a constitutional monarchy was established which gave all lawmaking authority to the National Assembly.   Women received greater rights to seek divorce, inherit property, and get help for illegitimate children from their fathers. Yet, women were still not granted the rights to vote or hold elected office. |
| 1. The National Assembly passed the Civil Constitution of the Clergy | 7. The French Catholic Church lost its property  Clergy had to take an oath to the state rather than the Pope.  Differences between commoners who supported the church and the educated (supported the National Assembly) intensified. |
| 1. The National Assembly asserts that colonies would have free rein over which groups could vote and exercise power. | 12. Slaves and Free blacks in Saint Domingue revolted. |