

Name:

AP World History

Chapter 28 Study Packet

Revolutions and the National States in the Atlantic World

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Overview

The years 1776 and 1789 are pivotal dates in world history. The impact of the American revolution and the French revolution extended far beyond the borders of those two countries. Other revolts followed, and in spite of a conservative reaction in Europe, the world was not the same afterward. Common elements of the revolutionary era include the following:

- New ideals. The ideals of freedom, equality, and popular sovereignty first expressed by the philosophies of the Enlightenment (see Chapter 23) were now enacted. John Locke's theory of government as a contract between rulers and subjects inspired the leaders of the American revolution. Likewise, Jean-Jacques Rousseau's concept of a "social contract" based on the "general will" found expression in the National Assembly of France.
- New governments. Vastly different governments emerged in the United States, France, and Latin America. However, most revolutionary governments began with written constitutions, statements of individual rights, and elected assemblies. Political power was generally the privilege of men of property. Only Haiti empowered all men regardless of race.
- New ideologies. Political theories emerged to address the dramatic changes of the age. Conservatism, liberalism, and later, socialism differed in the understanding of change and authority and came to express the social and economic currents of the nineteenth century.
- Uneven social progress. Some changes, such as the abolition of feudal rights and obligations in France, were profound and permanent. Other changes, like the abolition of slavery in the Americas, came more slowly and piecemeal. Equal rights for women did not gain momentum until late in the nineteenth century.
- Nationalism. Popular sovereignty gave voice to a new form of identity. Based on notions of a common cultural and historic experience, nationalism was a powerful force in the nineteenth century. Ethnic minorities like the Greeks within the Ottoman empire demanded national independence, and scattered cultural groups like the Italians and the Germans created new states to house their national identities.

Chapter 28 Study Packet

Introduction- Revolution and National States in the Atlantic World

With the Enlightenment, there was a major change in political thinking. The idea of a monarch's "divine right" to rule gave way to the idea of contractual government wherein both the monarch and the people have rights. In this type of government, the government was given its rights and responsibilities by the consent of the governed. There were increased demands for social and political equality, at least for white males. These ideas were to have global impact.

In America, the tension between the colonists and the British government over taxes and representation in Parliament brought about the American Revolution (1775–1781). The Enlightenment is reflected in the U.S. Constitution, that which is based on the principles of freedom, equality, and the idea of popular sovereignty.

In France, it was an internal rather than external struggle. In 1789 Louis XVI attempted to gain support for new taxes that led to a call for political reforms and eventually revolution. The new National Assembly abolished the feudal system, changed the role of the Catholic Church, and became a constitutional monarchy in 1791. The continuing struggle for power and the threat of outside invasion led to the abolition of the monarchy, the creation of a republic, and the death of the king and queen. The political battles within France continued until 1799 with the rise of Napoleon and a period of stability. As emperor, he made peace with the Catholic Church, extended religious freedom, put in place political freedom for all adult men, but also enforced restrictions on the press and speech. His military prowess extended the empire into Iberia, Italy, Netherlands and then in 1812 into Russia, the sight of his first major defeat. He was forced to abdicate, was exiled to the island of Elba, and returned to France to again take control. He was defeated again at Waterloo (1815), and finally exiled to St. Helena where he died.

There were also revolutions in South and Central America during this era. The world's only successful slave revolt occurred in Saint-Dominique, led in part by free blacks who had fought in the American Revolution. In 1791, led by Toussaint Louverture, the slaves rebelled and in 1804 established the Republic of Haiti. In Latin America, many of the revolts were against the *peninsulares* and were often along class lines. Mexico was partially freed from Spanish control by Napoleon's invasion of Spain in 1807. Mexico had a series of revolutions, a brief military dictatorship, and then established a republic in 1822. In South America, Simon Bolivar, inspired by George Washington, led Creole forces against the Spanish first in Colombia and then across the rest of the north. Bolivar's cooperation with revolutionary leaders in other countries helped him defeat the Spanish by 1824. Brazil gained independence from the Portuguese in 1821.

These revolutions also brought the beginnings of political ideology, notably conservatism and liberalism. In brief terms, conservatism favors continuity and tradition, while for liberals change and progress are most important. These revolutions brought about a drive to end first the slave trade, and then slavery. By the late 1800s slavery was abolished in the Atlantic world. But freedom did not always mean political equality. The struggle for women's rights both within the family and in society continued during these revolutions. Women had been involved in revolutionary movements in various roles, but will not gain political equality until the 1900s.

Key Concept 5.3. Nationalism Revolution and Reform

- I. The rise and diffusion of Enlightenment thought that questioned established traditions in all areas of life often preceded the revolutions and rebellions against existing governments.
- III. The spread of Enlightenment ideas and increasing discontent with imperial rule propelled reformist and revolutionary movements.

Chapter 28 Study Packet Questions

Popular Sovereignty and Political Upheaval (Pages 1-16)

IDENTIFICATION: PEOPLE

1. Olympe de Gouges
2. John Lock
3. George Washington
4. Louis XVI
5. Marie Antoinette
6. Maximilien Robespierre
7. Napoleon Bonaparte

IDENTIFICATION: TERMS/CONCEPTS

1. Declaration of Independence

2. *Ancien regime*

3. National Assembly

4. Jacobins

5. Directory

6. Civil Code

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In what specific ways did the ideals of the Enlightenment challenge long-held assumptions about government and social order?

2. What specific issues and concerns led the British colonies of North America to revolt against their sovereign? What was the outcome of that rebellion?
3. In what specific ways did the ideals of the Enlightenment challenge long-held assumptions about government and social order?
4. What specific issues and concerns led the British colonies of North America to revolt against their sovereign? What was the outcome of that rebellion?
5. What were the principal causes of the French Revolution of 1789? Were these concerns addressed by the revolution?
6. How was French society restructured during the most radical phase of the Revolution (1793–94)? Were these permanent changes, or short-lived ones?
7. Conventional wisdom holds that Napoleon ended the revolution when he proclaimed himself emperor in 1804. In what ways did he continue the ideals of the revolution? In what ways did he reverse the revolution?

Chapter 28 Study Packet Questions

The Influence of the Revolution (Pages 17-26)

IDENTIFICATION: PEOPLE

1. Toussaint L'Ouverture
2. Simon Bolivar
3. Edmund Burke
4. John Stuart Mill

IDENTIFICATION: TERMS/CONCEPTS

1. Peninsulares
2. Conservatism
3. Liberalism

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What events led to the slave revolt of Saint-Domingue (Haiti)? Why was this rebellion successful when so many other slave revolts failed?
2. Describe the basic social structure of Latin American society in 1800. What factors led to the revolutions that followed?
3. What kind of states emerged in Mexico, Gran Colombia, and Brazil after the revolutions?
4. What factors led the western powers to abolish the slave trade and then slavery in the nineteenth century?
5. What was the impact of the ideals of the Enlightenment and the events of the revolutionary era on the status of women? Give some specific examples.

Chapter 28 Study Packet Questions

The Consolidation of National States in Europe (Pages 27-34)

IDENTIFICATION: PEOPLE

1. Klemens von Metternich
2. Otto von Bismarck

IDENTIFICATION: TERMS/CONCEPTS

1. Zionism
2. Congress of Vienna