

Chapter 1 : France History and Timeline Overview

French economic history since its late 18th century Revolution was tied to three major events and trends: the Napoleonic Era, the competition with Britain and its other neighbors in regards to 'industrialization', and the 'total wars' of the late 18th and early 20th centuries.

Enjoy the Famous Daily The Restoration: The pattern is intended to echo the parliamentary system established in Britain, with one chamber made up of peers and another of elected deputies. As with the Cavalier parliament after the English restoration in 1660, the first elections result in an ultra-royalist majority. Vengeance for the recent sufferings of the landed classes is high on the agenda. The king, personally inclined to moderation, contrives to steer a middle course for a few years after 1661, when new elections return a more centrist parliament. But his task is made more difficult after the assassination, in 1671, of his nephew the duc de Berry. The 1670s see a continuous drift towards reactionary policies, including the unscrupulous revision of the franchise to favour the rich. The process accelerates after Charles X succeeds his brother in 1715. At the very start of his reign Charles X makes a dramatic statement of his intended policy. He has himself crowned in the cathedral at Reims. The Holy Ampulla, believed to have been brought from heaven by the Holy Ghost, has been smashed by a republican in 1715. But Charles is relieved to discover that faithful royalists have rescued the few drops of the sacred liquid needed for his anointment. The ceremony can be carried out with full medieval pomp. Appropriate political measures follow. Power is returned to the clergy. Large sums of money are allotted to recompense the aristocracy for lost lands. Hostility mounts and is even expressed in parliament. Charles responds by selecting increasingly right-wing ministers. Eventually in desperation, on 26 July 1791, he dissolves the elected chamber, severely restricts the freedom of the press, and announces a new electorate limited to 25,000 grandes. This is too much for the Parisians, always conscious of their revolutionary traditions. Barricades appear once again in the streets. Angry crowds brandish the tricolour, symbol of the revolution but replaced since 1790 by the Bourbon flag. After three days of street-fighting July 1791, the people win. Charles X, king of pomp and ceremony, flees from the city. He cuts a very different figure. In an extraordinary echo of distant events, he is greeted on the steps by Lafayette - a leading player in a similarly dramatic scene in Paris forty-one years earlier, in 1789. He becomes known, with good reason, as the Citizen King. The extreme left wing, deriving from the Jacobins, has recently found new support in the increasingly industrialized cities. Meanwhile more moderate republicans, also with their roots in the revolution of 1789, hope for a system akin to that of the Directory. Even the royalists, having achieved their main purpose with the Bourbon restoration, are now split into two incompatible groups. The other royalist faction, backing Louis Philippe, are known as the Orleanists. Louis Philippe lacks a clear democratic mandate the franchise in his reign extends only to some 100,000 wealthy citizens, yet he has little of his own to offer - except the first glimpse of a trend which becomes familiar only in the late 20th century. As the bourgeois monarch, he can be seen walking in the streets carrying his own umbrella. Fascinated at first, Parisians soon find this uninspiring. The result is a reign both unsettled and violent. And there are frequent republican uprisings - in Lyons in 1834, in Paris in 1848, in both cities again in 1871. The predictable response is a clampdown on political liberty. This provides some calmer years at a time of prosperity in the early 19th century. But from 1848 political dissatisfaction coincides with economic setback, with the wheat and potato crops failing in much of Europe. In a campaign for constitutional reform is conducted in a series of high-profile banquets. Feeling threatened by this campaign, the government bans a banquet due to be held on 22 February in Paris. The result is a large demonstration and the reappearance of barricades in the streets with a new element, the red flag of socialism, now seen in working-class districts. The usual pattern of escalation occurs. On February 23 troops fire on the demonstrators. The following day Louis Philippe abdicates and withdraws to England. He intends his grandson to succeed him. It proclaims the right of everyone to work, proposes state-run national workshops to ensure full employment, limits the length of the working week, and introduces universal male suffrage over the age of twenty-one - increasing the electorate at a stroke from 100,000 to some nine million. Within weeks the national workshops are deemed impractical and are abandoned, being replaced with schemes such as the extension of military conscription. The result is an insurrection in the

working-class districts of Paris, in June. It is ruthlessly suppressed by the republican government. The winner is Louis Napoleon, nephew of the emperor. He receives more than five million votes, nearly four times the score of his nearest rival. This is a moment for which Louis Napoleon has been working tirelessly, often to tragicomic effect. When they fail to do so, he is inevitably arrested. On that first occasion the French king, Louis Philippe, thinks it wise to underplay this feeble act of insurrection. Louis Napoleon is quietly deported to the United States. But the would-be emperor is not so easily discouraged. In he lands near Boulogne with fifty followers and invites the garrison to help him recover his rightful empire. Again he is arrested, but this time he is tried and imprisoned for life. In he escapes, disguised as a labourer, and makes his way to London. The election of a president in at last offers him a legitimate route to power. Even with his somewhat preposterous track record, Louis Napoleon sweeps to victory on the popular vote. Such is the magic of the family name. The presidency is for a fixed term of four years. Louis Napoleon skilfully builds up support around the country, but he fails to persuade the national assembly to vote a change of law enabling him to continue in office after. He restores universal male suffrage in time for the plebiscite on December 20, in which he asks for dictatorial powers as president for a span of ten years. Seven and a half million voters approve of his plans, with less than a tenth of that number registering dissent. Once more an overwhelming majority say yes. The Second Empire at home: The members of the upper chamber are appointed. The lower house is elected for six years but sits for only three months in the year; its debates are published in censored form, and the press is under similar restrictions. After years of weak rule and public disorder, France at first welcomes firm government. The economic cycle is on the upturn. Industrialization is proceeding apace. The network of railways is greatly extended, radiating out from Paris. Financial services are developed. Reduction of tariffs leads to a marked increase in levels of trade. These signs of prosperity and national energy are reflected in a glittering court life very different from the drab example set by the Citizen King. The empress becomes the central figure in the glamorous festivities which are the public face of the Second Empire. Nevertheless by the end of the decade there is mounting dissatisfaction at the moribund political scene masked by this glitter. Napoleon III responds to the challenge with sound political sense. Rulers have traditionally clamped down at the first sign of unrest, but he takes the opposite course. He defuses the situation by becoming more liberal. An amnesty announced in August allows the return of many political exiles. In the elected assembly is given greater powers and the restraints on the press are somewhat eased. The new atmosphere encourages political dissent in the election of there are two million opposition votes, and republican candidates do well in the larger cities, yet the emperor does not reverse the direction of his policy. Further relaxations are decreed in. By the election the opposition vote has increased to three million. Again the emperor is undeterred. He and his colleagues devise with the emperor a constitution which is put to the people in in yet another Napoleonic plebiscite. Once again it passes handsomely, with more than seven million voters expressing their approval. An imperial dictatorship has been transformed, almost seamlessly, into a constitutional monarchy. But it is destined to have only two months of life. But a final and costly disaster, at the hands of Prussia, proves the last straw. The Second Empire abroad: His first major undertaking achieves all he might wish. In the resulting Crimean War, France is on the winning side. And the holding of the peace talks in Paris in gives the new empire a visibly central role in European affairs. His intention is to repeat the earlier Napoleonic achievement of sweeping the Austrians from Italy.

Chapter 2 : SparkNotes: The French Revolution (1789-1804): Brief Overview

The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history that began in 1789 and ended in the late 18th century with the ascent of Napoleon Bonaparte. During this period, French citizens.

Visit Website Did you know? This artifact provided the key to cracking the code of Egyptian hieroglyphics, a written language that had been dead for almost 2,000 years. As a boy, Napoleon attended school in mainland France, where he learned the French language, and went on to graduate from a French military academy in 1794. He then became a second lieutenant in an artillery regiment of the French army. The French Revolution began in 1789, and within three years revolutionaries had overthrown the monarchy and proclaimed a French republic. During the early years of the revolution, Napoleon was largely on leave from the military and home in Corsica, where he became affiliated with the Jacobins, a pro-democracy political group. In 1795, following a clash with the nationalist Corsican governor, Pasquale Paoli, the Bonaparte family fled their native island for mainland France, where Napoleon returned to military duty. Visit Website In France, Napoleon became associated with Augustin Robespierre, the brother of revolutionary leader Maximilien Robespierre, a Jacobin who was a key force behind the Reign of Terror, a period of violence against enemies of the revolution. During this time, Napoleon was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the army. However, after Robespierre fell from power and was guillotined along with Augustin in July 1794, Napoleon was briefly put under house arrest for his ties to the brothers. In 1795, Napoleon helped suppress a royalist insurrection against the revolutionary government in Paris and was promoted to major general. The following year, the Directory, the five-person group that had governed France since 1795, offered to let Napoleon lead an invasion of England. Instead, he proposed an invasion of Egypt in an effort to wipe out British trade routes with India. That summer, with the political situation in France marked by uncertainty, the ever-ambitious and cunning Napoleon opted to abandon his army in Egypt and return to France. The Coup of 18 Brumaire In November 1799, in an event known as the coup of 18 Brumaire, Napoleon was part of a group that successfully overthrew the French Directory. Additionally, with the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, the war-weary British agreed to peace with the French although the peace would only last for a year. Napoleon worked to restore stability to post-revolutionary France. One of his most significant accomplishments was the Napoleonic Code, which streamlined the French legal system and continues to form the foundation of French civil law to this day. In 1804, a constitutional amendment made Napoleon first consul for life. Two years later, in 1804, he crowned himself emperor of France in a lavish ceremony at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. More than a decade later, in 1810, after Napoleon had no offspring of his own with Josephine, he had their marriage annulled so he could find a new wife and produce an heir. In 1810, he wed Marie Louise, the daughter of the emperor of Austria. In addition to his son with Marie Louise, Napoleon had several illegitimate children. The Reign of Napoleon I From 1804 to 1814, France was engaged in the Napoleonic Wars, a series of major conflicts with various coalitions of European nations. However, in December of that same year, Napoleon achieved what is considered to be one of his greatest victories at the Battle of Austerlitz, in which his army defeated the Austrians and Russians. The victory resulted in the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and the creation of the Confederation of the Rhine. Beginning in 1806, Napoleon sought to wage large-scale economic warfare against Britain with the establishment of the so-called Continental System of European port blockades against British trade. In 1806, the French defeated the Austrians at the Battle of Wagram, resulting in further gains for Napoleon. During these years, Napoleon reestablished a French aristocracy eliminated in the French Revolution and began handing out titles of nobility to his loyal friends and family as his empire continued to expand across much of western and central continental Europe. In retaliation, Napoleon led a massive army into Russia in the summer of 1812. In September, both sides suffered heavy casualties in the indecisive Battle of Borodino. Retreating Russians set fires across the city in an effort to deprive enemy troops of supplies. After waiting a month for a surrender that never came, Napoleon, faced with the onset of the Russian winter, was forced to order his starving, exhausted army out of Moscow. During the disastrous retreat, his army suffered continual harassment from a suddenly aggressive and merciless Russian army. At the same time as the catastrophic Russian invasion, French forces were engaged in the Peninsular War, which

resulted in the Spanish and Portuguese, with assistance from the British, driving the French from the Iberian Peninsula. Napoleon then retreated to France, and in March coalition forces captured Paris. On April 6, , Napoleon, then in his mids, was forced to abdicate the throne. With the Treaty of Fontainebleau, he was exiled to Elba, a Mediterranean island off the coast of Italy. He was given sovereignty over the small island, while his wife and son went to Austria. Hundred Days Campaign and Battle of Waterloo On February 26, , after less than a year in exile, Napoleon escaped Elba and sailed to the French mainland with a group of more than 1, supporters. On March 20, he returned to Paris, where he was welcomed by cheering crowds. Napoleon raised a new army and planned to strike preemptively, defeating the allied forces one by one before they could launch a united attack against him. In June , his forces invaded Belgium, where British and Prussian troops were stationed. However, two days later, on June 18, at the Battle of Waterloo near Brussels, the French were crushed by the British, with assistance from the Prussians. On June 22, , Napoleon was once again forced to abdicate. He died there on May 5, , at age 51, most likely from stomach cancer. During his time in power, Napoleon often posed for paintings with his hand in his vest, leading to some speculation after his death that he had been plagued by stomach pain for years.

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Napoleon Bonaparte In , Napoleon issued the Berlin Decree, which forbade trade with Britain, and the British Government responded the next year with Orders in Council, which instituted a blockade of French-controlled Europe, and authorized the British navy to seize ships violating the blockade. Napoleon responded with further trade restrictions in the Milan Decree of . On June 22, , the H. Leopard bombarded and forcibly boarded the U. Chesapeake off Norfolk, Virginia in search of British navy deserters. President Jefferson responded with an embargo on all foreign trade in an effort to weaken the British economy. The embargo was extremely unpopular in New England, where the economy was heavily dependent on trade with Britain. Moreover, the British economy was not strongly affected by the embargo, which proved difficult to enforce. In early , in one of his final acts as president, Jefferson replaced the embargo with the Non-Intercourse Act, which allowed trade with other nations except Britain and France. This act also proved virtually impossible to enforce. Napoleon was the first to offer concessions, which Madison publicly accepted at face value despite his private skepticism. In doing so, Madison pushed the United States closer to war with Britain. During this period, Madison also had to address a problem created by Secretary of State, Robert Smith , who had personally stated to the British minister his pro-British sympathies. When Madison confronted Smith and offered him a graceful departure as U. Minister to Russia, Smith appeared to accept his offer, and then leaked cabinet papers as part of a smear campaign against President Madison. Relations with Great Britain continued to deteriorate. Consequently, Thomas Foster, British Minister to the United States, stated that Britain would not offer any compensation for the Chesapeake incident. By the spring of , Madison had decided upon war with Great Britain—although he also considered declaring war on France as well. Congress passed a declaration of war on June 17, which Madison signed the next day. The war continued into , although diplomats signed the Treaty of Ghent on December 23, . The Napoleonic Wars marked a period of U. However, in the postwar period, British policies began to soften, leading to the Rush-Bagot agreement and the Convention of

Chapter 4 : Milestones: " - Office of the Historian

The military history of France encompasses an immense panorama of conflicts and struggles extending for more than 2,000 years across areas including modern France, the European continent, and a variety of regions throughout the world.

The non-aristocratic members of the Third Estate now represented 98 percent of the people but could still be outvoted by the other two bodies. In the lead-up to the May 5 meeting, the Third Estate began to mobilize support for equal representation and the abolishment of the noble veto " in other words, they wanted voting by head and not by status. While all of the orders shared a common desire for fiscal and judicial reform as well as a more representative form of government, the nobles in particular were loath to give up the privileges they enjoyed under the traditional system. Tennis Court Oath By the time the Estates-General convened at Versailles, the highly public debate over its voting process had erupted into hostility between the three orders, eclipsing the original purpose of the meeting and the authority of the man who had convened it. On June 17, with talks over procedure stalled, the Third Estate met alone and formally adopted the title of National Assembly; three days later, they met in a nearby indoor tennis court and took the so-called Tennis Court Oath *serment du jeu de paume* , vowing not to disperse until constitutional reform had been achieved. Within a week, most of the clerical deputies and 47 liberal nobles had joined them, and on June 27 Louis XVI grudgingly absorbed all three orders into the new assembly. The Bastille and the Great Fear On June 12, as the National Assembly known as the National Constituent Assembly during its work on a constitution continued to meet at Versailles, fear and violence consumed the capital. Though enthusiastic about the recent breakdown of royal power, Parisians grew panicked as rumors of an impending military coup began to circulate. A popular insurgency culminated on July 14 when rioters stormed the Bastille fortress in an attempt to secure gunpowder and weapons; many consider this event, now commemorated in France as a national holiday, as the start of the French Revolution. The wave of revolutionary fervor and widespread hysteria quickly swept the countryside. Revolting against years of exploitation, peasants looted and burned the homes of tax collectors, landlords and the seigniorial elite. Drafting a formal constitution proved much more of a challenge for the National Constituent Assembly, which had the added burden of functioning as a legislature during harsh economic times. For instance, who would be responsible for electing delegates? Would the clergy owe allegiance to the Roman Catholic Church or the French government? Perhaps most importantly, how much authority would the king, his public image further weakened after a failed attempt to flee the country in June , retain? This compromise did not sit well with influential radicals like Maximilien de Robespierre , Camille Desmoulins and Georges Danton, who began drumming up popular support for a more republican form of government and for the trial of Louis XVI. On the domestic front, meanwhile, the political crisis took a radical turn when a group of insurgents led by the extremist Jacobins attacked the royal residence in Paris and arrested the king on August 10, The following month, amid a wave of violence in which Parisian insurrectionists massacred hundreds of accused counterrevolutionaries, the Legislative Assembly was replaced by the National Convention, which proclaimed the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the French republic. On January 21, , it sent King Louis XVI, condemned to death for high treason and crimes against the state, to the guillotine; his wife Marie-Antoinette suffered the same fate nine months later. In June , the Jacobins seized control of the National Convention from the more moderate Girondins and instituted a series of radical measures, including the establishment of a new calendar and the eradication of Christianity. They also unleashed the bloody Reign of Terror *la Terreur* , a month period in which suspected enemies of the revolution were guillotined by the thousands. Many of the killings were carried out under orders from Robespierre, who dominated the draconian Committee of Public Safety until his own execution on July 28, Over 17,000 people were officially tried and executed during the Reign of Terror, and an unknown number of others died in prison or without trial. Executive power would lie in the hands of a five-member Directory *Directoire* appointed by parliament. Royalists and Jacobins protested the new regime but were swiftly silenced by the army, now led by a young and successful general named Napoleon Bonaparte. By the late 1790s, the directors relied almost entirely on the military to maintain their authority and had ceded much of their power to the generals in the

field.

Chapter 5 : French History Since Napoleon: Martin Alexander: Bloomsbury Academic

This exploration of France since Napoleon offers a route map over the main contours of modern French history. Political history is represented, with chapters discussing the character of each regime from the Restoration in through the Second Republic and Empire, the Third Republic and Vichy, to the Fifth Republic.

To this end, the diplomats from all of the Great Powers met at the Congress of Vienna to negotiate from there they reorganized European boundaries in hopes of creating a stable Europe where coalitions of nations could always ally to defeat one nation that got out of hand. The rulers after Napoleon were dedicated to stopping revolution like the French Revolution in their own countries. The Tory government in Great Britain was archconservative and greatly opposed social upheaval. Metternich, the foreign minister in Austria, was willing to do anything to stabilize Europe and preserve Hapsburg power. On both sides, Louis granted amnesties, hoping to "start over" in France. The wealthy, however, remembering the leveling effects of the Revolution, became passionately anti-revolutionary, or reactionary. Unlike the moderate Louis, Charles was a hard-core reactionary, and hated all the changes taking place in France, even the ones Louis had initiated. Charles believed himself to be a monarch appointed by God, and he started trampling on basic elements of liberalism like the French constitution. Initially, its government was quite liberal; though ruled by Alexander, Poland had a constitution. As a result of its frustrated desire for self-rule, Polish Nationalism began to rise. Secret societies developed, and a university movement which Alexander put down in the s got underway. Germany In Germany, nationalists motivated by Romantic ideas such as the belief in a special German Volksggeist hated the results of the Congress of Vienna, since the ongress split up into a loose federation called the Bund. Dissatisfaction centered among students and intellectuals, who began to form highly nationalist clubs called Burschenschaft. In , the Burschenschaft held a national meeting at Wartburg, convincing Metternich that German nationalism was a force to be reckoned with. When the German nationalists began assassinating reactionary leaders, Metternich intervened by pushing the Carlsbad Decrees through the Bund in . The decrees outlawed the Burschenschaft and pushed them underground. Secondly, the decrees increased government regulation of the universities, limiting what was taught, and made way for government censorship of German newspapers. The Carlsbad Decrees quieted the German nationalist movement for about a decade. Great Britain In Great Britain, in , the aristocrat-dominated Parliament passed the Corn Law, which raised tariffs on grain to make imports impossible. The high tariffs also raised prices beyond the reach of the working class. In December , starving workers rioted in London. Meanwhile, in Manchester, the ascendant industrialists who dominated the city had been hoping to get Parliamentary representation for some time. Realizing how discontented the workers were, the industrialists helped organize 80, workers to demonstrate at St. Peters Field against the Corn Law and for universal male suffrage. The protest was peaceful, but British soldiers nonetheless fired into the crowd, killing several. The event became a national scandal, called the Peterloo Massacre. The Tory Parliament, frightened of the potential for worker revolts, passed acts in aimed at stopping mass political organization. Not appeased, a group of workers decided to try and assassinate the Tory cabinet. This group, known as the Cato Street Conspiracy, was discovered in . Several members were executed.

Chapter 6 : SparkNotes: Europe (): Europe After Napoleon

[PDF]Free French History Since Napoleon download Book French History Since racedaydvl.com Napoleon - Wikipedia Mon, 29 Oct GMT Napoleon was born the same year the Republic of Genoa, a former commune of Italy, transferred Corsica to France.

Strong princes[edit] France was a very decentralised state during the Middle Ages. The authority of the king was more religious than administrative. The 11th century in France marked the apogee of princely power at the expense of the king when states like Normandy , Flanders or Languedoc enjoyed a local authority comparable to kingdoms in all but name. The Capetians , as they were descended from the Robertians , were formerly powerful princes themselves who had successfully unseated the weak and unfortunate Carolingian kings. They were involved in the struggle for power within France as princes, but they also had a religious authority over Roman Catholicism in France as King. The Capetian kings treated other princes more as enemies and allies than as subordinates: Capetian authority was so weak in some remote places that bandits were the effective power. The Normans , the Plantagenets , the Lusignans , the Hautevilles , the Ramnulfids , and the House of Toulouse successfully carved lands outside France for themselves. The most important of these conquests for French history was the Norman Conquest of England by William the Conqueror , following the Battle of Hastings and immortalised in the Bayeux Tapestry , because it linked England to France through Normandy. Although the Normans were now both vassals of the French kings and their equals as kings of England, their zone of political activity remained centered in France. Rise of the monarchy[edit] The monarchy overcame the powerful barons over ensuing centuries, and established absolute sovereignty over France in the 16th century. A number of factors contributed to the rise of the French monarchy. The dynasty established by Hugh Capet continued uninterrupted until , and the laws of primogeniture ensured orderly successions of power. Secondly, the successors of Capet came to be recognised as members of an illustrious and ancient royal house and therefore socially superior to their politically and economically superior rivals. Thirdly, the Capetians had the support of the Church , which favoured a strong central government in France. This alliance with the Church was one of the great enduring legacies of the Capetians. The First Crusade was composed almost entirely of Frankish Princes. As time went on the power of the King was expanded by conquests, seizures and successful feudal political battles. The loss of other Spanish principalities then followed, as the Spanish marches grew more and more independent. Hugh Capet decided so in order to have his succession secured. His surviving charters imply he relied heavily on the Church to rule France, much like his father did. Although he lived with a mistressâ€” Bertha of Burgundy â€”and was excommunicated because of this, he was regarded as a model of piety for monks hence his nickname, Robert the Pious. Under King Philip I , the kingdom enjoyed a modest recovery during his extraordinarily long reign â€” His reign also saw the launch of the First Crusade to regain the Holy Land , which heavily involved his family although he personally did not support the expedition. It is from Louis VI reigned â€”37 onward that royal authority became more accepted. Louis VI was more a soldier and warmongering king than a scholar. The way the king raised money from his vassals made him quite unpopular; he was described as greedy and ambitious and that is corroborated by records of the time. His regular attacks on his vassals, although damaging the royal image, reinforced the royal power. From onward Louis had the assistance of a skilled religious statesman, Abbot Suger. The abbot was the son of a minor family of knights, but his political advice was extremely valuable to the king. Louis VI successfully defeated, both military and politically, many of the robber barons. Louis VI frequently summoned his vassals to the court, and those who did not show up often had their land possessions confiscated and military campaigns mounted against them. This drastic policy clearly imposed some royal authority on Paris and its surrounding areas. When Louis VI died in , much progress had been made towards strengthening Capetian authority. Powerful vassals paid homage to the French king. However, the couple disagreed over the burning of more than a thousand people in Vitry during the conflict against the Count of Champagne. He later involved the Kingdom of France in the Second Crusade but his relationship with Eleanor did not improve. This style became standard for most European cathedrals

built in the late Middle Ages. The late Capetians, although they often ruled for a shorter time than their earlier peers, were often much more influential. This period also saw the rise of a complex system of international alliances and conflicts opposing, through dynasties, Kings of France and England and Holy Roman Emperor. His reign saw the French royal domain and influence greatly expanded. He set the context for the rise of power to much more powerful monarchs like Saint Louis and Philip the Fair. This battle involved a complex set of alliances from three important states, the Kingdoms of France and England and the Holy Roman Empire. Philip II spent an important part of his reign fighting the so-called Angevin Empire , which was probably the greatest threat to the King of France since the rise of the Capetian dynasty. Richard replaced his father as King of England afterward. The two kings then went crusading during the Third Crusade ; however, their alliance and friendship broke down during the crusade. The two men were once again at odds and fought each other in France until Richard was on the verge of totally defeating Philip II. Adding to their battles in France, the Kings of France and England were trying to install their respective allies at the head of the Holy Roman Empire.

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After centuries of warfare and diplomacy, France has the largest territory of any nation in Western Europe. In the last few centuries, French strategic thinking has sometimes been driven by the need to attain or preserve the so-called "natural frontiers," which are the Pyrenees to the southwest, the Alps to the southeast, and the Rhine River to the east. Warfare with other European powers was not always determined by these considerations, and often rulers of France extended their continental authority far beyond these barriers, most notably under Charlemagne, Louis XIV, and Napoleon. Anglo-French rivalry, for prestige in Europe and around the world, continued for centuries, while the more recent Franco-German rivalry required two world wars to stabilize. French troops were spread all across its empire, primarily to deal with the local population. The French colonial empire ultimately disintegrated after the failed attempt to subdue Algerian nationalists in the late s, a failure that led to the collapse of the Fourth Republic. France has also been instrumental in attempting to unite the armed forces of Europe for their own defense in order to both balance the power of Russia and to lessen European military dependence on the United States. For example, France withdrew from NATO in over complaints that its role in the organization was being subordinated to the demands of the United States. Unencumbered by continental wars or intricate alliances, France now deploys its military forces as part of international peacekeeping operations, security enforcers in former colonies, or maintains them combat ready and mobilized to respond to threats from rogue states. France is a nuclear power with the largest nuclear arsenal in Europe, and its nuclear capabilities, just like its conventional forces, have been restructured to rapidly deal with emerging threats. The Gallic invasion left Rome weakened and encouraged several subdued Italian tribes to rebel. One by one, over the course of the next 50 years, these tribes were defeated and brought back under Roman dominion. Meanwhile, the Gauls would continue to harass the region until BC, when they entered into a formal treaty with Rome. But Romans and Gauls would maintain an adversarial relationship for the next several centuries and the Gauls would remain a threat in Italia. Initially Caesar met with little Gallic resistance: The following year he conquered the Belgian Gauls after claiming that they were conspiring against Rome. The string of victories continued in a naval triumph against the Veneti in 56 BC. In 53 BC, a united Gallic resistance movement under Vercingetorix emerged for the first time. Caesar laid siege to the fortified city of Avaricum Bourges and broke through the defenses after 25 days, with only out of the 40, inhabitants managing to escape. The Gallic Wars were over. Gallo-Roman culture settled over the region in the next few centuries, but as Roman power weakened in the 4th and 5th centuries AD, a Germanic tribe , the Franks , overran large areas that today form modern France. Under King Clovis I in the late 5th and early 6th centuries, Frankish dominions quadrupled as they managed to defeat successive opponents for control of Gaul. In he overcame the Alamanni at the Battle of Tolbiac. Following Clovis, territorial divisions in the Frankish domain sparked intense rivalry between the western part of the kingdom, Neustria , and the eastern part, Austrasia. The two were sometimes united under one king, but from the 6th to the 8th centuries they often warred against each other. Early in the 8th century, the Franks were preoccupied with Islamic invasions across the Pyrenees and up the Rhone Valley. Two key battles during this period were the Battle of Toulouse and the Battle of Tours , both won by the Franks, and both instrumental in slowing Islamic incursions. Under Charlemagne the Franks reached the height of their power. The Carolingian Empire was a conscious effort to recreate a central administration modeled on that of the Roman Empire , [13] but the motivations behind military expansion differed. Charlemagne hoped to provide his nobles an incentive to fight by encouraging looting on campaign. Plunder and spoils of war were stronger temptations than imperial expansion, and several regions were invaded over and over in order to bolster the coffers of Frankish nobility. Military history during this period paralleled the rise and eventual fall of the armored knight. Following Charlemagne, there was a great increase in the proportion of cavalry supplemented by improvement in armor: The rise of castles ,

which began in France during the 10th century, was partly caused by the inability of centralized authorities to control these emerging dukes and aristocrats. During the Crusades , there were in fact too many armored knights in France for the land to support. The ultimate motivation or motivations for any one individual are difficult to know, but regardless, nobles and knights from France generally formed very sizeable contingents of crusading expeditions. In the 11th century, French knights wore knee-length mail and carried long lances and swords. The Norman knights fielded at the Battle of Hastings were more than a match for English forces, and their victory simply cemented their power and influence. Improvements in armor over the centuries led to the establishment of plate armor by the 14th century, which was further developed more rigorously in the 15th century. New weapons, including artillery , and tactics seemingly made the knight more of a sitting target than an effective battle force, but the often-praised longbowmen had little to do with the English success. The French were able to field a much larger army of men-at-arms than their English counterparts, who had many longbowmen. Despite this, the French suffered about 6, casualties [26] compared to a few hundred for the English because the narrow terrain prevented the tactical envelopments envisioned in recently discovered French plans for the battle. When knights were allowed to effectively deploy, however, they could be more useful, as at Cassel in or, even more decisively, at Bouvines in and Patay in Popular conceptions of the final stages of the Hundred Years War are often dominated by the exploits of Joan of Arc , but French resurgence was rooted in multiple factors. Strong French counterattacks turned the tide of the war.

Chapter 8 : French History Since Napoleon | Download eBook PDF/EPUB

About French History Since Napoleon. Just six or seven generations separate the France of Napoleon from that of today's Fifth Republic. Yet the closeness of the past explored in this book, and the resonances that reverberate down through the years, are matched by transformations so profound that they can at times obscure the powerful continuities.

Some could tell you he was a French general during WWII, and others may know he was the prime minister of France at some point. After the war, he quickly gained a reputation for two things: De Gaulle, at this point a Colonel and commander of a tank regiment in the French 5th Army, discusses plans to ready the country for war with French President, Albert Lebrun. His beliefs led to de Gaulle constantly butting heads with the French high command, which consisted of generals in their sixties and seventies who wanted to center the army around traditional defensive tactics, almost identical to those used during WWI. In , de Gaulle published a book on his views on military strategy and tactics. He believed that in order for France to maintain its military supremacy, they desperately needed to keep up with the latest military innovations. He claimed the most crucial of these was the widespread use of tanks and armored vehicles, which later became his specialty. Despite his warnings that France would soon fall behind Germany, who broke the Treaty of Versailles and began to re-build their once-powerful army, the high-command chose to implement a defensive strategy. They chose to expend most of their money and efforts on the Maginot Line, a defensive system of hundreds of strategically placed concrete bunkers and machinegun turrets along the German border. The line was extremely intricate and stretched for almost miles. The amount of money they must have been spent on the project is almost unimaginable considering what they got out of it, for the German army ended up avoiding most of the line by invading through Belgium. This out-dated defensive strategy proved to be a futile attempt to avoid the inevitable war brewing with Germany. However, he was able to sell a few copies in another country, where it was actually able to gain a decent amount of popularity. Supposedly, the up and coming German leader, Adolf Hitler, had the entire book read out-loud to himself and his military high command. Interestingly enough, Germany eventually mastered the art of tank warfare, and Hitler centered his entire strategy for invading France, the Blitzkrieg, around the use of armored Panzer tank divisions. De Gaulle was even promoted to Secretary of Defense on June 6th, but it was too late and the country fell ten days later on the 16th. Refusing to surrender, unlike most of the French military, he escaped to England to lead the Free French movement. He spent the next several years rounding up French forces that were stationed in other countries, or which had managed to escape France like himself. He broadcasted constant radio messages to the people of France, encouraging them to rise up against the Germans and resist. This resulted in the creation of the famous French Resistance.

Chapter 9 : French History Since Napoleon : Martin S. Alexander :

French History Since Napoleon Indeed, the practical and the intellectual sides of Bourdon's character are united in Sydenham's portrait of this complex personality. Sydenham is sensitive to the pitfalls of reconstructing so undocumented a life.

Years of feudal oppression and fiscal mismanagement contributed to a French society that was ripe for revolt. Noting a downward economic spiral in the late s, King Louis XVI brought in a number of financial advisors to review the weakened French treasury. Each advisor reached the same conclusionâ€”that France needed a radical change in the way it taxed the publicâ€”and each advisor was, in turn, kicked out. Finally, the king realized that this taxation problem really did need to be addressed, so he appointed a new controller general of finance, Charles de Calonne, in Calonne suggested that, among other things, France begin taxing the previously exempt nobility. The nobility refused, even after Calonne pleaded with them during the Assembly of Notables in Financial ruin thus seemed imminent. The Estates-General In a final act of desperation, Louis XVI decided in to convene the Estates-General, an ancient assembly consisting of three different estates that each represented a portion of the French population. If the Estates-General could agree on a tax solution, it would be implemented. However, since two of the three estatesâ€”the clergy and the nobilityâ€”were tax-exempt, the attainment of any such solution was unlikely. Moreover, the outdated rules of order for the Estates-General gave each estate a single vote, despite the fact that the Third Estateâ€”consisting of the general French publicâ€”was many times larger than either of the first two. Feuds quickly broke out over this disparity and would prove to be irreconcilable. Realizing that its numbers gave it an automatic advantage, the Third Estate declared itself the sovereign National Assembly. Within days of the announcement, many members of the other two estates had switched allegiances over to this revolutionary new assembly. The Bastille and the Great Fear Shortly after the National Assembly formed, its members took the Tennis Court Oath, swearing that they would not relent in their efforts until a new constitution had been agreed upon. In the countryside, peasants and farmers revolted against their feudal contracts by attacking the manors and estates of their landlords. Shortly thereafter, the assembly released the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which established a proper judicial code and the autonomy of the French people. Rifts in the Assembly Though the National Assembly did succeed in drafting a constitution, the relative peace of the moment was short-lived. A rift slowly grew between the radical and moderate assembly members, while the common laborers and workers began to feel overlooked. When Louis XVI was caught in a foiled escape plot, the assembly became especially divided. The moderate Girondins took a stance in favor of retaining the constitutional monarchy, while the radical Jacobins wanted the king completely out of the picture. French leaders interpreted the declaration as hostile, so the Girondin-led assembly declared war on Austria and Prussia. Despite the creation of the Committee of Public Safety, the war with Austria and Prussia went poorly for France, and foreign forces pressed on into French territory. Enraged citizens overthrew the Girondin-led National Convention, and the Jacobins, led by Maximilien Robespierre, took control. Backed by the newly approved Constitution of , Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety began conscripting French soldiers and implementing laws to stabilize the economy. But Robespierre, growing increasingly paranoid about counterrevolutionary influences, embarked upon a Reign of Terror in late â€”, during which he had more than 15, people executed at the guillotine. When the French army successfully removed foreign invaders and the economy finally stabilized, however, Robespierre no longer had any justification for his extreme actions, and he himself was arrested in July and executed. The Thermidorian Reaction and the Directory The era following the ousting of Robespierre was known as the Thermidorian Reaction, and a period of governmental restructuring began, leading to the new Constitution of and a significantly more conservative National Convention. To control executive responsibilities and appointments, a group known as the Directory was formed. French armies, especially those led by young general Napoleon Bonaparte, were making progress in nearly every direction. In the face of this rout, and having received word of political upheavals in France, Napoleon returned to Paris. With Napoleon at the helm, the Revolution ended, and France entered a

fifteen-year period of military rule.