

Date: _____
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Lesson Objective

Key vocabulary

Reference Books

EUROPE BEFORE 1789

In the 18th century, Europe was divided into two regions i.e. Western and Eastern Europe. Some of the European states included Great Britain, Hapsburg or Austrian Empire, Hungary, parts of the Ottoman Empire, Russia, the Holy Roman Empire, France, Poland, Spain, Prussia and Portugal. Before 1789, most parts of Europe were characterized by similarities in their political, economic and social set up. These features were common to most of the European countries except Britain which had a constitutional monarchy with a better system of government. The most remarkable features in Europe included;

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Politically, there existed despotic governments or monarchs in most parts where the kings had absolute powers with their decisions being final. For example, in Russia the Tsar's decision and authority would never be questioned by anybody. Similar conditions existed in France, Norway and other areas.

There was lack of any sort of freedom where people were not supposed to belong to any political parties, denied freedom of movement, press, speech and in some countries like Austria and Russia, there was a high degree of censorship of the press and most of the governments in Europe were operating with no parliament.

The existing governments in Europe were full of corrupt and inefficient officials who misused their offices for selfish interests. For example, in France the nobles and clergy enjoyed state benefits, took bribes and always misused state funds. In Prussia, the Junkers enjoyed access to government benefits because of their privileged position.

In most countries, there existed political imbalance with the privileged classes enjoying high positions while the unprivileged classes were subjected to low positions with fewer benefits.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Economically, most of the European countries were agro-based except Britain which was industrialized. Most parts of Europe practiced **feudalism** by which land was owned by powerful landlords who were from the privileged classes. The peasants on the other hand owned no land but rented and lived on the land of the landlords as squatters.

Unemployment was common especially when weather conditions changed. Similarly, most parts of Europe were affected by famine due to bad weather conditions like winter, floods

and drought. As a result, the farmers got poor harvests yet the governments did nothing to assist the people. For example, in 1787, bad weather conditions affected most economies of Europe.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There existed social class divisions with two main classes of people (the privileged and the unprivileged classes). The privileged were the most favored and they enjoyed most of the state benefits. For example, they owned land, paid no taxes, got high ranks in the army and civil service while the peasants suffered most.

In most states, there was close collaboration between the church and the government in oppressing the people. For example, in Catholic countries like Austria, France and Spain, the Catholic Church collaborated with the leaders to oppress the masses through religious intolerance and unfair taxation. However, despite the fact that circumstances in Europe were the same, a revolution broke out in France in 1789.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION OF 1789

A revolution refers to a fundamental or complete change that takes place in the political, social and economic spheres of a society. A revolution can be peaceful or violent where changes are realized through force. The French revolution of 1789 was a violent uprising of the masses against the existing government in France.

By 1789, France was under a monarchy (kingdom) which had ruled France for over a period of over four hundred years and because of that long period of time, the regime was referred to as the Ancient Regime. The rulers of this regime were from a family that was known as the **Bourbons** and that's why the government was at times referred to as the Bourbon Monarchy. Several kings served this regime including Henry IV, Louis XIII, Louis XIV, Louis XV and by 1789, the king of France was known as Louis XVI.

The French revolution broke out on **5th May 1789** when King Louis XVI summoned or called the ***Estates General*** which failed. On 14th July 1789 mobs of hungry and angry people, mostly peasants stormed Paris which was the capital of France and the king could not stop their violent actions. As a result, a revolution that caused fundamental changes in France had to continue for several years up to 1799. As the revolution progressed, the monarchy was abolished and among the things, France was declared a Republic in 1792 as King Louis XVI together with his wife Marie Antoinette were executed or killed in 1793.

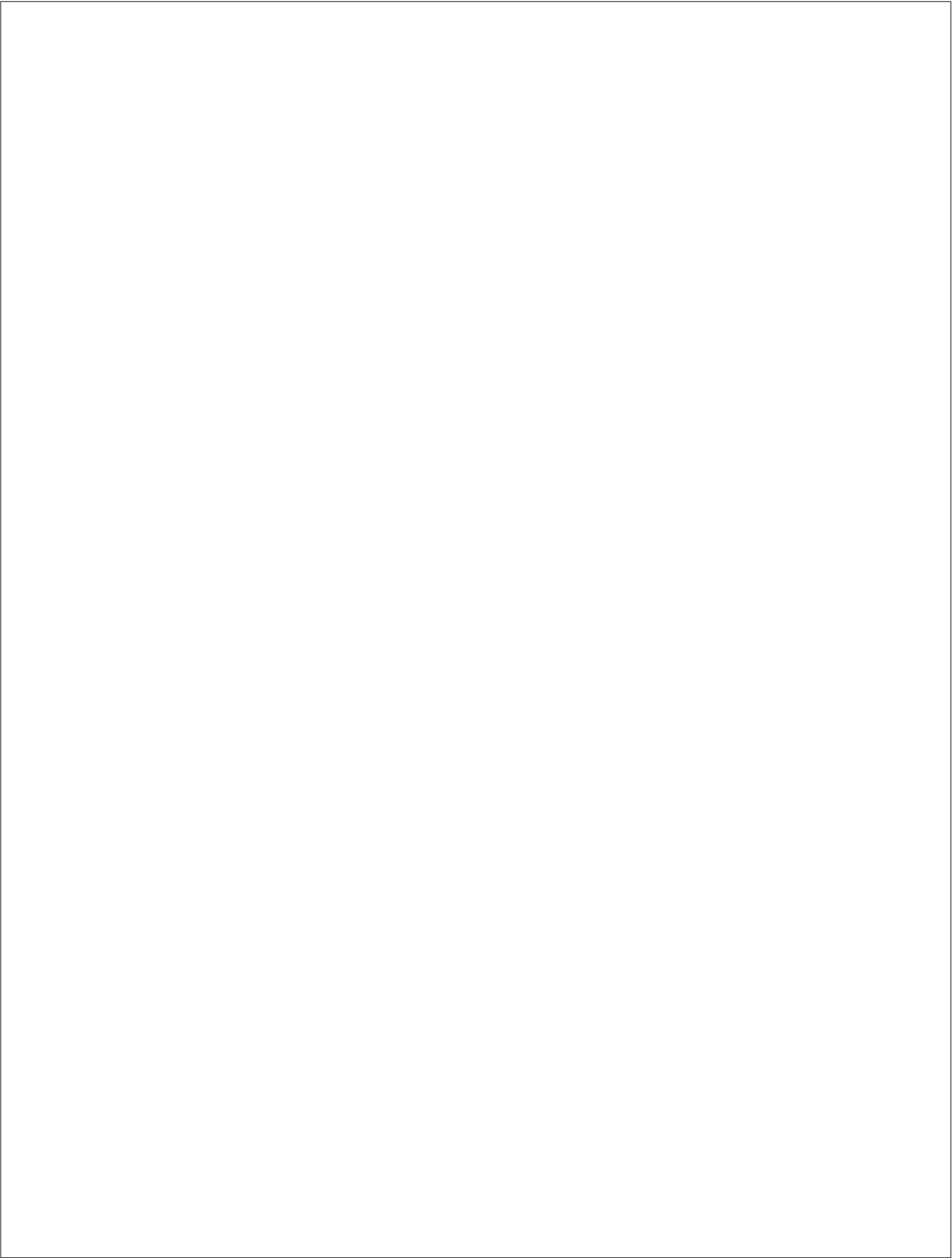
THE CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION OF 1789

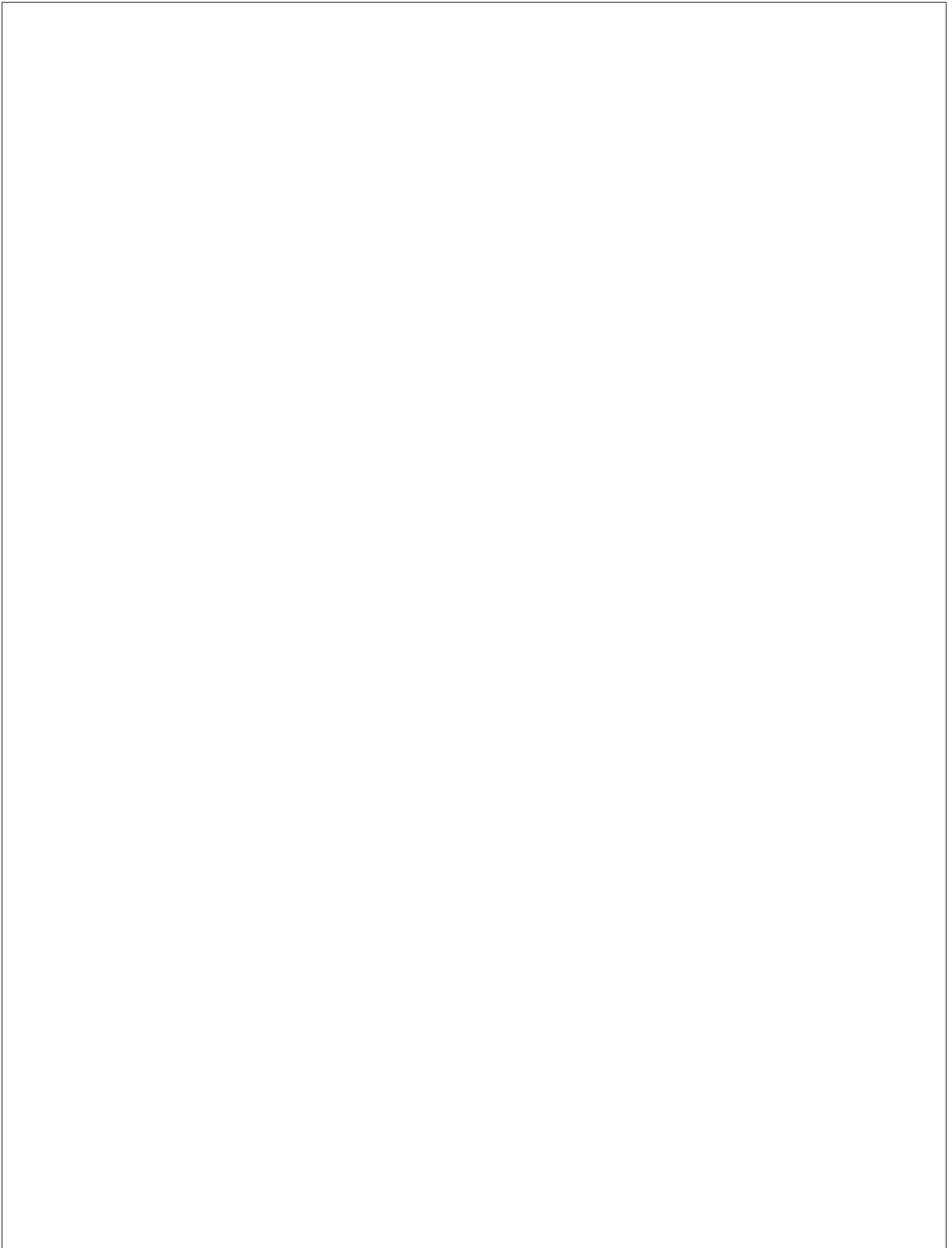
- The social class system in France.
- The influence of the Philosophers.
- The nature of the French system of government (Ancient Regime).
- The role of the Catholic Church.
- The character of King Louis XVI.
- The influence of the Queen.
- The influence of England.
- The American war of independence.
- The financial crisis or bankruptcy.
- The bad weather / famine.
- The summoning and failure of the Estates General

THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLAND

As a French neighbor, England provided a practical example of what Frenchmen demanded for. Politically, the **English system of government** and its institutions were admired by many Frenchmen by 1789. For example, though England was a monarchy or Kingdom like France, the English monarchy was constitutional. It also had a functional

England also signed a **Free Trade Treaty** known as the **Cobden Treaty** of **1786** with France. By this treaty, British goods were allowed to enter France without paying taxes. This affected the French economy because the British goods which were superior out-competed the French manufactured products. The French industries therefore closed and there was serious **unemployment** in France together with bankruptcy. This economic influence of England contributed to the outbreak of the French Revolution of 1789.





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They also controlled the education system in France and they used this position to deny education to the peasants. By 1789, the peasants rose up demanding for equality before education.

The clergy owned 10% of the total land in France and they had peasants as squatters on their land. They therefore used this privilege to demand **feudal taxes** from the peasants which caused discontent among the peasants by 1789.

The clergy were exempted from paying taxes yet they had a lot of wealth. In addition they enjoyed costly privileges like constant parties at the King's Court (Royal Palace) which drained the state treasury. This resulted into the bankruptcy of the French Crown which eventually sparked off the French revolution of 1789.

The clergy were divided into the Upper and Lower Clergy. The Upper Clergy took most of the important posts in the Church and were very rich. Their luxurious life angered the members of the Lower Clergy who were the Parish Priests and suffered in poverty who demanded for equality. They therefore joined the peasants and the Middleclass to revolt in 1789.

THE NOBLES

These belonged to the Second Estate and held high offices in the army and government at the expense of the third Estate. This annoyed the peasants in France, hence forcing them to stage a revolution in 1789.

The Nobles were also exempted from taxation and yet lived a luxurious life at the King's Court. This contributed to the bankruptcy of the French treasury which eventually sparked off a revolution in France by 1789.

They owned a lot of the land on which peasants lived and worked as **serfs**. Every noble left to his son either a castle or a mansion and also a lot of territory from which he collected taxes. All this annoyed the members of the third estate, hence inspiring them to stage a revolution by 1789.

The nobles were the major advisors of the king and quite often their advice was misleading. For example, they advised the king to dismiss people with good ideas from government such as Necker and Turgot. All this caused discontent among the members of the Third Estate which eventually sparked off the French Revolution of 1789.

Besides, the Nobles were also divided. There were those that belonged to the Greater Nobility and those of the Lesser Nobility and the Nobility of the Robe. The Greater Nobility were the high ranking officers and commanders of the French army. Therefore, there was a conflict between the Greater Nobility (who enjoyed all the privileges) and the Lesser Nobility and Nobility of the Robe who enjoyed no privileges at all apart from the honored titles. The Lesser Nobility therefore joined the peasants to demand for social equality and justice by 1789.

Finally, the nobles advised King Louis XVI to call the Estates General Meeting in May 1789 which was the immediate cause of the French revolution of 1789. It was in this meeting that the Third Estate declared themselves the National Assembly in total defiance of the king. The nobles refused to listen to the demands of the Third Estate who therefore opted for a revolution in 1789.

THE BURDENS OF THE PEASANTS

They belonged to the Third Estate and represented the most suffering group in France. It

had a population of over 22 million people yet the members of the 1st and 2nd Estate were less than One million people.

The peasants experienced the heaviest burden of taxation, paying several taxes like the poll tax paid to the King, a tenth of his income to the Church, twelfth of his income to income tax, the salt tax paid by every peasant over seven years of age and custom duties in each village where he passed with his goods as he took them for processing and marketing. This heavy taxation greatly annoyed the peasants, hence forcing them to stage a revolution in 1789.

The peasants were subjected to the exploitative and oppressive system of **feudalism**. By this system, all land and wealth were owned by the nobles and clergy and the peasants lived on this land as serfs. The feudal system of land tenure in France was unfair and the peasants opposed it because it made most of them landless. The nobles also used to charge a lot feudal dues or taxes from the serfs. The peasants hated this system and therefore they revolted in 1789.

The peasants were restricted to move from one region to another or from one estate to another since all the necessities of life for peasants would be provided by the landlords in every feudal village. This also annoyed them, thus inspiring them to organize a revolution in 1789.

They were forced to give their labor free of charge to work on roads, farms for their landlords and serve in the army. While they served in the army, they were discriminated because they could not be promoted. Joining the army was not voluntary for peasants yet they were not allowed to ascend military ranks. By the military law of 1781 (*The law of commissioned and non-commissioned ranks*), important positions and ranks in the army were to be given to nobles only. This also became a major source of discontent among the peasants.

The peasants in France also suffered unfair trial. The nobles, for example used to establish their own courts where the peasants were tried and no peasant won a case against any member of the First and Second Estates. The peasants would also be arrested and imprisoned at the orders of the King without trial. All this caused discontent among the peasants. Consequently, with leadership from the middle class, the desperate peasants offered themselves for the revolution of 1789.

THE MIDDLE CLASS (BOURGEOISIE)

Within the Third Estate were the middleclass or Bourgeoisie, who also belonged to the unprivileged group in the French society. It was a numerically small class consisting of professionals (the most educated people) like doctors, lawyers, teachers and the wealthy Frenchmen. They were powerful in the field of finance, trade and industry and from this class came ministers of state, judges, magistrates and tax collectors. They travelled widely and therefore had a lot of intellectual and financial experience. They became discontented because they were denied certain rights enjoyed by the first and second estates.

They hated the **favoritism** of the Ancient regime which denied them high positions in the government and the army despite their great education. As a result, by 1789 they wanted to have fair representation in government and the army and this was one of their major grievances.

They also called for religious freedom in France. They opposed the dominancy of the Roman Catholic Church in the religious affairs of France. By 1789, they therefore rose up to establish freedom of worship in France.

They hated the dictatorship of the Ancient regime. For example, they wanted a written constitution for France. This would help to reduce the uncontrolled influence of the king and his courtiers in political affairs. They also resented the strict system of censoring press as people were not free to criticize government.

Apart from the political grievances, the merchants and industrialists had economic grievances. They were unhappy about the worsening economy of France because of the excessive extravagancy by the government officials and Church; they provided religious services in France. As a result,

Involvement in unnecessary wars like the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and the American War (1776-1783). These wars drained France's financial resources, thus crippling the French economy.

The wealthy middle-class had also lent their money to the French government during the period of bankruptcy but by 1789, they had not been paid. There was a fear that the government would not pay back. As a result, they decided to join the peasants in organizing a revolution so to recover their money.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

The 17th century was an age of enlightenment in Europe which gave rise political Philosophers in European countries including France. These were intellectuals or great thinkers who wrote books which contained literature and this literature was interpreted by the educated people in France who influenced others to stage a revolution against the Ancient regime. The prominent French philosophers included Voltaire, Rousseau and Montesquieu among others.

VOLTAIRE (1694 – 1778)

He lived between 1694 and 1778. He wrote a book known as “*Letters on the English*”. In this book, he attacked the Catholic Church in France. For example, that this Church did not allow religious freedom.

He also criticized the presence of social classes in France and the privileges that were given to the members of the First and Second Estates.

He also compared the system of government in England with that of France. For example, he noted that in England there was fair trial by the judicial system yet the judicial system in France was very unfair especially on the part of the peasants who could not win cases against the members of the First and Second Estates. Therefore, the Frenchmen demanded for the system of government that was compared to that of England by Voltaire, thus leading to the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution.

MONTESQUIEU (1689 – 1755)

His book was known as “*The Spirit of Laws*” in which he put his views. In this book, he expressed the ideas of equality, liberty and fraternity if people were to have good life on this earth. Liberty referred to freedom, equality meant equal treatment while fraternity meant brotherhood.

However, in France the three aspects were completely missing. For example, the French society was divided into Estates, where by the first two Estates enjoyed more privileges than the Third Estate. There was no freedom for example freedom of worship and also the Frenchmen did not share the feeling of brotherhood. This caused discontent and the Frenchmen therefore decided to stage a revolution demanding for liberty, equality and

fraternity and indeed the three ideas became the slogan of the French revolution of 1789.

He also suggested that for any government to be fair and efficient (functioning properly) and cater for the interests of its citizens, it had to have three arms which included the Executive, Legislature (Parliament) and Judiciary. He went ahead to state that if a member of the executive interfered with the work of the Legislature and the Judiciary, then that ruler was likely to be autocratic or a dictator.

His writings applied to France because the King of France was autocratic by 1789. For example, Louis XVI did not allow a parliament in France and he used to refer to himself as the law. The King of France could issue warrants (*Lettres de cachets*) that would lead to the arrest, imprisonment and death of those suspected to be opponents of the Ancient Regime. This caused a lot of discontent and therefore the Frenchmen demanded for a constitutional government which led to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789.

JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU (1712 – 1778)

He wrote a book known as the “***Social Contract***” in which he expressed that “*though man is born free is ever in chains*”. That man was born to enjoy natural freedoms like the right to live, freedom of worship, freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to own property among others but the rulers denied these rights to their people. He therefore recommended that people had to be left free to enjoy their natural rights.

The philosophy (ideas) of Rousseau applied to France and influenced the people to stage a revolution in 1789 because the system of government of the Ancient Regime did not provide for freedom of worship, association as well as the right to own property. For example, the peasants were not allowed to own land and a right to life because innocent French men would be arrested, imprisoned and killed on the orders of the king.

THE FRENCH SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT (ANCIENT REGIME)

By 1789, France was under a government known as the Ancient Regime. This regime was very unfair with a lot of weaknesses which contributed to the outbreak of the revolution in the following ways:

The system of government was based on **hereditary leadership** as a form of succession. This system of government had a weakness because the King had to come from the First Estate which comprised of the members of the Royal family. As a result of this, there were incompetent or weak rulers in France and **King Louis XVI** was a living example because he could not manage the state affairs. This eventually caused a revolution by 1789.

There was lack of a functional parliament to address people’s problems in France by 1789. The Estates General which used to act as a parliament had last met in **1614** and therefore had not sat for a period of 175 years. In the districts and provinces, the assemblies (parliaments) were replaced by royal assemblies known as “**Intendants**” which were influenced by the king. Lack of a parliament meant that the French masses had no forum to air out their social-political complaints as well as economic hardships. It also meant that the king had excessive powers since there was no parliament to check on his actions. This created discontent among the people, hence inspiring them to stage a revolution in 1789.

There was also lack of a **constitution** in France. The Ancient Regime ruled France without a constitution to protect people’s rights and equality of all opportunities. Because of this, there were no checks and balances against the king’s excessive powers and unfair policies. This therefore left the king with too much power that was unquestioned. Hence, the desire to give France a constitution resulted into a revolution by 1789,

The Judicial system was also very unfair which caused the French revolution of 1789. The French judicial system lacked uniform courts of law. A person would be tried as many as fifty times for a single offence he or she committed. In fact by 1789, there were about 400 different courts of law operating in different parts of France which caused judicial confusion. There were also different laws operating in France like the Roman law in the south and the common law in the north. There was also no trial by jury (fair hearing) and in most case the nobles were the accusers and at the same time the judges against the peasants and middle class members. Such unfairness eventually contributed to the outbreak of the revolution in 1789.

There was a lot of despotism or dictatorship in France by 1789. The Bourbon Monarchy was characterized by gross abuse of human rights and lack of democracy. All the powers of the government were vested in the hands of the king who regarded himself as a demy-God (a king by the grace of God and not the will of the people). In fact, the king was the law and at one time boasted by saying “The thing is legal because I wish it”. King Louis XVI at one time also said “The state is myself”. Such expressions showed the despotic powers that the king had over his subjects. As if that was not enough, the king’s ministers had a lot of power’s that could not be challenged. For example, the king and his ministers used arrest warrants known as “Lettre de cachets” which were empowering them to arrest and imprison any one at any time. All this unfairness eventually forced the masses to stage a revolution in France by 1789.

The system of government also promoted nepotism or favoritism in France. The administrative structure of the Ancient Regime by 1789 was unfair because it favored the nobles and clergy who dominated the key positions in the army and civil service despite their incompetence and corrupt tendencies which led to in efficiency in the administration. What was most annoying was that the middle class was highly qualified but excluded from the top administration of their country. This therefore made them to mobilize the peasants for a revolution which broke out in 1789.

The system created grievances with in the army. The survival of the unpopular and despotic French monarchy depended on the army. However, the French army had a lot of grievances against the government. For example, there were unfair promotions within the army where the higher ranks were only reserved for the nobles. The French soldiers were also subjected to serve punishments for minor offences. They were also poorly fed, dressed and paid among other grievances. This explains why the soldiers, instead of suppressing the revolutionaries, they just joined them and made the French revolution inevitable by 1789.

The system of government created grounds for comparison between Britain and France. Britain had a good system of government based on constitutional rule and also provided for freedom of worship, among other liberties which was not the case with France. This comparison by the French men eventually made them to organize a revolution by 1789.

The system also created grounds for the philosophers to write articles that criticized the government. For example, the writings of Voltaire criticized the French system of government as unfair and compared it with the good governance that was in England. This inspired the French men to organize a revolution in 1789.

THE ROLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

By 1789, the Catholic Church as a religious institution had a lot of power and weaknesses in France and this contributed to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789 in the following ways:

There was no **religious tolerance** or freedom in France during the Ancient Regime. It was

only the Catholic faith that was allowed to be practiced in France. France had other religions like the Protestants but the Ancient Regime had a practice of destroying their temples. This religious intolerance caused discontent between the Catholic Church and other religions which led to the outbreak of the revolution as the masses demanded for freedom of worship.

The Catholic Church had a lot of wealth. For example, the Church owned a lot of land in France. On this land, the peasants settled and worked as squatters (tenants). As tenants or serfs, they were severely exploited and oppressed by the church leaders which caused public discontent in France.

The Catholic Church used to demand a lot of tax from the peasants for staying on the Church land. For example, the peasants had to give tenth of their income to the Church as **tithe**. They also had to give a percentage of their harvest to the Clergy. Therefore, the peasants revolted in 1789 demanding for a reduction in the tax burden.

The Catholic Church controlled the education system in France. While in control, the Catholic Church denied education especially to the members of other religions. The peasants in general were also affected because the education system was under the Clergy who were members of the First Estate yet the peasants belonged to the Third Estate. This situation caused antagonism which led to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789.

The members of the Catholic Church especially the Upper Clergy led a luxurious life in the Cathedrals. This extravagancy of the Catholic Church together with the fact that the clergy were enjoyed exempted from taxation yet they were very rich contributed to the bankruptcy of the French Crown by 1789. This eventually led to the outbreak of the French Revolution of 1789.

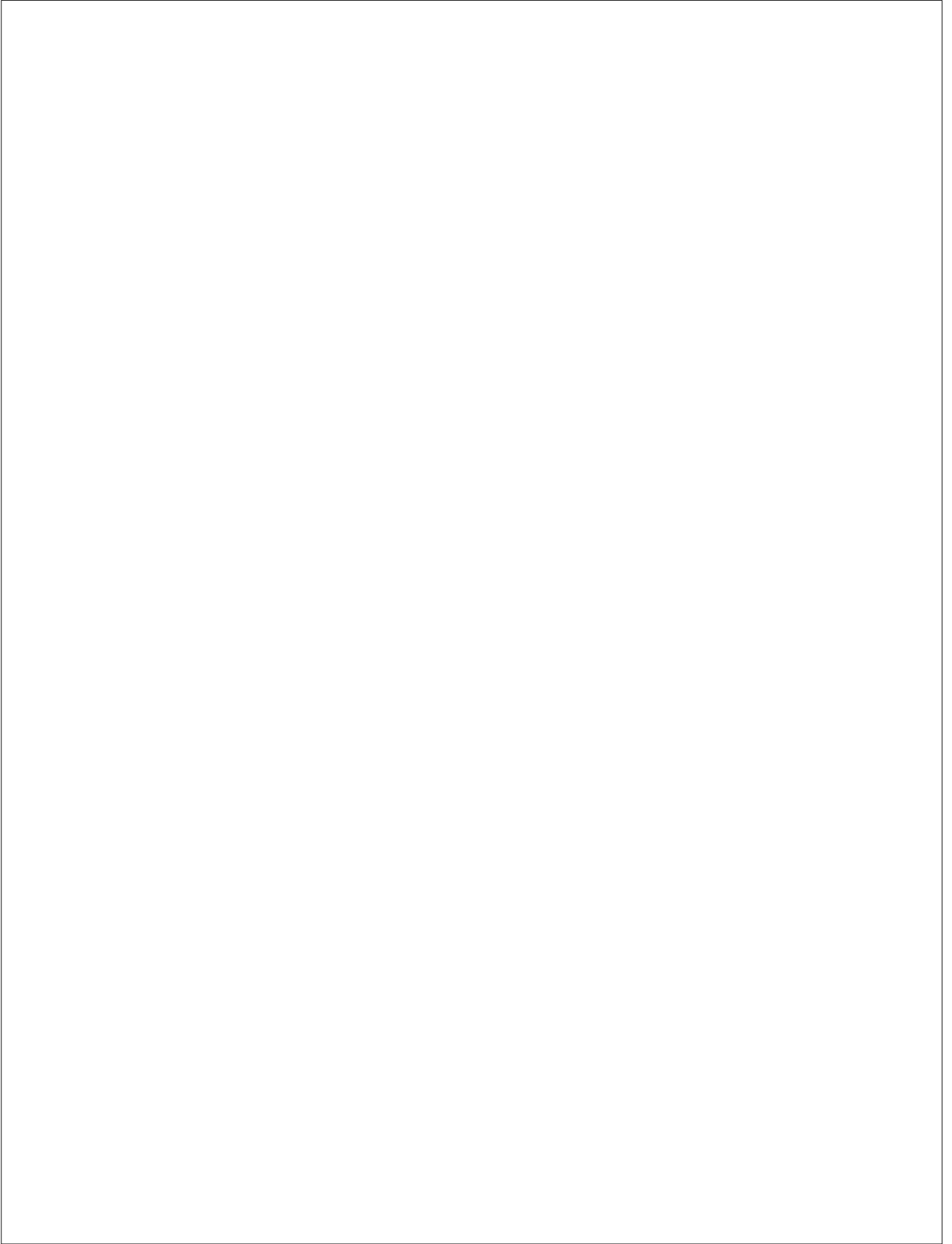
The members of the Catholic Church had a lot of political power in France. For example, they took the major government posts in French. In 1789 therefore, the government of Louis XVI was blamed for religious favoritism because the members of other religions were not allowed to participate in the running of the French government.

The divisions within the Catholic Church especially among the church leaders (clergy) caused the French revolution of 1789. The clergy were divided into the Upper and Lower Clergy. The Upper Clergy composed of the Bishops and Archbishops and these ones lived a luxurious life in their palaces and at the Royal Court. However, the local parish priests languished in poverty and this nepotism among the clergy caused discontent to the extent that the Lower Clergy joined the peasants to stage a revolution as they demanded for equality in the Catholic Church.

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| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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NECKER who suggested abolishing of the social classes and that the clergy and nobles should start paying taxes since they were rich. However, on the advice of his wife who was also conservative, the king dismissed the Economists and this worsened the financial status of France.

He involved France in the **American War of Independence**. Between 1776 and 1783, the people of America fought for their independence against Britain. King Louis XVI sent the French soldiers to assist the Americans because he wanted to revenge on Britain which had defeated France during the **Seven Years of 1756 - 1763**. During this war, France spent a lot of money which contributed to a financial problems crisis that eventually sparked off a revolution in France by 1789.

Louis XVI signed a **Free Trade Treaty** with England in 1786 which was a big miscalculation because it caused economic hardships that eventually caused a revolution. This treaty affected the economy of France because as tax free goods entered France, the French industries closed since they could not compete with the cheap foreign goods from Britain. The closure of industries led to unemployment which contributed to the outbreak of the French Revolution of 1789.

He neglected the state duties or affairs. He used to spend most of his time in leisure activities like hunting while important state matters remained unattended to. This is another demonstration of a King with a weak character and therefore it made him unpopular among the Frenchmen which eventually inspired them to rise up.

He also had a **shy character**. For example, he could not chair Royal Council meetings because he was shy yet this was supposed to be his duty. He could therefore not measure up to his position of being the king of France which also made him unpopular.

Louis XVI was a staunch or strong Catholic. He was too catholic that he could not support changes within the Catholic Church that would have catered for the interests of majority of the Frenchmen. For example, he refused to allow freedom of worship and ownership of land by other French men which the Catholic Church had restricted. Such changes within the Catholic Church would also have removed tax burdens from the peasants. This equally made Louis XVI unpopular in France.

He failed to solve the problem of famine in France. France had been hit by bad weather (severe winter) towards 1789 which resulted into famine but the government of Louis XVI failed to provide food because it was bankrupt. The hungry mobs gathered in Paris where they formed a group of people known as the **Paris Mob** and they therefore started to organize the French revolution of 1789.

He also had a care free attitude towards the publications of the critical writers especially the Philosophers. These Philosophers wrote and circulated articles that criticized the injustices of the Ancient regime. It's these publications that made the masses aware of their rights which were being abused, hence inspiring them to organize a revolution in 1789.

He was responsible for the failure of the Estates General which sparked off the 1789 French revolution. In May 1789, Louis XVI called the Estates General on the advice of **NECKER** to solve the financial and other problems in France.

All the Estates were represented. However, Louis XVI disappointed the peasants when he rejected their proposals like end of feudalism and unfair taxation among others. They therefore decided to revolt in 1789.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE QUEEN OF FRANCE, MARIE ANTOINETTE

Marie Antoinette was the wife of King Louis XVI. She was an Austrian and two got married in 1770, before Louis XVI became King of France Queen Marie Antoinette contributed to the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution in the following ways;

The French people hated her to the extent of organizing a revolution against the government because of her Austrian origin. As a foreigner in France, she was always referred to as the “Austrian Woman” which was a sign of lack of popularity and respect among the Frenchmen. This therefore influenced the Frenchmen to organize a revolution in 1789.

The queen lacked the necessary wisdom and a sense of judgment. She got married at a very age of 16 (sixteen) years. This affected her status and responsibility as a Queen in France which made her unpopular among the Frenchmen. This eventually caused the French revolution of 1789.

The queen of France distanced herself from the unprivileged class of the peasants who were the majority. This was because she belonged to the royal family in Austria as she was a daughter to Empress Maria Theresa of Austria. She was therefore a great supporter of the privileges enjoyed by the Clergy and nobles at the expense of the peasants because of her royal background. This also made her unpopular in France.

The queen was insensitive or unsympathetic to the suffering of the French masses which angered them. They thought that it was because of her foreign status that she was inconsiderate to their suffering. This therefore increased their discontent or hatred with her which eventually led to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789.

The queen interfered with the political affairs in France. This was so because she was the major adviser of her husband and the two made a terrible combination for France. For example, she advised the king to dismiss people with good ideas from government like the two financial controllers namely; Turgot and Necker. The two had suggested abolition of the social classes and their associated privileges so as to solve the problem of bankruptcy. However, the queen advised her husband to dismiss them which he did and this worsened the financial status of France which eventually contributed to the outbreak of the French revolution by 1789.

The queen of France was at the centre and always surrounded by greedy or selfish persons especially the Clergy and the Nobles who had left their provinces and came to live at the Royal court. These supporters of the Ancient regime used the queen to protect their privileges and this caused a conflict between the French masses and their queen that eventually led to the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution.

The queen of France contributed to the bankruptcy of the French treasury which became a major cause of the revolution by 1789. This is because she was very extravagant and fond of pleasure or luxury to the extent that half of the national income of France was spent on her. Her husband committed a lot of money from the state treasury for her expenditure for example on her horses, clothing and entertainment. This caused discontent among the French masses which led to the outbreak of the 1789 revolution in France.

The queen of France was a living symbol of the French humiliation in the **Seven Years War**. Between 1756 and 1763, a hopeless alliance of Austria and France was decisively defeated by Britain. Consequently, France lost her colonies of India and Canada to Britain. This defeat annoyed the Frenchmen and it increased their hatred towards Austria and the Austrian woman which contributed to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789.

THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1776-1783

The period 1776 to 1783 witnessed a rebellion of the American British colonies against Britain demanding for their independence. The French government under King Louis XVI extended financial and military assistance to the Americans because he wanted to revenge against Britain which had defeated France during the Seven Years of War of 1756 to 1763 by which France had lost her colonies of Canada and India. The French soldiers who went to America led by General Lafayette fought bravely together with the Americans and defeated the British. Consequently, the Americans got their independence leading to the creation of the United States of America (USA). This war had political and economic effects that contributed to the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution in the following ways;

Politically, the French soldiers who helped to liberate the Americans like General Lafayette came back to France with revolutionary and democratic ideas. These French soldiers had assisted the Americans to end the British exploitative and autocratic regime. They discovered that the problems they had helped to liberate the American from were the very ones in France. It's therefore not surprising that the former soldiers like Lafayette quickly supported the peasants stage a revolution in 1789.

When the Americans got independence from Britain, they drafted a constitution under the leadership of George Washington. In their constitution, it was stated that all men had a right to enjoy certain fundamental freedoms like freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of movement and good governance. These freedoms had been violated by Britain and in the same way Louis XVI of France violated the same freedoms. In addition, he was a despot because France had no constitution. Therefore, the people of France used the example of the American War of Independence to stage a revolution demanding for the same fundamental freedoms of man.

The war exposed the weak character of King Louis XVI. This is because he was more interested in revenge and he disregarded the financial problems the war would have on France. The financial cost of the war on France eventually contributed to the unpopularity of Louis XVI which led to the outbreak of the 1789 revolution.

Economically, the war forced King Louis XVI to borrow money from the members of the middleclass or bourgeoisie so as to support the French army in America. By 1789, the lenders wanted their money back but because the state was bankrupt, Louis XVI failed to pay back the money. This group therefore influenced other discontented groups in France to stage a revolution in 1789.

The war also contributed to the bankruptcy of the French treasury. This was because France spent a lot of money to transport and maintain the soldiers in America during a war that dragged on for seven years yet she gained nothing from it. This bankruptcy increased discontent among the peasants which forced them to organize a revolution against the Ancient Regime in 1789.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS OR BANKRUPTCY OF THE FRENCH CROWN

By 1789, the French treasury was bankrupt with a heavy debt burden. This financial crisis was brought about by corruption or embezzlement of the tax revenue by the tax collectors as well as the extravagancy of the nobles, clergy and Marie Antoinette.

France also wasted a lot of financial resources in useless expensive wars like Seven Years War of 1756 - 1763 and the American War of Independence of 1776-1783. Therefore by 1789, France, was facing a severe financial crisis which contributed to the outbreak of the French revolution in the following ways;

The financial crisis made the French masses to lose confidence in the existing government which was bankrupt. This therefore forced them to organize a revolution in order to remove the government and replace it with a responsible government that would save the economy from further decline.

It forced the Ancient Regime to borrow money from the middle class members in France which it even failed to pay back by 1789. Once the middle class members realized that the government was unable to refund their money, they joined the peasants in order to remove the government and replace it with one that would pay back their money.

It made the government incapable of providing basic necessities and even running the state enterprises like agriculture, transport and industry. This resulted into economic problems like inflation, unemployment and general poverty in France by 1789. These economic hardships forced the masses especially the peasants who were hardest hit to stage a revolution in 1789.

The financial crisis made the government unable to handle the effects of natural disasters like the severe winter that attacked France in 1781-1788 and led to crop failure. This was because the government had no money to stock food from abroad for people and to subsidize basic food stuffs like bread. This worsened the problem of famine in France which forced the hungry people to form a **mob** in the French capital of **Paris** that started a revolution on by 1789.

The financial crisis forced the Ancient Regime to impose heavy taxes on the peasants which they opposed to the extent of staging a revolution. There were direct taxes like the “Taille tax” which was imposed on land and the poll tax which was imposed on the head of the household among others. The indirect taxes included the salt tax known as Gabelle and the Corvee tax which was paid in form of forced labor on public works. Worse still, the Ancient Regime adopted harsh methods of collecting these taxes which often involved torture, arrest, imprisonment and death. This caused resentment among the peasants that eventually sparked off a revolution by 1789.

The bankruptcy situation increased the unpopularity of the queen of France. She for example supported the extravagancy at the Royal court and she even advised her husband to dismiss Turgot and Necker who had proposed abolition of the privileges of the first two estates so as to save France from bankruptcy. She therefore became very unpopular and the resentment towards her caused a revolution in France by 1789.

The bankruptcy also exposed the weak character of Louis XVI. The King failed to support the financial reforms as suggested by Turgot and Necker. He instead supported the privileges of the First and Second Estates like tax exemption. He also supported the extravagancy at the court which caused bankruptcy. This therefore made him very unpopular which led to the outbreak of a revolution in 1789.

The financial crisis also brought the philosophers’ work into reality or play. The financial crisis led to the torturing of the peasants by the tax farmers (tax collectors) like the cutting of arms, confiscation of their property and Rousseau’s work criticized the violation of human rights by the leaders and had suggested for man to be left free to enjoy his rights to life and property among other rights. The peasants were therefore influenced by the writings of Rousseau to stage a revolution in 1789.

It was the financial crisis that led to the summoning or calling of the Estates General on 5th May 1789. When King Louis XVI recalled Necker as the Financial Minister, Necker advised the king to call the Estates General, among other things, to be advised on how to solve France’s financial troubles.

However, the meeting failed because Louis XVI refused to support the removal of the privileges of the First and Second Estates so as to solve the financial problems of France. The members of the Third Estate therefore decided to start a revolution in May 1789.

BAD WEATHER (SEVERE WINTER)

Between 1787 and 1788, France was hit by bad weather. Severe winter destroyed the crops and this led to very poor harvests and therefore there was terrible famine in France.

Crowds of hungry and desperate masses left the rural areas and went to Paris (capital of France) hoping to find food. They went to the palace to see if the King could provide for them. King Louis XVI could not provide food because his government was bankrupt and to make it worse, the food prices in France were very high and many people could not find employment because the industries had been closed. Therefore, the hungry people decided to join other discontented people and started a revolution in 1789.

THE SUMMONING AND FAILURE OF THE ESTATES GENERAL (5th MAY 1789)

This sparked off the French revolution of 1789. The Estates General had spent 175 years without meeting since 1614 during the reign of King Louis XIII. It was summoned or called on **5th May 1789** to examine grievances or complaints and draw up reforms. The representatives from the Three Estates (social classes) attended the Estates General. While in the meeting, the representatives of the Third Estate (peasants) demanded for fair taxation, end of feudalism, equality before the law and an end to the social classes and their privileges. No one suggested the abolition of the monarchy. They simply wanted reforms in it.

King Louis XVI made it very difficult for the peasants who had suggested holding a one man one vote on the grievances that had been advanced to form the agenda of the Estates General. He instead suggested that the voting was to be according to the social classes. He feared that the peasants were to defeat the other members since they were the majority. The Third Estate rejected the idea of the King to vote separately. Louis XVI became furious and ordered for the hall to be closed which meant that he had suspended the meeting. The Third Estate realized that the King was more interested in retaining the privileged position of the First and Second Estates. This annoyed them and therefore they decided to start a revolution which marked the beginning of the French revolution of 1789. Later Count Mirabeau and the members of the Third Estate used this chance to declare themselves the **National Assembly** on **17th June 1789**. They invited members from the other Estates to join them.

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| <p><u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p><u>Brief summary from group discussions</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> | <p><u>Sample question(s)</u></p> <p>)To what extent did internal factors contribute to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789?</p> <p>b)To what extent did the external factors contribute to the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution?</p> <p>c)“The French revolution of 1789 was inevitable”. Discuss.</p> <p>d)“Marie Antoinette was primarily responsible for.</p> |
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- The creation of a Republic, September 1792.
- The execution of Louis XVI, January 1793.
- Revolutionary France at war with the rest of Europe (1792 – 1794).
- The Reign of Terror in France, 1792 – 1794.

THE SUMMONING OF THE ESTATES GENERAL (5TH MAY 1789) AND THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (17TH JUNE 1789)

The Estates General that was summoned by King Louis XVI on 5th May ended in failure. The king insisted on the traditional fashion of holding separate meetings for the three Estates and voting on class basis which the Third Estate rejected.

Consequently, they declared themselves the National Assembly and this was to act as the parliament of France, hence replacing the Estates General. They invited members from other Estates to join them. They were easily joined by the Lower Clergy and the Lesser Nobility who were equally unhappy about the Ancient regime. For example, Count Mirabeau, one of the revolutionary leaders belonged to the nobility.

The formation of the National Assembly was an important event in the course of the revolution because it made outstanding achievements for France. For example, it abolished feudal laws and therefore reduced the power of the land lords who used it to demand a lot of taxes from their tenants. The National Assembly also declared that all Frenchmen were free to enjoy their rights that had been violated by the Ancient Regime.

The National Assembly also laid down new administrative structures in France. For example, the local government was re-organized by the creation of 83 (eighty three) divisions which were known as **Departments** and the leaders for each department were elected on merit other than being appointed by the King or on the basis of social status as had been before.

The National Assembly also abolished the social classes in France. This was a fundamental change because France used to have three social classes of which the clergy and the nobles were more privileged than the peasants who were in the third estate. However, the National Assembly declared that everyone was equal especially before the law.

THE TENNIS COURT OATH, 20TH JUNE 1789

On 20th June 1789, the Third Estate members went to their usual meeting place but they found the hall closed in preparation for the Royal Session. The Third Estate was not given prior notice and for a moment, they were confused. However, after some time they went to a nearby building which served as Tennis Court and held a meeting from where they took an oath never to separate until the constitution of the kingdom was established. This oath laid a foundation for the declaration of the rights of man as well as the establishment of constitutional governance in France in the later years of the revolution.

THE ROYAL SESSION, 23RD JUNE 1789

On 23rd June 1789, the king organized a special royal session at Versailles in which he declared the recent acts of the Third Estate like declaring themselves the National Assembly as illegal. He also emphasized the fact that the three estates were to meet separately. After this, the king, the nobility and clergy left the hall while the third estate deputies or members did not leave. The master of ceremonies reported that the King had asked them to leave immediately. In response, Mirabeau, one the revolutionary leaders warned that, “Go tell your master that we are here by the will of the people, we shall not

leave unless at the point of the bayonet.” The king who was now confused finally conceded defeat and on 27th June 1789, he ordered all the three Estates to sit as one body. This solved a matter that had been the immediate cause of the revolution i.e. the sitting arrangement.

THE FALL OF THE BASTILLE, 14TH JULY 1789

The mob in Paris became excited and they organized an uprising in support to the revolution. Louis XVI sent his troops to suppress the riot (demonstration). However, the revolutionaries disarmed the troops and the next step was to invade the Bastille. Bastille was the major state prison in Paris where many innocent Frenchmen had been imprisoned, tortured and others killed while others faced long term imprisonment on the orders of the King.

The destruction of the Bastille caused fundamental changes in the history of France. For example, the prisoners were set free and some of the prison guards were killed by the prisoners. This was important in the history of France because it showed that the royal absolute power had been abolished i.e. there was to be no more imprisonment without trial as it used to happen during the Ancient regime.

In addition, the news about the fall of the Bastille spread in France and this resulted into the destruction of other prisons in the provinces of France.

It also led to the formation a revolutionary army known as the **National Guard**. This army which was set up to protect the gains of the French revolution was put under the command of General Lafayette.

The revolutionaries also went ahead to abolish the **White colour flag** which was the flag of the Ancient Regime and he replaced it with the **Tri-colour flag** (a flag with three colours). This colour became the symbol of the revolution. The three colours represented liberty, equality and fraternity which were the key words of the French revolution of 1789.

Following the fall of the Bastille, the nobles and clergy became scared. Those who wanted to save their lives and those of their families and also to save their property from being confiscated or destroyed surrendered their social status and they joined the revolution. Therefore, this shows that more changes were being brought about by the revolution in France.

The event however led to increased violence in France. The former prisoners became violent and the homes of the nobles and clergy were attacked. The nobles were killed while their property was destroyed. It also led to the first emigration of the nobles who were opposed to the revolution to Austria and Prussia. These nobles were called Émigrés. This eventually led to foreign intervention in France and war with Europe. Despite this however, the fall of the Bastille was an important event in the history of France to the extent that 14th July became a day for national celebrations up to the present day.

THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN (AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 1789)

This document was drafted by Lafayette and passed by the National Assembly. It outlined the basic rights of man in a free and just society. In summary, the document provided for freedom of man from all forms of oppression or suffering. This document declared that there should be equality for all, freedom of worship, association and speech among others. Consequently, the Ancient Regime which was known to be violating such freedoms could no longer do it, thus another significant change.

However, Louis XVI refused to endorse this document and this action annoyed the

revolutionaries that the King was not interested in the changes that affected his regime. Besides, the declaration emphasized rights and not duties of man and it was partly due to such weaknesses that the revolution turned more violent.

THE MARCH OF THE WOMEN FROM PARIS TO VERSAILLES, OCTOBER 1789

In October 1789, about 7,000 hungry and desperate women decided to march from Paris to Versailles where the King and his family lived. They went to demand for food from the King and also to force the King to attend to their needs. General Lafayette who was in command of the National Guard accompanied the women so as to maintain law and order. After some resistance, the King gave in to the demands of the mob.

On 6th October 1789, in a very humiliating procession, the women forced the King and the royal family to walk from Versailles to the centre of Paris which was a distance of ten kilometers. This clearly indicated that the King had lost all the pride and powers that he had and that the regime was in the hands of the revolutionaries. They went ahead and put him in one of the small palaces in the city (Paris) and guarded him as a prisoner.

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| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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THE CIVIL CONSTITUTION OF THE CLERGY, JULY 1790

In July 1790, the Roman Catholic Church which was one of the major causes of the revolution suffered another setback. A document that reduced its power and regulated the behaviours of the clergy known as the **Civil Constitution of the Clergy** was established by the National Assembly. By this document, the revolutionary government took over the responsibility of appointing Archbishops, Bishops and Priests. It was also the government to pay salaries to the clergy. All the land of the clergy and Church where the peasants settled as squatters was taken by the state. This document is another evidence of how the revolution affected the Catholic Church which used to have a lot of powers and wealth in France.

However, the Catholic Church leaders, Louis XVI himself and above all the Pope in Italy opposed this document. Louis XVI refused to endorse the document and instead he sought for military assistance from abroad to fight the revolution. Similarly, the predominantly catholic areas of Montaban, Lavendee and Lyons rebelled against the revolutionary government in France which led to violence in the country.

THE EMERGENCE OF THE ÉMIGRÉS

As the revolution progressed, some royalists, clergy and nobles who did not want to surrender their social status and were also scared of their lives fled France and went to exile. They were referred to as Émigrés (emigrants). They went Austria and Prussia and while in these countries, the émigrés persuaded their host countries to support them in an armed struggle to fight the revolutionaries in France and restore the Ancient Regime in full status.

In 1791, an army of exiled Frenchmen was formed near the French boarder in the Rhinelands which was East of France. These exiled rebels started sending agents back to France to recruit more members which was done. This action brought more problems to the surviving members of the Ancient Regime who lived in France as the revolutionaries started to arrest and kill those they suspected to be collaborating with those who lived in exile. This therefore caused violence in France.

THE DEATH OF MIRABEAU, APRIL 1791

Count Mirabeau had served as the President of the National Assembly from 1789 when the revolution started in France. He desired a peaceful revolution where the monarchy had to be preserved but the monarchy could also accept fundamental changes in France.

In April 1791, Mirabeau died. However, his death created a vacuum for ruthless or harsh leaders like Robespierre and Danton to take over the control of the revolution. While these leaders were in control, the revolution became violent and France was declared a Republic and the King was executed in 1793 which led to the collapse of the Ancient Regime.

THE KING'S FLIGHT TO VARENNES, JUNE 1791

In 1791, King Louis XVI who was scared that the revolutionaries would kill him escaped from Paris together with his wife. They moved towards the state of Luxemburg from where he thought they would cross to Austria. He disguised himself as a lady in dressing but the royal couple was recognized before they could cross the boarder town of Varennes. They were arrested and taken back to Paris, imprisoned and were labelled as traitors to the revolution.

The revolutionaries went ahead and searched the office of Louis XVI and found documents that showed that the King was collaborating with the émigrés to fight the revolution. These very documents increased the hostility and resentment of the Frenchmen towards the Ancient Regime and they were used as evidence that led to his execution in 1793 which marked the end of the Ancient regime. The imprisonment of the king also meant that the Ancient Regime was no longer in control of France.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION, SEPTEMBER 1791

In September 1791, the revolutionaries with the help of the National Assembly produced a constitution for France. This constitution among other things reduced the powers of the monarchy. For example, the King could no longer appoint senior officers in the army and civil servants without the approval of the Assembly.

The constitution further recognized the new administrative structures (83) which were referred to as **Departments** and were led by officials known as prefects and sub-prefects.

The constitution also provided for the creation of a new Assembly called the **Legislative Assembly** which was dominated by those who used to be called peasants. The constitution therefore reduced the powers of the monarchy and improved the administration in France. The Legislative Assembly was in power between **September 1791** and **September 1792**. It was succeeded by the **Convention Government** which governed France from **1792 to 1794**.

The Legislative Assembly and the convention government consisted of inexperienced but ambitious politicians who competed with each other so as to fill the vacuum left by the prisoner king and the death of Mirabeau. They included Maximillien Robespierre, Danton, Marat, Herbert and Roland. They belonged to different political parties and had divergent political opinions. Consequently, the two new governments plunged France into the Reign of Terror and war with the rest of Europe between 1792 and 1794.

THE EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL CLUBS (PARTIES) IN FRANCE

Three main political clubs or parties were formed in the course of the French revolution. These clubs had different and rival political interests and their competition led to violence. The first political party to be formed was that of the **JACOBINS** and they opened up many branches in parts of France. Their leader was known as **ROBESPIERRE**. The Jacobins wanted force to apply so as to see that the revolution succeeded. They also wanted to turn France into a Republic. They however, feared war with other countries because it would destroy the gains of the revolution.

The second political party was the **CORDELLIERS** which represented the views of Lafayette and it was led by **DANTON**. They greatly supported a constitution for France and they believed in democracy. However, they were not well organized and therefore they soon lost their influence to the **JACOBINS** club.

The third were the **GIRONDINS** formed and led by **ROLAND** and his wife **MADAME ROLAND**. They wanted a Republic and favoured war with other countries and indeed, they put pressure on the King to appoint Roland as a War Minister.

The formation of political parties was another event responsible for the establishment of the First French Republic in 1792 and the collapse of the Ancient Regime. Also, the conflicts and power struggle associated with the political clubs led to more violence in France.

FRANCE BECOMES A REPUBLIC, SEPTEMBER 1792

In September 1792, the Convention Government led by Robespierre drafted a constitution which declared that France was a **Republic** and not a **Monarchy**. In the constitution, the King had no place and that France had to elect its leaders. Robespierre became the leader of the Republic of France and this was another fundamental change that affected the Ancient Regime and led to its collapse by 1793.

THE EXECUTION OF KING LOUIS XVI, JANUARY 1793

In January 1793, the Republican Convention government organized a trial of King Louis XVI. He was charged for treason. They used the evidence of the correspondences with the émigrés they had found in his office following his abortive or failed attempt to escape from France in June 1791. On 21st January 1793, he was sentenced to death using the invented human killing machine which was known as the **GUILLOTINE**. His execution marked the end of monarchical rule in France for some time.

THE FORMATION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

In 1793, the Convention government set up three committees to spear head the success of the revolution. These committees were:

- **The Committee of Public safety:** The work of this committee was to spy on the activities of the revolutionary army, arrest the suspected opponents to the revolution and send them to the Guillotine.
- **The Committee of General Security:** This was in charge of the work of the police in Paris and other provinces of France. The members would arrest civilians who were suspected of not supporting the revolution and they would be sent to the **Revolutionary Tribunal** or Court.
- **The Revolutionary Tribunal:** This was a revolutionary Court specifically created to try those brought to it by the Committee of Public Safety and the Committee of General Security as offenders to the revolutionary government. Thousands of Frenchmen were brought to this court where appealing was never allowed and so they were executed. The creation of these committees weakened the Ancient Regime and led to terror in France

REASONS WHY THE ANCIENT REGIME COLLAPSED BY 1793

- The weaknesses of Louis XVI i.e. his inconsistency, extravagancy etc.
- The nature of the Ancient Regime i.e. it was characterized by conservatism, nepotism and gross abuse of human rights.
- The negative role/character of Queen Marie Antoinette.
- Failure of Louis XVI to hijack the revolution.
- The rise of the National Assembly.
- Declaration of the rights of man.
- The civil constitution of the clergy.
- The fall of the Bastille.
- The death of Mirabeau.
- The enactment of the first French constitution on 5th September 1791.
- The rise of political parties / clubs (Girondins, Cordeliers and Jacobins) weakened the monarchy.
- The hostility of European monarchs towards the French revolution made the

- revolutionaries violent towards the Ancient regime e.g. the Pillnitz Declaration and the Brunswick Manifesto.
- The rise of the Convention Government in France in and the formation of the Republic in 1792.
- The rise of the Paris Mob/mob justice.
- The rise of personalities like Danton, Robespierre.
- The King's flight to Varennes leading to his execution.
- The American War of Independence.
- Failure of the army to support the monarchy.
- Role of England.
- Role of political philosophers undermined the Ancient Regime.
- The King's collaboration with the Émigrés e.g. documents found his office drawer showed evidence of this.
- The March of the Women from Paris to Versailles.
- The calling of the Estates General, 5th May 1789.
- The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.

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| | <p>characterized by wars between revolutionary France and the rest of Europe essentially due to conflicts and misunderstandings between revolutionary France and the other European countries.</p> <p>When the revolution broke out in 1789, it was received with happiness by many local people in other states of Europe. On the other hand, the European governments reacted negatively because they feared that the French revolution was bound to cause rebellions in their countries, hence threatening their position. Therefore from 1792, scared by the success of the revolution and the events in France by that time, Austria, Prussia, Spain, Britain and Holland formed the first coalition or alliance.</p> <p>REASONS WHY FRANCE WAS AT WAR WITH THE REST OF EUROPE</p> <p>The activities of the French émigrés in the neighboring countries caused these wars. These were rich nobles and clergy who had gone to the neighboring countries especially Austria. They began organizing a counter revolutionary force and were led by Comte de Artois, one of Louis XVI's brothers. By 1791, they had a force of about 20,000 men which frequently attacked the revolutionary government in France. Their aim was to come back to France, overthrow the revolutionary government and restore the Bourbon Monarchy. This scared the revolutionaries in France and therefore they decided to declare war on the European countries that supported the émigrés. For example, they attacked Austria when she refused to stop assisting the émigrés.</p> |
| Reference Books | |
| | <p>The nature of the Legislative Assembly also caused wars between France and other countries. This assembly was composed of inexperienced and immature people who did not know how to handle sensitive issues and politics. They were idealists and were unable to reason. They believed that war was a source of wealth and prestige and they also believed that it was the best way of solving conflicts. They were over-influenced by the dream of expanding France. Hence, they had to fight other countries so as to expand the glory of France. It was also this assembly that issued of the reckless Edict of Fraternity of November 1792 by which they vowed or promised to help all those people of Europe who rebelled against their governments. This scared the European Monarchies especially in Austria and Prussia, hence forcing them to unite and declare war against France.</p> <p>The success of the 1789 French revolution also made the revolutionary wars inevitable. The French revolution had done away with absolute rule in France by drafting a constitution for France in September 1791. As a result, European countries that were still under absolute monarchical rule like Austria and Prussia became scared that France was giving a bad example to their people. More over in November 1792, the French revolutionaries issued the Edict of Fraternity in which they were ready to support rebellions in other European countries. They declared that all governments were their enemies and all people were their friends by stating that "war with the Kings and peace with the people". This therefore threatened other European countries which forced them to unite and declare war against France.</p> <p>The hostility or enmity of European kings towards revolutionary France also caused the revolutionary wars. The European monarchs wanted to restore the Bourbon Monarchy in France which had been undermined by the French revolution. The European kings</p> |

especially those of Austria and Prussia considered it their obligation to restore and protect their fellow King Louis XVI. Therefore in **August 1791**, the Kings of Prussia and Austria issued what was known as the **PILNITZ Declaration** in which they declared their readiness to restore the king's powers in France by asserting that the cause of Louis XVI was the cause of every king in Europe. This annoyed the French revolutionaries and therefore forced them to declare war on those European countries as a way of punishing them for interfering in the French affairs which didn't concern them.

The Brunswick Manifesto of **July 1792** caused wars between France and the rest of Europe. Austria and Prussia had formed a joint army which was commanded by a Prussian Duke known as Brunswick. In **July 1792** this joint commander of the Austro-Prussian forces issued a manifesto which annoyed the revolutionaries and forced them to declare war on the rest of Europe. This manifesto or statement threatened total destruction of Paris if the French revolutionaries continued to harm King Louis XVI and other members of the Royal family. This manifesto also warned that any resistance against this declaration could be treated as a rebellion and therefore punishable. This annoyed the revolutionaries who even demanded the execution of the King. It also forced them to declare war on Austria and Prussia hence causing an atmosphere of war.

The commercial or economic interests forced some European countries to join the war against France. For example from 1792, the revolutionary government in France cancelled all the commercial treaties that France had signed with Britain, Belgium and Holland. This threatened the economic interests of the rich middle class in other countries hence becoming a source of conflicts. Also when France invaded Belgium and Holland in 1793, which were trading partners of Britain it annoyed Britain whose economic interests were threatened. Britain therefore joined Austria and Prussia to fight France not because she was against the revolution but because of the desire to protect her commercial interests that were being threatened by revolutionary France.

The rise of the **Girondins Party** contributed to the outbreak of the revolutionary wars. The members of this party believed in war as the only solution to problems. They also believed that wars would help them to export revolutionary ideas of liberty equality and fraternity to other countries. They further believed that wars were to enable France to export her glory to the rest of Europe. This pressure of the Girondins therefore forced France to declare war on the rest of Europe.

The declaration of France as a Republic on **22nd of September 1792** contributed to the outbreak of revolutionary wars. This act annoyed the European countries that were still under kings. A republic in itself meant a government to elected by the people, led the people and for the people. It also meant introduction of democratic ideals of all forms and to make matters worse the Frenchmen were already to extend such democracy and ideals to the rest of Europe. That kind of arrangement scared the existence of monarchies in European countries like Austria and Prussia which decided to fight France with an aim of restoring the Bourbon monarchy in France.

The death of Emperor Leopold II of Austria also led to the revolutionary wars. He sympathized with his brother –in –law King Louis XVI but did not take any move to rescue him from the revolutionaries. This was because he was more concerned about security in his own country. He therefore wanted peace with other countries and never provoked war with France. However, Leopold II died in 1792 and his death changed the position of Austria. He was replaced by Emperor Francis II, his son who was surrounded by bad advisors who were in favour of war with France. Consequently, they forced him to declare war on France, hence leading to the revolutionary wars.

The territorial ambitions also caused the revolutionary wars. It was a policy in Europe at that time that whenever a country defeated the other, it would take part of the defeated country and annex it to her territory. France therefore attacked other European powers with the aim of conquering territories. Other powers also were forced to unite in order to stop the aggressive moves of the French revolutionary army. This therefore caused wars between France and the rest of Europe.

The role of the German princes living in the French province of Alsace and other provinces which once belonged to the Austrian Empire also caused revolutionary wars. These princes had lost their right and land by the Decree of 4th August 1789. These Princes had refused the compensation offered to them by the Frenchmen but instead demanded for the restoration of their full rights. They therefore appealed to the Austria for assistance which annoyed the French revolutionary government, hence forcing France to declare war on Austria and rest of Europe.

The desire by the revolutionaries in France to export the revolutionary ideas of liberty equality and fraternity to the rest of Europe by force also led to revolutionary wars. The members of Legislative Assembly demanded for war as a way of spreading the revolutionary spirit abroad against the established European monarchies. They even came up with a motto “peace with people and war against the tyrants (kings)”. This threatened the kings of Europe and in an attempt to safeguard their position, they decided to fight France.

The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793 created conditions for wars between France and the rest of Europe. King Louis XVI was labeled a traitor and accordingly, he was executed on Sunday 21st January 1793. The execution of the king however scared all the despotic kings of Europe especially those of Austria, Prussia, Spain and Britain who thought that the revolutionary effect in France could extend to their countries. They therefore united and declared war against the French revolutionary government.

The Civil Constitution of the Clergy of July 1790 also led to the revolutionary wars. This document greatly reduced the powers and privileges of the Catholic Church. For example, it reduced the church’s influence in the political affairs of France and also made the Bishops and priests to become civil servants paid by the state. This arrangement annoyed the catholic states of Europe and forced European countries like Austria and Spain to begin requesting their governments to fight France so as to liberate their fellow brothers and sisters in faith in France. Even the Pope condemned the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and asked catholic states to ally and fight France. As a result, countries like Austria, Spain, Holland and Italian states joined together and declared war against France.

NOTE: France declared war on Austria on **20th April 1792** and immediately Prussia joined on the side of Austria. On the side of France, the war began on a sad note because French forces were not well equipped and prepared. Therefore, they were defeated at first. A month later, the enemy forces of Prussia and Austria were threatened to take over Paris. The defeat of France increased the conflicts between the Girondins and the Jacobins. The Jacobins were opposed to the policy of the Girondins of being at war. In 1793, the Jacobins overthrew the Girondins and in October 1793, all the prominent Girondins were executed by the Jacobins. From 1793 therefore, the Jacobins controlled the Convention Government and they reacted to the defeat of France in the following ways:

- They started a policy of military conscription i.e. forceful recruitment into the army of the men between 18 and 25 years.
- All those Generals in the army who were unsuccessful in the war which led to the defeat of France were arrested and executed.
- They got prepared to defeat the internal and external enemies that threatened the

survival of the French Republic. The Jacobins did not believe in monarchism. They also believed that the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity were good for everyone and that it was a crime to be an enemy of the revolution.

EFFECTS OF THE WARS BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE REST OF EUROPE

The wars increased the hostility towards France from her neighbours which worsened the relations between France and the rest of the European countries. The European governments were opposed to the French imperialism (expansion) and attempt to spread the revolutionary ideas which threatened these governments. This forced the European states to form coalitions and counter coalitions that finally led to the defeat of France by 1815.

These wars led to the spread of the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity to other European countries which were conquered by the French revolutionaries especially German and the Italian states. This later led to the rise of nationalism or desire for freedom and independence which contributed to political instability in Europe.

The wars contributed to the Reign of Terror in France. The initial defeat of France by the allied forces forced the French revolutionaries to become violent and determined to eliminate the internal spies and collaborators of the enemies of the revolution like the émigrés. This led to bloodshed or death of even innocent civilians in France. Similarly, following the defeat of France by Austria and Prussia, there was a rebellion against the government in the Western region of Lavande. The people in this region were staunch catholic who opposed the revolutionary government and its policies. After suffering defeat, the revolutionary government started recruiting them into the army and the people in this region hated this forceful recruitment and therefore rebelled against the revolutionary government hence causing insecurity or instability in the country.

The wars resulted in to great loss of lives and destruction of property not only in France but also the neighbouring countries. There was loss of troops on both sides as well as a lot of looting and confiscation of property that used to belong of the clergy.

The wars contributed to the economic decline not only in France but also in the rest of Europe. Because of the wars, there was decline in economic activities like agriculture and industrialization in France as well as undermining international trade. In addition, there was shortage of bread or food in France because much of it was taken to war front to feed the soldiers.

The wars united the Frenchmen and gave birth to the French nationalism. This is because all the French men were brought together by these wars to fight against European countries so as to safe guard the aims of the revolution. For instance, when Louis XVI dismissed the Girondins, people reacted bitterly by staging demonstrations on 25th June 1792 against Louis XVI. The demonstrations ended up in the killing of all the Swiss guards who were guarding Louis XVI at his palace of Tuileries.

The wars led to the death of King Louis XVI in January 1793. The king was suspected of collaborating with enemies of the revolution. Louis XVI co-operated with the European coalition against France. Consequently, the king was executed in January 1793. This therefore led to the downfall of the Bourbon monarchy in France.

The wars contributed to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte I into power in France by 1799. This was because he was given the command of the French army in the military campaigns especially to Italy in 1796 – 1797 and Egypt in 1798. This gave him an opportunity to display his military skills and talents which made him popular in France. This popularity

therefore later contributed to power in 1799.

The wars also led to extension of France's boundaries and the fall of other empires in Europe. For example, France conquered the Italian and German states which led to the expansion of France and the collapse of the Austrian empire that had once comprised the Italians and the Germans.

These wars increased the conflicts between the Girondins and the Jacobins. The two were the major political parties in France during the course of the revolution. However, the Jacobins were opposed to the policy of the Girondins of being at war with the rest of Europe. Therefore when France was defeated by Austria and Prussia, this increased the conflicts between the two parties. This partly explains why the Legislative Assembly Government collapsed in **September 1792** and France was declared a Republic. Later in 1793, the Jacobins overthrew the Girondins from power and executed all the prominent Girondins which increased violence in France.

The wars also led to the birth of diplomacy in Europe. Diplomacy was the spirit of cooperation among the European powers to solve international problems. The alliances that were formed against France by European powers were later slowly transformed into the Congress System of 1818 to 1825 which also helped in controlling the effects of the French revolution from spreading further in Europe.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| <div>Reference Books</div> | <p>of Terror” stretched from 1792 to 1794.</p> <p>CAUSES OF THE REIGN OF TERROR IN FRANCE</p> <p>The weak character of King Louis XVI led to the reign of terror in France. He was very weak and unable to provide leadership to the French revolution which would have made it to move smoothly. As a result, the revolution landed in the hands of the extremists who eventually changed a peaceful revolution into a reign of terror. The king also refused to sign important documents like the declaration of the rights of man and citizen of August – September 1789 as well as the Civil Constitution of the Clergy of July 1790. This therefore portrayed King Louis XVI as an enemy of the revolution which annoyed the revolutionary extremists like Robespierre who decided to kill whoever was in favor of the king and the monarchy, hence causing the reign of terror.</p> <p>The hostility of Europe towards revolutionary France caused terror in the country. Following the outbreak of the French revolution European countries like Austria and Prussia turned against France. They feared that their people were to follow the example of the French revolution and overthrow their governments in those countries which were under the monarchical rule. They therefore decided to guard against the revolution by declaring war against France so as to defeat the revolutionaries and restore the Bourbon Monarchy.</p> |
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This scared the revolutionaries in France, hence forcing them to kill anyone suspected of collaborating with France’s enemies, thus leading to the death of very many people.

The growing threats of the émigrés in the neighbouring countries led to war. These were members of the privileged classes who had fled into exile following the outbreak of the revolution. While in foreign countries like Austria, the émigrés started mobilizing support to defeat or suppress the revolution in France and restore the ancient regime. This annoyed the revolutionaries in France and increased their anger against the monarchy which forced men like Robespierre to begin killing all those suspected of collaborating with the émigrés in France and all those that were against the revolution. Consequently, many people were killed which created a lot of fear and suspicion, hence causing terror.

The initial defeat of France by Austria and Prussia led to terror in France. The two countries were very hostile to revolutionary France since the success of the revolution in France threatened the survival of their absolute regimes. When the two countries defeated France in 1792, the revolutionary government felt that the soldiers had not done enough to fight for their country. Consequently, all the Generals who had led to the defeat of France were charged with treason and they were executed. Furthermore, the defeat of France led to forceful recruitment into the army of all the males between 18 and 25 years of age and this increased fear and tension in France.

The creation of internal and external enemies by the National Convention Government contributed to revolutionary violence in France. Within France, the revolutionary committees would arrest those who were suspected to be enemies of the revolution and the same government also was on the lookout for those members of the Ancient Regime who

were collaborating with those Frenchmen who lived in exile. Therefore, revolts were staged by the revolutionaries so as to defeat the internal and external enemies of the revolution.

The declaration of the rights of man of August – September 1789 also led to the outbreak of terror in France. This was a document that was drafted by Lafayette and passed by the National Assembly in August – September 1789. This document provided for freedom of man from all forms of oppression or suffering. It therefore declared that there should be equality for all Frenchmen, freedom of worship, association and speech among other rights. This document however had a weakness in that it emphasized the rights of the Frenchmen and did not talk about their duty to keep law and order in France. Consequently, the revolutionaries destroyed property and killed their opponents in the name of exercising their rights. Therefore there was total anarchy (break down of law and order) in France and this was one of the features of the reign of terror.

The civil constitution of the clergy of July 1790 also led to terror in France. This was a document that was issued by the French revolutionaries in the National Assembly in July 1790 to reduce the power of the Clergy and also regulate their behaviours. By this document, the priests were to be appointed by the state and the state had the right to dismiss them. The peasants were also allowed to take over land from the Catholic Church. This created general opposition in France to the revolution by the Catholics. In some regions like Lavende District, there were open revolts by the Catholic priests against the revolutionary government because it had reduced the powers of the Catholic Church. Therefore, in order to suppress such rebellions, the revolutionary government decided to use force by declaring war against the rebellious Catholics. As a result, many people were killed, hence leading to the reign of terror in France.

The storming of the Bastille in July 1789 contributed to terror in France. Bastille was the major state prison in Paris where many innocent Frenchmen had been imprisoned, tortured and others killed during the Ancient Regime. As a result, when the revolution broke out, this prison became one of the major targets by the revolutionaries. Consequently, on 14th July 1789, Bastille was attacked and destroyed by the revolutionaries and this was followed by the destruction of other prisons in the country side. This contributed to terror in France because the revolutionaries started destroying lives and property of the supporters of ancient regime without fear of being imprisoned and above all there were no prisons where the enemies of the revolution would be kept and therefore many of them were executed. In addition, the former prisoners who were set free from the Bastille also became violent as they carried out the policy of revenge on the members of the Ancient Regime.

The death of Count Mirabeau in April 1791 led to the reign of Terror in France. Count Mirabeau was one of the French revolutionary leaders who had served as the President of the National Assembly from 1789 when it was set up. Mirabeau wanted to preserve the monarchy and the monarchy to accept changes in France using peaceful means. It is true that in France of that time, some revolutionaries wanted to do away with the monarchy and also to use force to make the revolution succeed. His death therefore created an opportunity to the opponents of the Ancient Regime for example the Jacobins under Robespierre who took over control of the revolution, declared France a republic and executed King Louis XVI which increased terror in France.

The discovery of the guillotine machine accelerated the Reign of Terror in France. This was a device for carrying out executions by decapitation (cutting off people's heads). It was named after a French Physician and politician Dr. Josef Guillotine who discovered this machine during the course of the French revolution of 1789. Thousands of Frenchmen who

were arrested by the revolutionary government, including King Louis XVI and his wife Queen Marie Antoinette were sent to this Guillotine and were eventually executed. This therefore increased terror in France.

The rise of violent political clubs or parties in France caused terror. A number of political clubs were formed during the course of the revolution like the Jacobins, the Girondins and the Feuillants among others with divergent political interests. These parties started struggling for political power in France especially after the death of Mirabeau in April 1791. Consequently, many people lost their lives and even the leaders of these parties died as they started to eliminate their political opponents for example, Marat, Danton and Herbert, hence leading to terror in France.

The rise of the Paris mob caused the reign of terror in France. As a result of the harsh conditions in France like famine, disgruntled groups of hungry and energetic men moved from the rural areas to the urban centres and formed the Paris Mob. Eventually, mobs took over control of the revolution in France. The problem was that these mobs were guided by emotions rather than reasoning. They believed in mob justice as the only solution of solving their problems which caused a lot of suffering to the French masses. For example, they destroyed the property of the members of the privileged classes and also hunted down all those who had refused to join the revolution, thus leading to terror in France.

The attempt by Louis XVI to escape from France in 1791 contributed to terror in France. In 1791, King Louis XVI who was scared of the revolutionaries attempted to escape to Austria. Unfortunately, he was arrested near the border town of Varennes. He was subsequently brought back to Paris where he was imprisoned. The revolutionaries went and searched his office and they found documents with evidence that he was collaborating with the enemies of the revolution (émigrés) who lived in exile. This evidence was used to undermine the popularity of the King and the revolutionaries started to support political parties against their King and also those members of the Ancient Regime and this was followed by the execution of Louis XVI.

The formation of state terrorist organs or revolutionary committees contributed to terror in France. These included the Committee of Public Safety, the Committee of General Security and the Revolutionary Tribunal. The first two committees had the duty of arresting real and suspected or imaginary opponents of the revolution while the revolutionary tribunal had the duty of sentencing those who were found guilty to the Guillotine. This increased terror in France because it was very difficult to survive the Guillotine if one was sent to the revolutionary tribunal.

The execution of King Louis XVI in January 1793 and later his wife Queen Marie Antoinette in October 1793 caused the reign of terror in France and this was in two ways. In the first place, it scared the European countries like Austria, Prussia and Spain, hence forcing them to unite and declare war against revolutionary France. Even those countries that had not joined the First Coalition did so in order to fight France and suppress the revolution. This in turn forced the revolutionary government to kill anyone suspected of collaborating with France's enemies, thus leading to the death of very many people. Internally, the execution of King Louis XVI and his wife led to violent protests mainly by the royalists in France. To the revolutionaries, the fact that a whole king was executed, any ordinary person could be massacred without regrets. As a result, there was massive killing of all those who royalists who were protesting against the execution of the king, which led to terror in France.

The influence of the 1791 constitution also led to the occurrence of the Reign of Terror in France. In September 1791, the French revolutionaries with the help of the National Assembly produced a constitution for France and this was the first in the history of France

because the Ancient Regime used to govern without a constitution. This constitution among other things reduced the powers of the monarchy. For example, the King could no longer appoint senior officers in the army and civil servants without the approval of the Assembly. This greatly annoyed the royalists in France and other supporters of the monarchy who decided to organize rebellions against the revolutionary government. The revolutionaries decided to introduce the policy of terror against all those who were supporting the Ancient regime in France and in the process, thousands of innocent people lost their lives, hence the reign of terror.

The rise of radical political leaders or extremists caused the reign of terror or violence in France. These people included Robespierre, Danton, Marat and Herbert among others. These were men of uncompromising character and therefore wanted the revolution to succeed by force. As a result, they introduced the policy of terror in France so as to make the revolution succeed. For example, Marat executed the Catholic priests including those who had been imprisoned. More fear was created in France when Robespierre executed Danton. This increased tension in France, thus leading to terror.

The economic crisis in France also caused the reign of terror in France. Since 1788, France was characterized by poor harvests, a depression and unemployment among other economic hardships. The situation worsened when the King Louis XVI failed to provide practical solutions due to his weak character. This annoyed the revolutionaries who decided to execute the king and other nobles and clergy whom they held responsible for the economic hardships in France, thus leading to terror in France.

The presence of the conservative nobles and clergy during the revolution contributed to the outbreak of revolutionary violence. These were people who refused to accept reforms. For example, they refused to surrender their privileges and others were collaborating with the émigrés to overthrow the revolutionary government. Consequently, the peasants destroyed a lot of their property and they also confiscated from them property like land, thus contributing to the period of terror in France.

The rise of Republicanism in France also caused the reign of terror. Republicanism was a political ideology which opposed monarchism. It also emphasized people's right to elect heads of the government. Therefore, the republicans advocated for the establishment of the Republic in France because the monarchy in France under King Louis XVI was associated with dictatorship. This ideology therefore increased the determination of the revolutionaries to kill the king and make France a Republic which accelerated the reign of terror in France.

The emergence of a new religion known as the **“Worship of Reason”** under the leadership of Herbert contributed to terror in France. Herbert wanted to destroy Christianity throughout France and therefore he violently attacked the Catholic Church. Robespierre and Danton who dominated the convention government began hating the “Herbertists” and their activities. Therefore, they ordered for the arrest and killing of Herbert and his followers in March 1794 thus increasing terror in France.

The introduction of the **“Law of Suspect”** increased terror in France. This law was passed on 17th September 1792 by the National Convention Government led by Robespierre. By this law, mere suspicion by the revolutionary government would lead to a conclusion that one was against the revolution and therefore that particular person would be arrested, tried and many times such people were executed. Because of this law therefore, many innocent Frenchmen lost their lives, thus leading to the reign of terror.

The weakness of the National Convention Government also led to terror in France. This was a government that was established in France immediately in 1792 after overthrowing

The creation of a ‘religious cult’ by Robespierre which was supported by Danton increased Terror in France. This cult was based on the need to create a state where all Frenchmen were obedient to the “Supreme Being” so as to achieve the goals of the revolution. Therefore, the offenders of the cult would be arrested and punished and many times they would be executed.

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| | victims were King Louis XVI and his wife Queen Marie Antoinette who were executed in 1793. |
| Reference Books | It strained or worsened relations between France and her neighbours like Austria and Prussia. The violent activities of the revolution such as the execution of King Louis XVI and his wife led to open hostility and war against France from a coalition of European powers like Britain, Austria and Prussia as they wanted to restore law and order in France. |
| | It unified the Frenchmen behind the revolution by silencing the internal opposition. The internal enemies of the revolution were either killed or they fled France while some accepted unwillingly. As a result, national unity was achieved through bloodshed and terror. |
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Economic activities like agriculture and industrialization came to a standstill in France as production was cut down because people were struggling to defend their rights and therefore they could not settle down to live a stable life.

It increased the problem of refugees or émigrés. The increasing terror in France forced many people to flee to the neighbouring countries like Prussia and Austria. These people unsuccessfully attempted to overthrow the revolutionary government with the support of the host countries which increased enmity between France and the rest of Europe.

The Reign of Terror led to massive destruction of property in France. Buildings, bridges, industries and farms were all destroyed either by the revolutionaries or the counter revolutionary forces which led to the unpopularity of the revolution.

The Reign of Terror brought in new religions in France. For example, the Herbertists introduced a new religion in France which was known as the **“Worship of Reason”**. There was also the cult or religion of the **“Supreme Being”** which was introduced by Robespierre. All these religions were opposed to Christianity.

It led to the formation of a new government in France known as the Directory Government. In 1795, the Frenchmen who were disgusted with the reign of terror agreed to formation of the Directory Government. This government ruled France from 1795 up to 1799 and it helped to spearhead the French revolution up to 1799.

It influenced the European kings to pass more repressive or harsh laws so as to counter the rise of extremism in their countries. This was because the Reign of Terror had been caused by the presence of extremist politicians during the course of the French revolution of 1789.

The period of terror taught a lesson to the French society and Europe as a whole about the weaknesses of the Republican system of government which was characterized by violence,

political divisions and opposition. This was because it allowed many political groups to exist as the case had been with the Convention Government which had plunged France into terror.

It later led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte to power in France who later influenced European affairs up 1815 and beyond. During the Reign of Terror many experienced military officers were executed or killed. Consequently, there was shortage of shortage of artillery officers which helped Napoleon to be appointed into the French army. His successes in the army made him popular among the Frenchmen which enabled him to come to power in 1799.

THE DIRECTORY GOVERNMENT, 1795-1799

The Directory Government was the new government or committee that was established in 1795 in France to replace the National Convention Government. It was formed after the end of the Reign of Terror and the fall of Robespierre in July 1794. It ruled France four years from November 1795 to November 1799 when it was overthrown by Napoleon Bonaparte in a coup.

The new government consisted of 5 (five) members or Directors and these were Lazare Nicolas Carnot, Paul François Barass, Louis Marie de La Revelliere-Lepuaux, Jean- François Rewbell and Etienne- François Le Tourneur. These were to serve for one year so as to avoid dictatorship. The new government ruled France with a parliament of two Councils or Houses. There was the Council of the Elders or Upper House which had 250 members and each member was over 45 years of age. The second council was known as the Council of Deputies or Lower Council which consisted of 500 (five hundred) members and these were to be 30 years or above. This council proposed laws for France to the Council of Elders which would decide to take up the laws or not. The Directory Government, however, faced a lot of challenges right from the beginning which included the following;

There were rebellions or threats from the **Royalists** and the **Jacobins**. The Royalists wanted to restore the monarchy and therefore in October 1795, they staged an uprising against the Directory Government when they invaded the hall where the Assembly (parliament) was meeting. The Directory Government ordered its soldiers to disperse the mob and this was successfully done. The soldiers were commanded by a young military officer known as **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE** and this incident came to be known as the **“WHIFF OF GRAPESHOT”** of **October 1795**. Napoleon was immediately appointed **Commander of the interior army in 1796**.

The Directory government was also faced with the problem of the **socialists**. The socialists wanted a type of government that would control the factors of production so as to bring about equal sharing of wealth between the rich and the poor. One of the factors of production that they wanted to be nationalized was land yet the French revolution 1789 of had provided for private ownership of land. The leader of the socialists was known as **François Babeuf** and together with his supporters and some members of the Jacobins Club, they planned to overthrow the Directory government and take over power in France. However, their plan leaked and François **Babeuf** was arrested and executed by the national army.

together with his followers in **1796**.

There were also religious conflicts resulting from the Civil Constitution of the Clergy of July 1790 which had greatly annoyed the members of the Catholic Church in France to the extent of staging rebellions against the revolutionary government. This also proved to be a challenge to the Directory government.

There was an economic crisis resulting from the unending political instability both at home and abroad. In addition, there was inflation and unemployment which made life difficult for the Frenchmen.

On the foreign front by 1795, France had ended the war against European states a part from Austria and Britain. All efforts to reconcile with them were fruitless due to the French's determination to retain the conquered territories of Belgium and Italy. These two therefore remained the only remaining problems to France. Therefore, the Directory government decided to begin with Austria in what came to be known as the **Italian Campaign of 1796 -1797**.

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN, 1796 -1797

During this campaign, the Directory Government attacked Austria from the Italian Peninsular. By 1796, Austria was in control of Italy and had imposed autocratic rule over the Italians. The Directory government sent **NAPOLEON BONAPARTE** to lead the French forces in the Campaign. He took with him an ill equipped, inexperienced and poorly trained force that lacked uniform and food. However using his skills and brilliance, Napoleon managed to organize his forces and made them ready for action. Using these forces, Napoleon managed to defeat the Austrian forces at the Battle of Rivoli in January 1797. The Italians welcomed him as a liberator and he extended to them the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. While in Italy, Napoleon then looted the Italian works of art from the Museums and Galleries. Also some pieces of art were looted from the private homes and were taken to France to beautify Paris.

After the defeat of Austria in Italy, Napoleon Bonaparte moved with the French forces towards Vienna, the capital of Austria. Austria became scared and consequently she decided to enter into a peace agreement with France. This came to be known as the Peace **Treaty of Campoformio** of October 1797.

By the terms of this treaty, Austria surrendered to France another territory she was controlling known as Belgium or Austrian Netherlands which was north of France. France also got another territory from Austria which was on the Left Bank of River Rhine. In addition, Napoleon Bonaparte completely expelled Austria from the northern Italian states and he organized these states into a new republic, which he named the **CISALPINE REPUBLIC**.

THE EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN, 1798 - 1799

After the defeat of Austria, France became the most powerful state on mainland Europe. However, Britain remained the most powerful state in Europe as a whole. Therefore, the Directory Government planned to

attack and defeat Britain such that France remained the most powerful country in Europe. However, well knowing that Britain was a super power and greatly depended on her commercial activities for survival, the Directors planned to weaken Britain by destabilizing her trading activities along the Mediterranean Sea and her commercial empire in the Far East (India). This was through occupying Egypt because Egypt was strategically located along this sea route. This campaign was also put in the hands of Napoleon Bonaparte.

In **May 1798**, Napoleon Bonaparte took the French forces to Egypt. On his way to Egypt, he captured the Island of Malta. He managed to enter the country after defeating the Egyptian rulers at the Battle of Pyramids. However, the French forces had left their fleet (war ships) at the coast as they entered Egypt. Consequently, the British naval force destroyed the French fleet at the Port of Alexandria and the French were cut off from communication with the home government.

News reached Britain that Napoleon's forces were planning to attack Britain and the British reacted by collaborating with Turkey to defeat the French forces in Egypt. Napoleon was therefore stuck in Egypt and to make matters worse, he got news that the Second Coalition (military alliance) had been formed by European powers against France and he learnt that all the territories that France had acquired in the Treaty of Campoformio of 1797 like Italy had been lost by the Directory Government. He secretly left Egypt and landed in Southern France. By this time, the Directory Government was very unpopular and had lost the support of the French. This therefore helped Napoleon to stage a coup in November 1799 which overthrew the Directory Government.

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| | <p>Revolutionary Tribunal. It also abolished the “Law of Suspect” that had been put in place in 1792 by the National Convention Government under Robespierre. Therefore, France regained some relative peace and stability due to the efforts of the Directory government.</p> |
| <p>Reference Books</p> | <p>The Directory Government restored democracy and promoted constitutional rule in France. For a long time, France had been under dictatorial rule for example by 1789 under King Louis XVI and later between 1793 and 1794 under Maximilien Robespierre who promoted terror and killed very many people in France. However, the constitution of Robespierre which was dictatorial was abolished by the Directory Government and a new one was drafted and accepted by the Directors in August 1795. With this constitution of 1795, a democratic and parliamentary system of governance was established in France. For example, there was a parliament in France which operated with two councils i.e. the Council of the Elders and the Council of the 500 (five hundred) members. This made the Frenchmen to enjoy some degree of democracy.</p> <p>It expanded the borders or frontiers of France. This was achieved when Napoleon Bonaparte led the French army against Austria and captured the Italian states through the Italian campaign of 1796 - 1797. His success extended the French borders to Northern Italy through the peace treaty of Campoformio of 1797 in which Austria surrendered to France the Italian states as well as other territories like Belgium and the Rhinelands. Napoleon Bonaparte was also sent to Egypt where he captured the Island of Malta.</p> |

The Directory government tried to improve the economy of France. This was done through developing industries, promoting trade as well as agriculture. Similarly, the directory government enriched the French treasury with the treasures from the conquered states. For example, after Italian campaign, Austria was forced to pay heavy war indemnity and it also ordered Napoleon Bonaparte to loot the art works from the government and private museums of Italy. He also looted numerous master pieces of painting and sculpture which were ferried to France and used to beautify the French Museums thus promoting tourism in France.

The Directory government re-organized the once disorganized French army. Many soldiers had been killed while others had deserted the national army. The surviving soldiers were poorly equipped and the spirit of fighting was very low following the defeat of France by a coalition of European powers like Prussia, Britain and Holland. This army was re-organized through the recruitment of more soldiers, serious training and

introduction of new and modern weapons. The government also appointed new army generals like Napoleon Bonaparte who replaced those that had either died or fled the country during the Reign of Terror. It was this strong army that maintained peace and stability which had been disrupted during the reign of terror as well as promoting the French glory abroad.

The Directory Government also kept alive the spirit of the revolution that had started in May 1789 as well as spreading the revolutionary ideas to other parts of Europe through the wars it fought. For example, in the Italian Campaign of 1796-1797 Napoleon used the evolutionary catchwords of liberty, equality and fraternity which made him to appear as a liberator from the autocratic Austrian rule. He also made such ideas to extend to Italy.

The Directory Government promoted reconciliation in France. This was done by releasing many political prisoners who had been captured during the Reign of Terror. It also granted political amnesty to those members of the National Convention Government who had caused revolutionary wars between France and the rest of Europe since 1792 and some of these politicians were even allowed by the Directory Government to participate in the politics of France. For example, the government re-admitted the surviving members of the Girondins political party into government posts.

The Directory Government restored glory for France. A country like Austria had previously defeated France during the revolutionary wars. However, in 1797 the French defeated Austria when Austria attempted to resist the French occupation of Belgium. It also attempted to occupy Egypt although Napoleon Bonaparte had to withdraw so as to go back to France and defend his country from foreign invasion.

The Directory Government saved France from the restoration of the Ancient Regime. This was done through the crushing of an uprising or rebellion that had been staged in October 1795 by the royalists against the Directory Government. These surviving members of the Ancient Regime were dispersed by Napoleon Bonaparte. This event became famous and was commonly referred to as the **“Whiff of Grape shot”** of October 1795.

The Directory Government was successful in making peace with other European countries. There had been hostility between European countries and revolutionary France between 1792 and 1794 because the French revolution 1789 threatened the survival of the monarchical regimes the European countries like Austria and Prussia. However, when the Directory government came to power in 1795, it made peace with some European countries like Spain and Holland.

The Directory Government also succeeded in suppressing the socialists. Under the leadership of François **Babeuf**, the socialists wanted to take over power in France and put in place a regime that would control the factors of production like land. Their attempt failed as their plan leaked to the government. As a result, in May 1796 the national army arrested **Babeuf** together with his supporters and they were executed. This

therefore promoted security in France.

The government is also credited for defending the state against the external invaders. By 1797, the first military coalition which had been formed against revolutionary France had been crushed by the Directory government and only Britain remained unchallenged of the 15 members of the coalition. The victory of the French forces over this coalition made the Directory Government very popular.

The Directory also laid foundation for the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte to power who rescued the French society from anarchy by 1799. The government used him to suppress revolts and he was also given the command of both the Italian and Egyptian military campaigns. Though he was not successful in the Egyptian campaign, his success in the Italian campaign increased his popularity or fame especially in the army which supported him to overthrow the government in November 1799.

WEAKNESSES OR FAILURES OF THE DIRECTORY GOVERNMENT

Much as the Directory government registered some successes or achievements, it also had several failures in its term of office. Thus, its achievements were short-lived and outweighed by failures which contributed to its downfall in 1799. These weaknesses or failures included the following;

The directory government failed to solve the social-economic crisis in France. Famine, unemployment and inflation persisted up to the end of the regime. Despite its attempts to improve agriculture, industry and commerce, the performance of agriculture and industrial sector increasingly deteriorated. The government failed to develop the agricultural sector with new and modern agricultural techniques to meet the growing demands of the Frenchmen. Similarly, the Directory Government had abolished the “Law of Maximum” which led to high prices of goods in France which led to discontent among the French masses and in turn made the Directory government unpopular.

The Directory government failed to stop corruption in the French society. By 1799, it was proved beyond doubt that the directors were the most corrupt administrators in the history of France. They practiced both political and economic corruption where government funds were embezzled which negatively affected the economy of France. Consequently, the government became unpopular a situation which was exploited by Napoleon Bonaparte to stage a coup in 1799.

The Directory government was very extravagant in its expenditure. For example, it established a very large French army of more than one million men and a lot of money was spent on maintaining this army. In addition, the army was sent on expensive military campaigns like the Italian and Egyptian campaigns. This contributed to a financial crisis and total bankruptcy of the state by 1797 similar to what was in the government of King Louis XVI by 1789, hence making the Directory government unpopular.

The Directory Government also made a mistake of releasing many political prisoners or royalists which displeased the revolutionaries since such

people were against the revolution. This had been done by the government to promote reconciliation but it made the government unpopular among the revolutionaries. This gave chance to Napoleon Bonaparte to rise to power, leading to the downfall of the Directory government in 1799.

The government failed to reconcile the state and the Catholic Church in order to restore law and order in the catholic dominated provinces. It should be remembered that the relationship between the Catholic Church and the state became strained since the Civil Constitution of the Clergy of July 1790 in which the government took over the church's properties. That hostility was ignored by the directory government which led to instability or religious conflicts in France. All this made the government unpopular, leading to its collapse in 1799.

There was lack of harmony between the Directors and the two councils which formed the parliament of France. These councils were the Council of Elders which was composed of the 250 members and the council of the 500 members. The two councils were the law making bodies for France and the Directors were to implement the laws. However, on many occasions the Directors refused to apply the laws because of the power struggles between the Directors and the parliament which also made the government unpopular, thus leading to its collapse in 1799.

It failed to provide total peace in the French society. The reign of the Directory government was characterized by occasion insecurity from various groups especially the Jacobins, royalists, the socialists. They were not contented with the way the government was conducting its activities and therefore they organized rebellions which created political instability. For example, in 1795 the royalists demonstrated against the Directory government only to be saved Napoleon Bonaparte in the Whiff of Grapeshot. There was also the Babeuf conspiracy of 1796 all of which caused political unrest in France. This weakness made the government unpopular and forced the Frenchmen to advocate for a strong government which would ensure peace and stability and when Napoleon Bonaparte promised this the French supported him to overthrow the Directory government in 1799.

The Directory government failed to protect the gains of the revolution and the territories acquired in the earlier campaigns. During the first coalition, Napoleon secured a lot of treasures from Italy and many territories were conquered such that by 1797 France was in control of the states like Northern Italy, Rhineland, Switzerland and Belgium. However during his absence, the European states organized a second coalition and recaptured these territories from France. This made the government unpopular and partly explains Napoleon's heroic welcome from Egypt even though he had not succeeded.

The government failed to promote equality of all the Frenchmen before the law, vote and political representation. It was only the rich middle class to vote or to be voted. The poor peasants were left out because they possessed no wealth as a prerequisite (condition) to vote. By this time, the peasants had gained little or none from the revolution. Because of this therefore, the Directory government was dominated by the middle class

members who had accumulated a lot of wealth and property from the Émigrés and the Catholic Church. As a result, the government became unpopular among the peasants which eventually led its collapse in 1799.

The Directory Government rigged elections in France. In 1797, the Directory government organized elections for those who were to go to the parliament. The government had become unpopular and many Frenchmen voted for the royalists. This scared the Directors and they used Napoleon Bonaparte to rig the elections. This therefore made the Directory Government very unpopular.

The Directory government increased hostility from other European powers towards France. The government organized military campaigns against European powers which generated hatred from those countries towards France. Consequently, European powers like Austria, Prussia and Britain formed coalitions against the Directory Government. This also made the Directory government unpopular in France, thus leading to its collapse by 1799.

The Directory Government narrowed the Franchise. The 1795 constitution that was set up by Directory Government gave the voting rights only to those who had wealth and were paying taxes. This was seen as unfair by the peasants who had no wealth in France but wanted to have a share in the politics of their country through voting their representatives in the parliament. This therefore made the government unpopular.

The government failed to control the high crime rates especially in southern France where high way robbery was rampant. The Frenchmen especially the peasants were scared about their security and that of their properties that they had gained from the revolution. This undermined the government's achievements and partly explains the growing fame for Napoleon who was seen as the only man to protect them and the state.

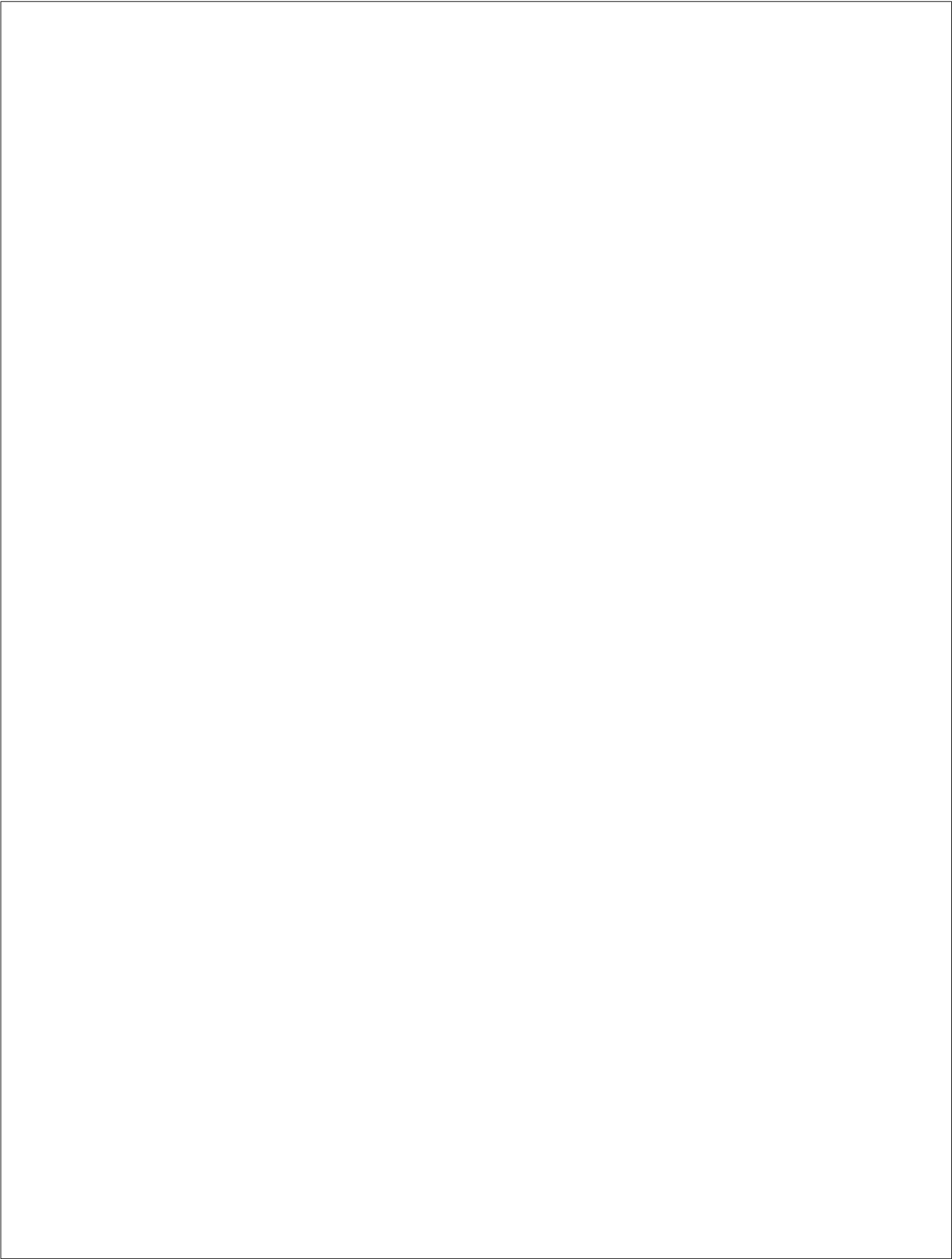
The Directory government lacked confidence in itself and instead over relied on Napoleon Bonaparte for its success and existence. For example, it promoted him to the rank of General and the same government made him command military campaigns of 1796 and 1798 in Italy and Egypt respectively on her behalf. It also relied on him to suppress internal rebellions. This made the Directory government unpopular and instead increased the fame of Napoleon which he exploited to overthrow the very government in 1799.

The Directors were not united due to power struggles among themselves and other reasons. For example, as early as 1795, some Directors wanted the continuation of the war policy that had worked during the reign of terror while others opposed this. Also because of disunity, two members of the Directory government i.e Abbe Sieyes and Lucien Bonaparte supported Napoleon Bonaparte to overthrow the government when he carried out a coup in November 1799 that brought him to power which marked the end of the Directory government.

All in all, the Directory government registered some achievements in France especially in her foreign policy when. But her failures were more serious which made the French men to lose confidence in it and support

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- The revolution resulted into the end of dictatorship or despotism in France. This was achieved with the fall of Bastille on 14th July 1789 where victims of lettres de cachet were kept and therefore had been a pillar of despotism.
- The French revolution of 1789 gave birth to freedom of man which was attained after the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizens document on 28th August 1789. In this document many fundamental human rights were outlined like freedom of speech and worship among others which brought in the liberty and equality of all men society in society in France.
- It led to the abolition of feudalism and serfdom in France. This was a system by which all land in France was owned by the nobles and clergy and the peasants lived on this land as serfs. This system was unfair and the peasants opposed it because it made most of them landless. By the same system, the nobles also used to charge a lot feudal dues or taxes from the serfs. The peasants hated this system and therefore when they revolted in 1789, it was immediately abolished and thus, the Third Estate became more powerful than the First and Second Estates.
- Led to the revival or emergency of parliamentary democracy and debate in France which had died out since 1614. This started with the Estates General Meeting on 5th May 1789 and later declaration of the Third Estate into the National Assembly and continued with the Legislative Assembly in 1791 and beyond. This promoted fair representation and also guaranteed people's rights and freedoms which had been lacking before 1789.
- Led to the birth of constitutionalism in France. This was through the establishment of the First French Constitution of September 1791. This constitution reformed the local government through the creation of Communes with elected officials at every level. Furthermore, it was in this first constitution of 1791 where human freedom of all sorts was clearly elaborated which was an important achievement for France.
- It led to the rise of French Nationalism and pride. During the course of the revolution, a number of institutions were set up which developed a sense of national pride among the Frenchmen of all classes. These included the Tri - colour flag, the National Assembly as well as the National Guard (revolutionary army) under Lazare Carnot and General Lafayette which was to protect the gains of the revolution.
- It led to some reforms in the economy aimed at addressing the economic problems that France had suffered before 1789. For example, it revised the unfair taxation system through putting in place a balanced taxation system where even the church paid taxes and this helped to reduce the financial crisis that France had suffered by 1789. It also led to the introduction a new paper money known as **Assignats** to control inflation. It also encouraged Free Trade in the different regions of France through the abolition of customs barriers or taxes and monopolies, thus liberating the French commerce and industry. Additionally, a uniform or standard metric system of weights and

measures were also introduced. This replaced the old chaotic and varying measure from one part of France to another which reduced cheating and exploitation that had characterized France for a long period of time. All this improved the economic situation from the crisis suffered by French men since 1788.

- It also led to land reforms in France. The old land system was abolished after 1789 and the land that once belonged to the Catholic church and nobles was confiscated by the peasants. This led to the increase in food production, thus reducing famine and starvation that had characterized France for a long time.
- It led to educational reforms in France. For example, after 1789 a National Education System was put in place through the establishment of polytechnic schools and college by the National Convention Government. This system emphasized the French culture and used French as a medium of instruction and it was accessed by all the Frenchmen irrespective of their social class background.
- It resulted into active political competition in France. This led to the emergence of various political clubs in French politics like the Jacobins club, the Girondins and the Cordeliers among others which all aimed at spreading the gospel of the French revolution far and wide. It should be noted that before 1789, there was no free political competition in France since the ruling Bourbon Family had dominated the French politics for ages. However after the revolution, the French became free to choose any political organization and to choose their own leaders.
- It separated the church from state, hence reducing the influence of the Catholic Church especially in the affairs. Through the Civil Constitution of the Clergy of **July 1790**, the state was given greater powers over the church which became a mere department of the state. Similarly, the Pope lost his powers who became a mere spiritual leader of the Catholic Church. Freedom of worship was established in the French society where other religions were allowed to prevail in France. This broke the Old Catholic monopoly in France. The Church also lost its monopoly over land in the French society. Their lands were confiscated by the French government and part given to the peasants. The Church also lost its privileges like controlling education, controlling marriages, and control over taxes which were all taken by the state. All this made the peasants happy.
- It led to territorial gains for France through conquest. Through the revolutionary wars, France acquired several territories like the Italian states, Belgium, Holland as well as the Left Bank of the Rhine among others. This therefore led to the creation of a large French empire in Europe which changed the balance of power in Europe in favour of France from 1789 up to 1814.
- It promoted the French glory in Europe through the military successes that were registered during the period 1789 and 1799. There were military successes during the period 1789 and 1799. For example there was the defeat of the 1st coalition in 1795 and the confirmation of the French possession of the left bank of the Rhine. Similarly, there was the Italian campaign of 1796 in which France defeated the Austrian forces and the two countries subsequently signed the Treaty of Campoformio of 1797 that recognized the creation of the Cisalpine Republic as well as the French possession of Belgium.
- It led to the rise of new men with new ideas on the political scene of

France. These included among others Abbé Sieyès, Danton, Roland, Marat, Barras and later Napoleon Bonaparte. Such men helped to spearhead the success of the French revolution by 1799, thus remaining significant in the history of France.

- It promoted the French culture. After 1789, the various revolutionary governments greatly emphasized the French culture in form of language, Art and theatre (drama) as a way of forging national unity which was necessary during the course of the revolution. This further promoted the French nationalism.

NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- It led to an interclass struggle in France. This struggle was between the privileged and the unprivileged classes as the former were not willing to surrender their privileges like tax exemption peacefully. It also divided the Catholics into the Jurists and the non-Jurists. Therefore, the French revolution of 1789 divided the French into the supporters and non-supporters of the revolution which caused civil wars that led to unrest in France.
- It led to the massive destruction of property. The French revolution of 1789 was characterized by violence and therefore during its course, a lot of property especially for the nobles and clergy was attacked and destroyed by the violent revolutionaries.
- Similarly, the revolution led to the loss of lives. This was during the course of the Reign of Terror, the revolutionary as well as the Napoleonic Wars in which thousands of innocent Frenchmen lost their lives.
- It led to the massive exodus of Frenchmen to the neighboring countries like Austria and Prussia. These people came to be known as the Émigrés. These were mostly nobles, clergy and royalists who decided to go abroad in search of military aid so as to organize a counter revolution against the revolutionary government in France. This increased enmity between France and those European countries that were hosting and supporting the Émigrés like Austria.
- It led to international enmity or cooperation among European powers against France. This was manifested in the Brunswick Manifesto of July 1792 which was issued by Brunswick – the joint commander of the Austro-Prussian army as well as the formation of coalitions against France like the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th coalitions where all the big powers allied to fight against revolutionary France. This was because the revolution threatened the survival of the absolute regimes in European countries like Austria and Prussia. This enmity led to the breakdown of international diplomacy in Europe.
- It led to economic decline further. For example, there was a sharp decline in the manufacturing and commercial sectors and industrial production in France fell by 75% between 1789 and 1799. This increased the unemployment problem in France. There was also inflation with the prices of essential commodities like sugar doubling. It also shattered international trade such that by 1797 only a tenth of the Ocean going Vessels (ships) of 1789 were available and as a result the French exports had fallen by 50%.
- The Civil constitution of the clergy of July 1790 greatly reduced the power and influence of the Catholic Church in France. This created enmity between the Catholic Church and the state or government, thus leading to the events of the Reign of Terror in France and the

subsequent instability in France.

- It led to freedom of worship. This was good but it gave birth to radical religious sects like the Herbertists who introduced a religion called the Worship of Reason and changed the calendar of the Catholic Church. For example, it forced people to work on Sunday and those who refused were killed.
- It led to the execution or killing of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette in 1793. This therefore weakened the Bourbons, hence making them unable to restore their glory in France as it generated hostility towards the Bourbon Monarchy from 1793 to 1814 as well as 1814 to 1830.
- It led to internal political instability characterized by rebellions against the revolutionary governments in France from 1790 onwards. For example, there was the Royalist Revolt of October 1795 as well as the conspiracy (revolt) of the Socialists under Babeuf of May 1796. There were also religious instabilities in France especially as the members of the Catholic Church were attacked by the Herbertists who captured their property and a new Revolutionary Calendar was also adopted in 1792.
- It led to the imposition of harsh terms on France by the Great European Powers during the signing of the Vienna Settlement of 1815 after the downfall of Napoleon Bonaparte I. For example, France suffered a heavy war indemnity or fine, an army of occupation as well as the loss of her territories in Europe. This was because revolutionary France had disturbed European peace for over twenty years and therefore she was paying a heavy price for this disturbance.
- The success of French revolution of 1789 inspired the outbreak of other revolutions in France. for example, there was the 1799 coup or revolution that brought Napoleon Bonaparte to power as well the 1830 and 1848 revolutions. All these revolutions destabilized France.

EFFECTS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION ON EUROPE

- The French revolution introduced the revolutionary doctrines of liberty, fraternity and equality which went beyond France to other countries like Italy and Germany, thus promoting France's glory in Europe.
- It led to international co-operation among European countries. This was because the French revolution increased warfare in France. This led to the formation of the first coalition in the history of Europe where all countries allied to fight revolutionary France in 1792. Members of this coalition included Britain, Prussia and Austria among others. This therefore led to the birth of diplomacy in Europe.
- It led to the creation of the French Empire in Europe through the Napoleonic Wars of conquest as Napoleon Bonaparte was a product of the French revolution of 1789. Many European states like the Italian and German states, Belgium, Poland, Spain and Portugal were bought under the control of France by Napoleon, thus creating the French Empire in Europe which further promoted the French glory in Europe.
- It led to abolition of feudalism not only in France but in the whole of Europe. For instance in Prussia people were influenced by the French revolution to decampaign and fight feudalism in which the peasants were exploited by the land lords and this ended in 1848.
- It affected the social life of Europeans states as the French culture and language were widely spread elsewhere in Europe for example in Germany, Italy, Spain and Belgium. The French language and literature

were adopted by people in these countries, thus influencing their social life.

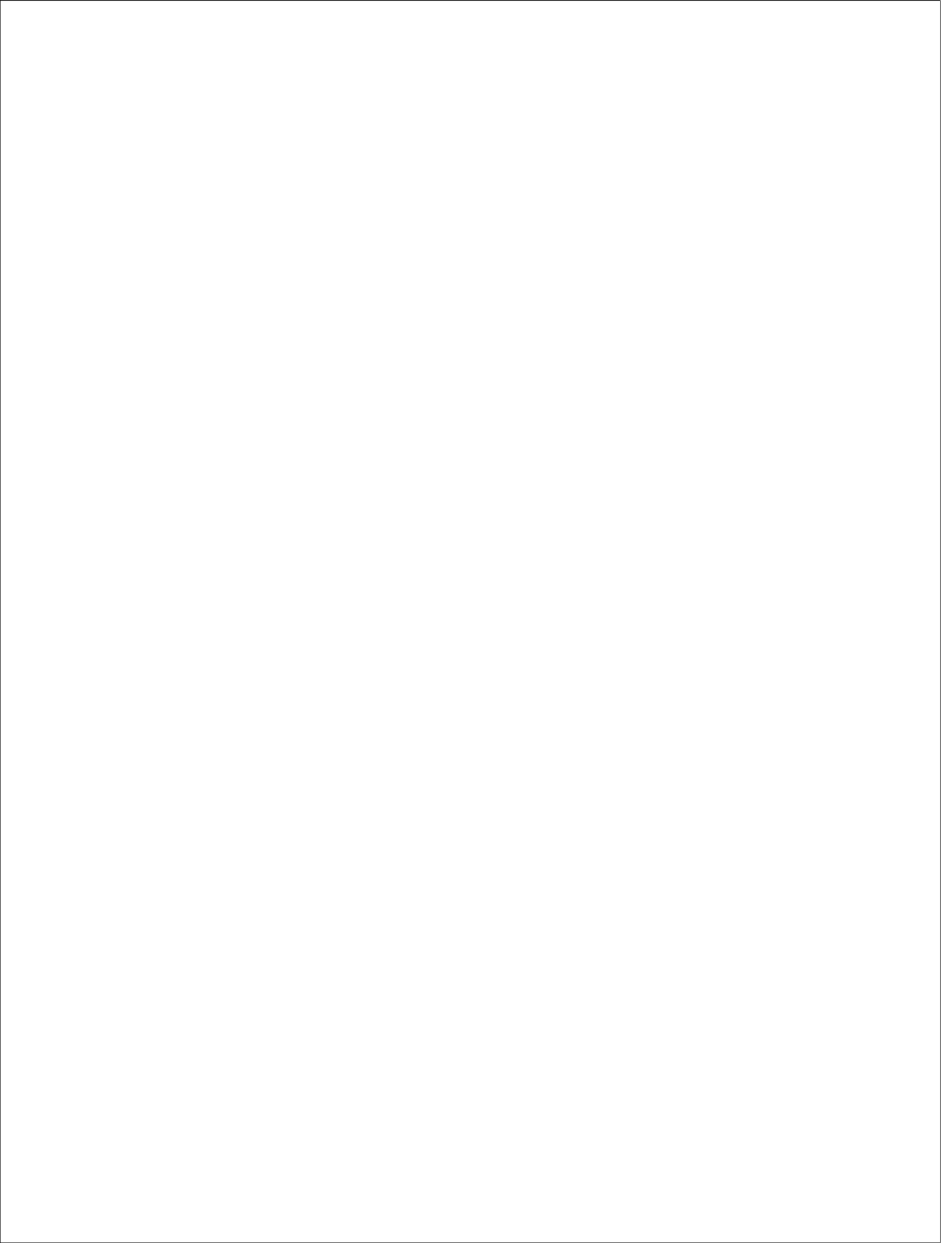
- It led to the disintegration of the once great Austrian empire. This was as a result of the several revolutionary wars that she fought with revolutionary France. For example, she lost to France enormous territory, after the Italian campaign of 1796 including the Italian Peninsula and Germany.
- It led to the outbreak of other revolutions in Europe like the 1820s, 1830s and 1848 revolutions as well as the Russian revolutions of 1917. The revolution provided the inspiration to the later revolutionaries by instilling in them the desires of liberty, equality and fraternity especially in those parts of Europe that were still under dictatorial rulers. As these despotic rules tried to suppress these ideas, it caused many rebellions in states like Spain, Belgium, Naples and the Italian and German states in 1820, 1830 as well as 1848 in the whole of central Europe.
- It laid a foundation for the National unification of Italy and Germany in 1870 and 1871 respectively. Nationalist sentiments were sowed after Napoleon's conquest of the Italian Peninsula and the German states in the early 19th century when he (Napoleon) preached the revolutionary ideas of equality, liberty and fraternity.
- It destroyed the economic set up of many European countries. For example, during the revolutionary wars, most states in Europe had their property destroyed. With the rise of Napoleon I were very many wars fought by France against countries like Spain, Russia, Belgium, Portugal and Britain which destroyed their property, thus leading to the decline of their economies.
- It ushered in France an age of anarchy and chaos leading to the Reign of Terror between 1792 and 1794. This was characterized by the massive killing of several French men including the King and his wife. This created enmity or hostility between France and other European countries.
- It led to emergency of dictators like Robespierre, Danton, Marat and Roland, his Madam whose conflicting ideas intensified hostilities, anarchy and bloodshed in France and deteriorated France's relations with her neighbors like Austria and Prussia among others.
- It later led to the development of **extreme conservatism** in Europe as a reaction towards the revolutionary ideas. For example, Prince Metternich who governed Austria between 1815 and 1848 introduced oppressive and conservative policies so as to stop the spread of revolutionary ideas in Central Europe. However, this caused a lot of suffering, thus leading to the outbreak of the 1830 and 1848 revolutions in Europe.
- It threatened other European monarchies which forced European states like Austria, Prussia, Russia and Britain to declare war against France so as to stop of revolutionary ideas in these countries. This led to many revolutionary wars where many people lost lives.
- It led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte to power in 1799, a man who dominated the whole of Europe between 1799 and 1815. Napoleon Bonaparte conquered many European states like Italian and German states, Belgium, Spain and Portugal among others. He later introduced the Continental System which affected the economies of European countries. Besides, Napoleonic Wars led to massive loss of lives and destruction of property, thus further leading to economic decline in

Europe.

- It led to the increase in population of the countries neighboring France. This was caused by the rampant run away of the émigrés for the safety of their lives during the course of the revolution.
- It led to the act of undermining the Catholic Church in Europe. It started in France with the Civil Constitution of the clergy which undermined church's role and later spread to other European states. For example, within France the church's influence was eliminated from the state affairs. Italy witnessed the worst of it when Napoleon Bonaparte imprisoned the Pope in 1807. The revolutionaries of the 1820s 30s and 1848 also partly fought the clerical rigidities and unfairness. All these traced origin from the 1789 French revolution.
- It led to abolition of social privileges and replaced them with new social order based on equality of all irrespective of the status or birth.
- It led to the emergence of the parliamentary democracy in Europe. Before the revolution, nearly all European states had no parliament separate from the rulers of state. But the French revolution brought in the idea which started in France and later spread to other states.
- It led to the growth of constitutionalism in Europe beginning with the First constitution of September 1791 in France which defined the basic man's rights and the idea spread to other European states.
- Emergence of different political groups in Europe which took over the governance of Europe's political destiny. Parties were formed on the basis of different ideologies and political inclinations. For example, those who believed in the power of the church and the Pope, formed the **Clerical Party** across Europe, those that believed in old leadership were to be the **Legitimists** while those who demanded for democratic systems of governance were the **Republicans** and **Liberals** and many others.

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later **Paris** which were supposed to be for the children of the nobles only. While in these schools, Napoleon Bonaparte acquired military skills and he graduated as an artillery officer. This military education enabled him to be appointed in the French army which gave him an opportunity to come to power by 1799.

Napoleon's family background explains why he came to power. By the fact that Napoleon Bonaparte was supposed to be an Italian citizen, he hated the French citizenship which was forced onto him. He was also born from a very poor family and therefore while in the military academies, Napoleon faced loneliness and a bitter life because he was among the sons of the rich. This gave him courage and endurance and therefore he struggled to offset this poor family background. This influenced him to work hard and excel in the military schools where he went, thus graduating as an artillery officer. This enabled him to join the French army, which eventually contributed to his rise to power by 1799.

The French revolution of 1789 helped Napoleon Bonaparte to rise to power and this was in many ways. For example, the revolution created a power vacuum in France after the death of King Louis XVI and the downfall of the Bourbon regime or monarchy in 1793 which Napoleon exploited to rise to power in 1799. Had the monarchy still been existing, it would have been very difficult for Napoleon to rise to power by 1799.

- The revolution also abolished the social class divisions such that it was no longer the clergy and the nobles that were supposed to be the natural rulers of France. The French revolution of 1789 therefore led to the equality of all Frenchmen and for that matter, talented men like Napoleon Bonaparte would easily rise to positions of responsibility regardless of their social background. It is because of this that Napoleon Bonaparte from a poor family easily rose through promotions to the commander of the interior forces yet during the Ancient Regime it was only the nobles who were supposed to be promoted in the army. This aided him capture power in 1799.
- Similarly, the French revolution of 1789 created the shortage of military officers thereby putting Napoleon to limelight. Many had fled the country, some arrested and others died during the revolutionary wars. Besides, the Reign of Terror had also brought about scarcity of artillery officers and this gave Napoleon chance to be freed from prison in 1794 because the French army needed many artillery officers to fight wars for France and to export the revolution to other countries. All these enabled him to rise to power by 1799.
- The revolution created a tradition of violence, terror and coups as a means to lose and capture power and this is what exactly Napoleon wanted. For example, French the monarchy was over thrown through violence and Robespierre also acquired power through the same means. No wonder Napoleon made his coup and ascended the throne in November 1799.
- The revolution also provided Napoleon with an opportunity to display his military skills or abilities as a skillful soldier when he managed to defeat the enemies of the revolution. For example, in 1793 Napoleon suppressed an uprising of the royalists in Port Toulon who were supported by Britain against the National Convention Government.

This brought him fame and therefore he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 1794. In 1795, Napoleon also managed to suppress an uprising organized by the royalists against the Directory Government. It also created wars in which Napoleon participated like **the Italian campaign of 1796 to 1797 as well as the Egyptian campaign of 1798** which earned him popularity more so in the army. In all these, Napoleon displayed his abilities which made him popular in France, hence leading to his rise to power.

- The French revolution of 1789 also ushered in the confusion, anarchy, civil disorder, foreign wars with the rest of Europe and general instabilities (Reign of Terror) in France, which Napoleon exploited to rise on power in 1799. All those made the French men desire for alternative leadership moreover from military men to restore stability and order in the French society and defend the aims of the revolution. This explains why when Napoleon staged a military coup, the masses supported him, hence leading to his rise to power.
- The revolution introduced or exposed Napoleon to the very important and influential leaders of the time who contributed much to his rise to power in 1799. These included revolutionary leaders such as Robespierre, Roland, Danton and others who taught Napoleon leadership skills that he later used to come to power by 1799. He also established friendly relations with some members of the Directory government like Barras and Abbe Sieyes with whom he later conspired to capture power from the Directory government in 1799, hence leading to his rise to power.
- The French revolution also gave birth to the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. Napoleon adopted these ideas which helped him to rise to power. He always spoke of the three ideas and even exported them beyond the French borders during tge Italian and Egyptian campaigns. This won him support from the Frenchmen, hence leading to his rise to power by 1799.
- The French revolution of 1789 also led to the formation of a revolutionary army known as the National Guard which replaced the Royal Guard of the Ancient Regime. This revolutionary army later served as an instrument which elevated Napoleon first to fame and secondly to the actual Coup of Brumaire or November 1799 against the Directory government which directly brought him to power.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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a result, he defeated Austria during this campaign which made him popular, hence leading to his rise to power.

Napoleon's **overwhelming** ambition for power also led to his rise to power. Right from his childhood, Napoleon had an ambition of being at the top of the society. For example, at the age of ten years he admired to be a soldier like his father. While a youth, he made an attempt to liberate Corsica from France. His ambitious character also dragged him into wars with the great powers of the time between 1792 and 1798. For example, he fought Austria in 1793 and 1796. He also fought Britain in the famous Egyptian campaign which earned him a lot of popularity that led him to rise to power. It was also this overwhelming ambition that influenced him to organize the Coup of Brumaire in November 1799 against the Directory Government which was directly brought him to power.

The scientific improvements in Europe at that time also led to Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power. At the time of Napoleon's campaigns, there were new advancements in military science where modern weapons like mobile artilleries, telescopes and road maps had been invented and which Napoleon used to register success. There was also the construction of better roads which eased the movement of the French forces under Napoleon's command to the battle field. This enabled him to organize surprise attacks and defeat his enemies like Austria during the Italian campaign of 1796 - 1797. This earned him more popularity in France that assisted him to rise to power by 1799.

The contribution of his brother **Lucien Bonaparte** assisted Napoleon to rise to power. Lucien Bonaparte was the President (Head) of the council of the 500 members that proposed laws for the Directory Government in France. However, Lucien Bonaparte physically campaigned for Napoleon before the council and he was one of the politicians who betrayed the Directory Government and supported Napoleon to organise the 1799 Coup that brought him to power in 1799.

The support from the revolutionary army assisted Napoleon to rise to power. Having been a loyal army officer in the French forces since the early 1790s, Napoleon won the support of the national army. The soldiers were too loyal to him and this partly explains the success of his military campaigns. He thus used the army to glorify his name in the campaigns and foster or carry out his Military coup in November 1799. At the time of his coup, the army laid a military siege at the hall of the assembly which intimidated the opposition and forced them to accept Napoleon's sovereign powers. Similarly, when Lucien Bonaparte presented Napoleon to the parliament, the council of the 500 members first rejected him but the presence of the army intimidated those who would have opposed Napoleon. As a result, the council of the 500 too was compelled to submit and the two directors who refused to resign were arrested by the army.

Napoleon's close association with prominent leaders enabled him to rise on power. He had links with the great men of France and these included the revolutionary leaders like Robespierre, Danton, Marrat and later Directors like General Barras, Abbe Sieyes and Carnot. With such links, Napoleon was able to read the revolutionary literature of the philosophers especially the work of Rosseau whose work had the ideas of fighting for

the fundamental rights like freedom of worship and association. Napoleon also learnt leadership skills from these great politicians which he later used to come to power. These leaders also put Napoleon into the political lime light which enabled him to rise to power. For example, Carnot chose him to lead the Italian campaign which enabled him to expose his military talents and hence promoted to commander of interior forces. All this aided Napoleon's rise to power by 1799.

Napoleon's luck assisted him rise to power. Many events blessed Napoleon's life and career which perhaps no other Frenchman ever achieved. For example, he was lucky to have had his home island- Corsica annexed to France just a year before he was born. This enabled him get involved into French affairs legally as a French man. He was also lucky to be among the eight children that survived death out of the thirteen in his family. He was also lucky to have attended the prestigious military academies of Brienne and Paris which were only reserved for the sons of the nobles. He was also lucky that he survived the Reign of Terror which claimed countless lives of many of his friends including Robespierre. He was also lucky that he survived the Egyptian campaign of 1798 when the British surrounded them but he escaped. He was also lucky that his brother Lucien Bonaparte was the President of the council of 500 members which supported his rise to power by 1799. It was also by sheer luck for Napoleon to have organized a successful coup d'état of Brumaire in November 1799 against the Directory government. All these opened his chances of success and therefore, no wonder he took over power in 1799.

The weaknesses of the Directory Government assisted Napoleon to rise to power. After the fall of Robespierre in 1794, France was ruled by 5 (five) Directors up to 1799. However, the Directors failed to fulfill the expectations of the Frenchmen. For example, corruption, inflation, unemployment and the loss of territories like Switzerland were among the weaknesses of the Directory Government. Such weaknesses made the government unpopular and therefore the Frenchmen supported Napoleon to carry out a coup in November 1799 that brought him to power.

The success of the Italian campaign of 1796 - 1797 was also paramount in Napoleon's rise to power. During this campaign, Napoleon defeated Austria in Italy and extended the French influence there. It therefore manifested a military genius in Napoleon and to many Frenchmen he promoted the country's glory and pride. Hence, the Frenchmen supported him to come to power in 1799.

The influence of the Egyptian campaign of 1798 - 1799 also assisted Napoleon rise to power. Napoleon's popularity and support increased when he undertook the Egyptian campaign against Britain in 1798. During this campaign, he achieved initial success in Egypt against Britain by taking over the town of **Alexandria**. Though his mission or plan to take over the entire Egypt failed, the failures of the campaign were simply attributed by many Frenchmen to the weaknesses of the Directory government. This partly explains his heroic welcome from the campaign by a great majority of the French people who therefore supported him organize a coup that brought him to power in 1799.

The coup d'état of **18th Brumaire** or **9th November 1799** is considered

as the most immediate factor to have opened doors for Napoleon's rise to power. Having found deteriorating social and economic conditions, Napoleon conspired with some directors and a majority of the council of elders to overthrow the directory government. A rumor was thus put that there was a serious plot against the republic. The council of elders proposed that Napoleon be put in command of the troops to protect the directory. The council of 500 opposed this and when he appeared to address the house they shouted him down. In a scuffle that ensued Lucien called on the army which stormed the assembly and drove the members out. Most of the members succumbed and the few who resisted were arrested. This marked the beginning of the reign of Napoleon.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE'S DOMESTIC POLICY, 1800 - 1814

After his coup, Napoleon promised to stabilize France politically, socially and economically, following the French revolution of 1789, and end the anarchy which he inherited from the Directory government. France was characterized by a shattered economy, religious conflicts, inefficiency and corruption. With such a background, the French masses expected fundamental reforms from Napoleon. Later Napoleon was seen committing his energy to fulfill what he had promised. Many of his domestic policies conformed to the revolutionary ideals especially in the field of administration, Finance, education and law. However, in some aspects Napoleon betrayed the ideals of the French revolution which constituted his weaknesses. Let's take a look at the following features;

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| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | | <u>Sample question(s)</u> "Napoleon Bonaparte was a product of circumstances beyond his own making". Discuss. |
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officials and to direct foreign policy. He was given one 10 years term in office. The constitution set up the Legislative Assembly which had 3 chambers that's the Senate, Tribunate and the Legislative body, each with defined roles. However, the actual work of making laws was entrusted to the **council of the state** that was appointed by Napoleon himself and was directly answerable to him. All in all Napoleon fulfilled the ideals of the French revolution by promoting constitutionalism when he started his administration with a new constitution.

He established a strong financial system as a way to overcome the financial and economic crisis in France. This was achieved by regulating state expenditure and by centralizing the taxation policy. Tax collection was put under the state represented by the Director General in Paris. The Deputy Director, inspectors and assessors in the communes were given the task of ensuring the safety of the state revenue. This led to increased revenue that enabled the state to stabilize the economy. Similarly, corruption was curbed and the culprits (victims) were imprisoned.

He also introduced banking reforms. In order to effectively manage French finances, he established the Bank of France in 1800. It was responsible for the government loans and revenue plus issuing currency. This stabilized the French currency and encouraged more investments in France which was a major achievement.

Napoleon promoted Industry and commerce in France. He tried to develop the French industrial sector. By 1814, France had some 2000 cotton mills employing close to 40,000 workers while Linen production occupied an estimated 58,000 home or factory laborers. He established a Chamber of Commerce and Industry that was responsible for advising the manufacturers, encourage the establishment of new industries, and provide employment to the Frenchmen. The local industries were protected by imposing high tariffs on imports from other countries so as to encourage and promote wider industrial production. This increased the overall development of the country's economy.

Napoleon also promoted Agricultural development. Agriculture was encouraged by official societies, publications and prizes for successful innovations. Sugar beet and food crops like Wheat and potatoes rose swiftly while Flaxseed and Hemp production declined. The effort to improve cotton production was kept in proportion to the growing population. New techniques of production were developed from the scientific research. Agriculture was improved with the introduction of new methods of farming from Belgium and England. More canals were dug to promote the irrigation schemes. This increased food production and therefore solved the problem of famine that France had experienced since the days of the French revolution of 1789.

He also improved on the public works or infrastructures in France. He established a fairly reliable system of transport and communication which was necessary for a strong economy. A number of railway lines, roads, canals, ports and bridges were constructed in order to develop France. Toulon and Hanover ports were also expanded. The royal palaces like St. Claude, Fontainebleau and Rambouillet were renovated and refurbished. Similarly, he beautified the French museum by filling it

up with beautiful art works and masterpieces of painting and sculpture which he himself stole from Italy in 1796. He also built and improved on his palaces in France, towns were enlarged and security lights installed which in turn reduced insecurity and increased his popularity in France.

Napoleon introduced administrative reforms which strengthened France's administrative structure. He abolished a weak feudal administrative structure of the past and centralized the local government under himself. For example, he maintained the division of France into 83 departments each headed by Prefects, work which had been started by the revolutionaries. These were further sub-divided into districts (arrondissements) headed by sub-prefects who were also appointed by and answerable to him. These were further divided into communes which were administered by mayors. He appointed efficient civil servants to run the government departments. This gave France an efficient government under men with administrative skills and reduced the bureaucracy which had consolidated corruption and embezzlement in the past regimes. These reforms were a continuation of the revolutionary administrative structure and therefore manifested Napoleon as a true son of the French revolution of 1789.

Napoleon made vital reforms in the field of education in France and Europe as whole. He opened up public secondary schools and semi military secondary schools (Lycees) run by the government mostly emphasizing the teaching of Mathematics, geography, Science and Military training. He encouraged technical schools as a measure to produce local man power that could be used in the development of the French economy. In 1808, he gave France a national university called the University of Paris which operated 17 academies (branches) across France. The university was directly under the control of the government. By 1813, Napoleon's secondary system was the best in the whole continent and attracted many Europeans, thus promoting the French glory.

Napoleon also promoted reconciliation with the Catholic Church in 1801. He reconciled the Catholic Church with the state through an agreement known as the Concordat with Pope **Pius VII** in 1801. The relationship between the church and the state strained or worsened since the enactment of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy in the 1790s which attacked the position of the Pope and church. Napoleon promised to end this conflict so as to win the support of the Catholics. According to him, *a state without religion was a vessel without a compass*. Thus, in 1801 both the Emperor and the Pope signed an agreement (the concordat) by which Catholicism was recognized as the religion of majority but allowed freedom of worship. All church officials were to be nominated by the state and approved by the Pope. The Pope recognized the ownership of land by the peasants and Papal States were recognized by France as dominions of the Pope. From the concordat, both the state and the church gained but the state gained more. It increased the popularity of Napoleon from most of the Catholics who had hated the French revolution and the state as a whole. This brought peace and reinstated the church-state relations which had deteriorated for years.

Napoleon introduced the policy of Career open to Talents or **the Legion of Honor** in his administration. He observed the revolutionary principle of merit as a basis for appointments and promotions other than the ancient criterion of basing on social order. He had realized that the ancient governments had suffered political and financial difficulties partly due to the unmerited personnel who survived on corruption and embezzlement. Thus under this policy, Napoleon appointed and promoted people to high offices on merit regardless of their social backgrounds. For example, General Murat, a son of peasant was appointed a German Duke and later King of Naples, Martin Gandin was appointed Minister of Finance and had served under Louis XVI's government. This gave France an efficient administration, encouraged hard work and patriotism, which was lacking in the previous regimes.

He also introduced Napoleonic Code (the Code Napoleon). Napoleon gave France a code of law which brought harmony that lacked in the ancient regime. Before his rise to power, France had no common code of law. What existed were just hanging laws which could time over time be manipulated by the leaders to achieve their aims. Napoleon thus attempted to codify the laws in accordance with the desires and aspiration of the revolutionaries. The Code Napoleon was therefore a simple, clear, logical and definite summary of the laws of France which touched the basic rights and duties of man like inheritance, land ownership, marriage age, divorce etc. The code was to have five codes; the civil code which dealt with relationship between people, the code of civil procedure which dealt with how judges should settle cases, the code of criminal procedure which dealt with offences against the state, the penal code which specified the punishments for the different crimes and commercial code which dealt

with trade and other related issues. These rules were uniform and equal before all. By doing this, he managed to clear the past judicial confusion and replace it with permanent Justice in France. These laws became effective not only in France but all over Europe in countries like Belgium, Switzerland and even U.S.A. They restored peace, law and order in France and rest of the world.

Napoleon restored peace and order in France. This was done by setting up a special state prison and strict courts of law. He employed armies and spies to capture leaders perpetuating chaos. In doing so, all the past disorders from the royalists and Jacobins, highway robbery and other irregularities were contained. Peace was restored which pleased the Frenchmen thereby consolidating his position.

He also introduced military reforms. Through these military reforms, Napoleon built a strong army for France. The army was very efficient and disciplined than ever before. He did so by recruiting more Frenchmen and equipping them with modern weapons. He used the conscription policy where all Frenchmen were forced to join his army. Military training was compulsory in the secondary schools and this brought about efficiency. Promotion in the army was based on merit and this encouraged hard work and discipline among his soldiers. His force was used to bring law and order in France and to save the country from the external enemies.

NAPOLÉON'S WEAKNESSES OR FAILURES IN THE DOMESTIC POLICY

Napoleon imposed heavy punishments on the criminals. He put in place a secret police that was commanded by **Forche**. This police arrested, tortured, imprisoned and killed the opponents of Napoleon's regime. He therefore suppressed people's freedom which made him unpopular in France.

The Concordat or agreement that Napoleon Bonaparte I signed with the Pope in **1801** to some extent restored the influence of the Catholic Church in state affairs. For example, all the French rulers were supposed to be Catholics and the Pope was to install the Bishops in France. This annoyed those revolutionaries who had fought against the influence of the Catholic Church in the state affairs during the 1789 French revolution.

He established a discriminatory education system. For example, the system ignored women education claiming that the women were only fit for domestic work and therefore did not need to go to school. He also emphasized the teaching of sciences and military education and ignored liberal subjects like History, Philosophy and Literature. He also ignored primary education which he left in the hands of the Catholic Church. This therefore undermined his popularity in France.

Napoleon promoted dictatorship in France. He declared himself Emperor of France for life in **1804**, and he took on the title **Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte I** having all the powers like appointing administrators in the local government. He therefore over centralized power in France. He also used to imprison people without trial similar to what was happening in France during the Ancient Regime.

The Code Napoleon of **1804** also had weaknesses and therefore it caused resentment. For example, it gave more powers to the husbands as Heads of families and this led to oppression or mistreatment of the women and children. This was against the principle of **equality** as advocated for by the French revolution of 1789.

Napoleon promoted nepotism in France. He appointed mostly his friends and relatives to positions of responsibility. For example, he made his brothers rulers of the conquered states. A case in point was **Jerome Bonaparte** who ruled the state of Naples in Italy while **Louis Bonaparte** was in Holland. This made Napoleon Bonaparte I unpopular in France.

The establishment of the "Legion of Honour" by Napoleon Bonaparte I led to the return of the social classes in France. This was because it led to the creation of the class of talented people who provided distinguished services to the class state. Therefore, by bringing back the social classes which had caused the French revolution of 1789, Napoleon went against the revolutionary principle of equality.

NOTE: The weaknesses in the domestic policy of Napoleon Bonaparte partly contributed to his

downfall in 1815 because they caused resentment and made him unpopular in France.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| <p>Key vocabulary</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>a large empire in Europe and it was through war that this empire was destroyed. At the peak of Napoleon's power in France, the French Empire included states like Italy, Holland, the German Confederation of the Rhine, Naples and Austrian Netherlands (Belgium). It was therefore the most powerful country in Europe and the foreign policy contributed to the downfall of Napoleon in 1815.</p> |
| <p>Reference Books</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>Throughout his regime, Napoleon involved France into wars with European nations. In 1815, European countries like Britain, Russia, Prussia, the Italian states, Sweden, Spain, Portugal and even France itself became disgusted with Napoleon's regime and they therefore overthrew him from power.</p> <p>Before 1815, European countries had formed several coalitions so as to defeat Napoleon Bonaparte I. For example, Napoleon Bonaparte I was faced with the problem of the Second coalition. This coalition had been formed in 1799 to fight against France prior to Napoleon Bonaparte I's rise to power and it had countries like Austria, Russia, Portugal, Naples and Britain. However, the coalition collapsed when Napoleon Bonaparte I defeated Austria. Austria was defeated mainly because of the division that existed in the armies of the Second Coalition. Napoleon Bonaparte I then forced Austria to sign the <u>Treaty of LUNEVILLE of 1801</u>. This treaty confirmed the <u>Treaty of Campo-Formio of October 1797</u> after the Italian campaign and therefore Austria gave up Belgium, the Left Bank of the Rhine and also withdrew from Italy.</p> |

These territories were put under the French control and it was a major achievement of Napoleon Bonaparte I in the foreign policy of expanding the French influence abroad.

The only power that remained at war with France was Britain. This forced Napoleon Bonaparte I to direct his attention towards defeating Britain by interfering with the British trade and commercial interests which were pillars of her power. Napoleon Bonaparte persuaded Russia, Sweden, Prussia and Denmark which he had defeated at war to form a league which came to be known as the ***"Armed League of Neutrality"***. Consequently, wars broke out between Britain and the members of the League for example with Denmark and Sweden in 1801 which Napoleon had convinced to close the entrance to the Black Sea. At the Battle of Copenhagen, Britain destroyed the Danish fleet in 1801 and broke the armed league of neutrality. This increased Britain's strength. Thus by 1801, Britain was too powerful to be challenged by

France and the only option for the two powers was to make peace and end the conflicts between the two countries.

THE TREATY OF AMIENS OF 1802

In March 1802, Britain and France decided to sign a peace treaty so as to settle the conflicts between the two countries. By this treaty, Britain was to return the French colonies captured from her like Malta except Ceylon and Trinidad. However, Napoleon Bonaparte I regarded the treaty as a temporary measure to peace because he wanted to prepare for war that would lead to the defeat of Britain which was by then regarded as the most powerful country on water and also the most economically powerful state in Europe. The treaty therefore did not create permanent peace in Europe.

NAPOLEON BONAPARTE RESUMES WAR WITH BRITAIN (THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR, OCTOBER 1805)

The Peace Treaty of Amiens of 1802 turned out to be temporary because both countries failed to live up to their promise of creating peace. For example, Britain refused the French occupation of Austrian Netherlands (Belgium) in **1801**. This was because Britain never wanted its enemies to come closer to the Belgian coast line since that country would get the strategic advantage of attacking Britain. Napoleon also imposed a severe tariff or taxation system on the British goods entering France which affected the British commerce or trade. This generated conflicts between Britain and France which undermined any hopes for peace between the two countries.

Britain therefore started supporting the enemies of Napoleon, captured the French ships and stopped the neutral ships of other nations from reaching the French ports. In reaction, Napoleon decided to attack Britain through the English Channel having occupied the coastline. However, Britain defeated Napoleon at **TRAFALGAR in 1805**. With the defeat of France, Britain remained the most powerful nation on the sea and Napoleon therefore gave up fighting Britain for some time.

THE FORMATION OF THE THIRD COALITION, 1805

In 1805, the **Third Coalition** was formed against Napoleon I's excessive ambition and it included Britain, Austria, Russia and Sweden. However, the coalition collapsed when Napoleon I defeated some of the members. For example, he defeated Austria in 1805 at **ULM** on River Danube. He also defeated a combined force of Austria and Russia at the **Battle of AUSTERLITZ** in December 1805.

After this defeat, Austria was forced again to sign the **Peace Treaty of Pressburg of 1805** by which Austria lost all her territories in Italy as well as the German states in the Rhine lands. Napoleon Bonaparte I then organized these German states into the **Confederation of the Rhine** and this was another achievement in the foreign policy because the Confederation of the Rhine was put under the control of France. He went ahead and invaded Southern Italy and overthrew the autocratic regime in Naples and replaced King Ferdinand I of Naples with his brother **Josef Bonaparte**. He also conquered Holland (Netherlands) and put it under

his brother **Louis Bonaparte**. Therefore, Napoleon created the **“Bonaparte dynasty”** in Europe basing on his relatives and friends as Kings of the conquered states.

Napoleon Bonaparte I then turned to Prussia which he also defeated at the **Battle of Jena in 1806** and forced her to give up large territories to France.

Having defeated Austria and Prussia, Napoleon Bonaparte I turned his attention to Russia. In **June 1807**, he defeated Russia at the **Battle of Friedland**. This forced the Tsar of Russia **Alexander I** to make peace with Napoleon Bonaparte I and Russia became an ally of France for some time. This was concluded in the **Peace Treaty of Tilsit of July 1807**. By this treaty, Alexander I recognized Napoleon I's territorial conquests in Europe, including the Confederation of the Rhine. In return, Napoleon assured Tsar Alexander I of support in case he wanted to extend Russian influence in Eastern Europe especially having a share in the Turkish Empire. Therefore, in the foreign policy of Napoleon he was able to defeat the members of the **Third Coalition** except Britain. As a result, Britain remained the strongest enemy of Napoleon. He therefore planned to defeat Britain using an economic policy known as the **Continental System**.

THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM

This was a commercial blockade or economical war that was declared by Napoleon Bonaparte I on Britain. The system was declared by Napoleon in **November 1806** by issuing the Berlin Decrees and later the Milan Decrees of December **1807** that prevented the countries on the mainland Europe from trading with Britain. These decrees stipulated that all countries under French control and those allied to France were not to trade with Britain and that all the British goods found on the European continent were to be confiscated.

Napoleon I hoped that prohibiting the British goods from crossing to mainland Europe was enough to disorganize the British economy. Consequently, there was to be general suffering in Britain and the English people would put pressure on their government to go for peace with France. It was assumed that Napoleon Bonaparte I would then use the opportunity to dictate terms that would lead to the defeat of Britain and the recognition of France as the most powerful country in the whole of Europe.

In reaction, Britain issued what was known as the **“Orders in Council”** of 1807 where Britain declared a blockade on all European countries and continental ports that accepted Napoleon's decrees. This deprived them of any other sources of commodities thus creating scarcity and general suffering in most European countries. Eventually, the whole system proved dangerous and the whole of Europe was affected by problems like scarcity of goods, unemployment and high prices which made Napoleon unpopular.

EFFECTS OF THE CONTINENTAL SYSTEM

It led to great suffering in Europe due to inflation and unemployment.

For example, in France the system caused scarcity of the British goods and they became very expensive. Similarly, those French businessmen who traded in British goods had to close their businesses because they would not sell anymore, thus leading unemployment. As a result, Napoleon became unpopular.

The European merchants continued to trade with Britain. They smuggled British goods into the European continent. This led to the loss of tax revenue, thus making Napoleon unpopular and eventually contributed to his downfall by 1815.

The European businessmen were annoyed by the policy of Napoleon which denied them a chance to trade in the British goods and therefore, many merchants turned against Napoleon. It was this class of people that financed the resistance movements against Napoleon which contributed to his downfall.

The system caused conflicts between Napoleon and the Pope. **Pope Pius VII** refused to abide by Napoleon's system and therefore he remained neutral. Consequently, Britain would trade with the Papal States in Central Italy which were under the political control of the Pope. This annoyed Napoleon who responded by imprisoning Pope Pius VII in **1809**. As a result, Napoleon became very unpopular among all the Catholic states in Europe including France which eventually contributed to his downfall in 1815.

The system forced Napoleon to fight the **Peninsular War** of 1808 - 1813. For long, Portugal had been commercial ally with Britain and therefore she refused to abide by the Continental System. Napoleon decided to invade Portugal with the assistance of Spain in 1808. By this time, Napoleon had overthrown the Spanish Monarchy and forced the Spanish **King Charles V** to resign because he was unpopular among the people. However, the Spaniards desired the king's son **Ferdinand VII** but Napoleon instead imposed his brother **Josef Bonaparte** who was in Naples as the King of Spain. This together with Napoleon's imprisonment of the Pope annoyed the Spaniards. They therefore rose up against Napoleon using the guerilla warfare and they managed to defeat the French forces at Baylen in 1808. The French forces therefore found themselves fighting against both Portugal and Spain in what came to be known as the Peninsular War.

During the war, Britain supported Portugal and Spain. Britain feared that if France occupied the Peninsula, it would be in position to access the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea and interfere with the British commercial sea route to the Far East. This together with the rugged or mountainous Spanish landscape made it hard for Napoleon to win the war and therefore, the French forces were defeated and driven out of the Peninsula after five years of heavy fighting.

EFFECTS OF THE PENINSULAR WAR ON NAPOLEON

The Peninsular war led to the death of many French soldiers at a time Napoleon needed them elsewhere in Europe. This therefore weakened his military strength, thus leading to his downfall in 1815.

The success of the Peninsular War inspired the nationalists in other countries like Italy to resist Napoleon. This increased on the number of wars which Napoleon had to fight and eventually contributed to his downfall.

The war provided Britain with a land base which she lacked. Therefore, the British occupation of Portugal easily assisted her to check the influence of Napoleon on Europe, which later contributed to his downfall.

THE MOSCOW CAMPAIGN OF 1812 (NAPOLEON INVADES RUSSIA)

In June 1807, Napoleon had defeated Russia at the battle of **FRIEDLAND**. In July 1807, Napoleon forced Russia to sign the treaty of **TILSIT** in which the Russian Tsar Alexander I was forced to accept joining Napoleon's continental system against Britain.

In 1811, the relations between Russia and France worsened when Russia broke away from the continental system and started trading with Britain. Napoleon who feared that Russia might make an alliance with Britain decided to end the threat by attacking Russia and this attack is known as the **Moscow Campaign of 1812**.

In 1812, a large French army of about 610,000 men invaded Russia. This army was composed of soldiers who had been recruited from all over Europe like the French, Italians, Germans, Swedish and Dutch. The Russian army which could not fight such a huge force decided to withdraw towards the East but in the process, they carried out the **scorched earth policy** by which crops, livestock and whole villages were destroyed. The French army who had hoped to feed on the Russian food therefore faced shortage of food supplies while in Russia. Consequently, many French soldiers died of starvation or hunger and diseases. Napoleon's army however, managed to reach Moscow after defeating the Russians at the **Battle of Borodino of 1812** only to find the city destroyed and deserted.

While in the city, the poorly dressed French soldiers were hit by the severe Russian winter in October 1812, leading to the death of thousands of French soldiers. Given these harsh conditions, Napoleon proposed a peace treaty with Tsar Alexander I but there was no reply. Napoleon decided to retreat westwards going back to France but as he did so, his forces were constantly attacked and killed by the Russian guerillas. Consequently, of the 610,000 men who started the campaign, only 20,000 soldiers survived of which many were crippled and therefore were not fit for any further military use. This campaign therefore was a disaster to Napoleon.

EFFECTS OF THE MOSCOW CAMPAIGN OF 1812

It led to the death of thousands of the French soldiers which greatly reduced Napoleon's military ability. Indeed, the French were so much weakened that they never recovered and this eventually contributed to the downfall of Napoleon.

It sparked off serious opposition at home. The death of many French soldiers during the war greatly annoyed the Frenchmen. Similarly, the

war caused an economic crisis in France due to the heavy expenditure that was involved. The campaign therefore made Napoleon unpopular at home and this eventually contributed to his downfall by 1815.

It forced Napoleon to resort to forced conscription even from other European countries. This was because the French army had almost been completely wiped out. Consequently, Napoleon's army became heterogeneous composing of conscripts from Italy, Germany, Holland, Denmark and Belgium. These conscripts never dedicated their efforts to fight and defend Napoleon's interests because they were forced and their countries were under the French control. They therefore fought for Napoleon's downfall.

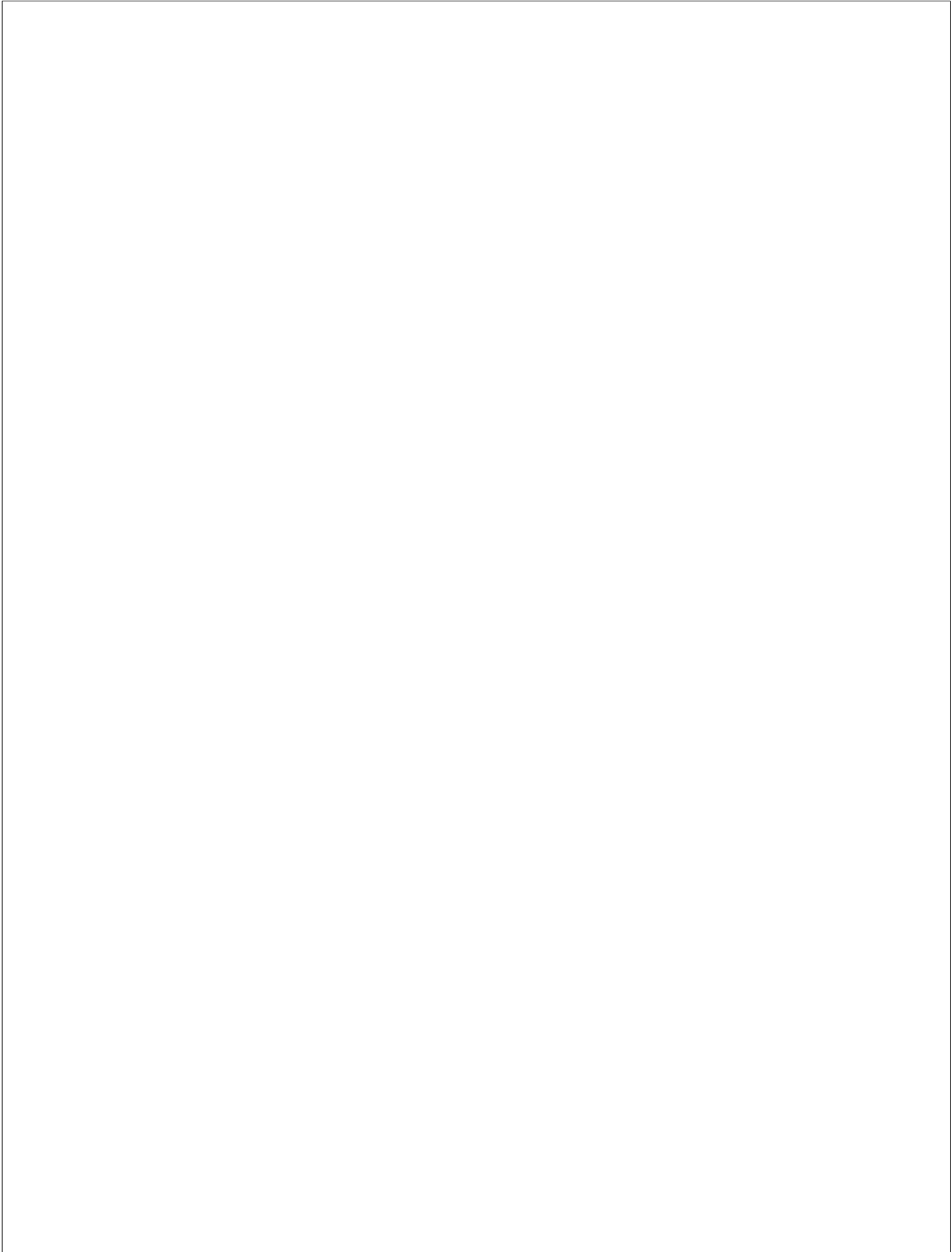
It made many of Napoleon's Generals to desert him. During the campaign, Napoleon deserted his forces leaving them under General Murat and he travelled to Paris incognito (unrecognized). This annoyed the French Generals and therefore many of them deserted him. For example, Marshal Bernadotte escaped to Sweden and leaked Napoleon's military secrets to Napoleon's enemies. The enemies therefore used such information to defeat Napoleon and this contributed to his downfall.

It increased nationalism and patriotism Europe. The defeat of Napoleon by Russia inspired the European states to rise up and fight against Napoleon who threatened their independence and territorial integrity. This eventually contributed to the downfall of Napoleon.

It exposed the weakness of Napoleon due to the mistakes that he committed during the war. For example, the war exposed Napoleon's shortsightedness because he failed to foresee the severe Russian winter and consequently made French soldiers were frozen to death. This weakness encouraged the European countries to fight and defeat Napoleon, thus leading to his downfall.

It led to the formation of the Fourth Coalition in 1813. The French defeat in Moscow encouraged European countries to form a coalition that included Prussia, Austria, Britain and Sweden. These powers agreed to fight and defeat Napoleon which they finally did at the **Battle of Waterloo** in 1815 and this marked the end of Napoleon.

It laid a foundation for future conflicts between France and Russia. The defeat that France suffered in the Moscow campaign influenced her to develop a revenging attitude towards Russia. This eventually contributed to the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854 - 1856 as France declared war on Russia so as to revenge for the 1812 Moscow campaign defeat.



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| Key vocabulary | <p>The French defeat in the Moscow campaign of 1812 convinced the European powers that Napoleon could easily be defeated. Consequently, Prussia and later Austria joined Russia into an alliance 1813. Britain also joined them and this marked the formation of the Fourth Coalition. The allies were also joined by Sweden headed by one of Napoleon’s Marshals Bernadotte who had deserted him. He had been promised the territory of Norway by the allies if he assisted them against Napoleon. In 1813, Prussia declared war on France which marked the beginning of the War of Liberation. Napoleon however managed to defeat Prussia. In the same year, the allied forces of Prussia, Austria, Russia and Sweden defeated Napoleon in the famous “Battle of the Nations” at a place known as Leipzig in Germany.</p> |
| Reference Books | <p>In March 1814, Britain, Prussia, Austria signed a Treaty of Chaumont where they agreed to work for the overthrow of Napoleon and remain in alliance for 20 (twenty) years in order to maintain the political and territorial settlement that was to be agreed upon after the defeat of Napoleon. The signatories were to restore the former Bourbon dynasty in France to power.</p> <p>The allies now invaded France and they reached Paris where they forced Napoleon to surrender power. They therefore crowned Louis XVIII as the King of France and Napoleon was exiled to a small Mediterranean Island of Elba off the coast of Italy.</p> |
| | <p>THE FORMATION OF THE FOURTH COALITION AND THE WAR OF LIBERATION, 1813 - 1814</p> <p>THE FIRST TREATY OF PARIS, 1814</p> |

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| | The treaty was signed in May 1814 between the allied powers and France under Louis XVIII and the terms of the treaty were very lenient or generous to France which had caused a lot of trouble in Europe. |
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The first Treaty of Paris had the following terms;

- Napoleon was exiled in the Island of Elba.
- France lost her territories like Belgium, Poland as well as the Italian and German states which had been conquered by Napoleon.
- The boundaries of France were to be reduced to those which she had by **January 1792**.

NOTE: The European powers were lenient because they feared that it was a harsh treaty is imposed on France it would cause resentment in France and this would lead to another war in Europe yet the European powers wanted peace and unity.

THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

At the age of 44years, Napoleon still longed for battle excitement, cheers from his soldiers plus victory and glory for France. He knew that many Frenchmen hated Louis XVIII since the Frenchmen had got rid of Kings following the execution of King Louis XVI in **1793** and Napoleon had not restored the ancient regime to power. Therefore, Napoleon escaped from the Island of Elba and landed in Southern France on **1st March 1815** with a few soldiers. Louis XVIII sent his troops to arrest Napoleon but the troops refused to arrest their Emperor. They instead wished him long life and joined his forces. This forced Louis XVIII to run away from France and on **20th March 1815**, Napoleon entered Paris where he received a hero's welcome and he ruled for one hundred days up to **June 1815**.

All this happened when the European allies who had defeated Napoleon in 1814 were holding a congress at Vienna which was the capital city of Austria. This international congress had started in **November 1814** and they were trying to find out what to do with France and the rest of Europe following the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleonic Wars. They were disturbed by the news of Napoleon's return and they therefore mobilized their forces again to fight Napoleon. Finally, Napoleon was defeated at the "**Battle of Waterloo**" of **June 1815** in Belgium. This battle marked the downfall of Napoleon and the eventual collapse of the French Empire.

Napoleon surrendered himself to the British forces and he was exiled on the Island of St. Helena which was a very lonely Island located in the South Atlantic. Napoleon spent his last six years there and in **1821** he died.

THE SECOND TREATY OF PARIS, 1815

This treaty changed the First Treaty of Paris of 1814 and it was signed between France and Europe on **20th November 1815** after the final defeat to Napoleon. This treaty was very harsh to France because the allies wanted to ensure that France didn't revive her power so as to disturb peace and security in Europe again. They also wanted to ensure that Napoleon did not return to France as a citizen and a ruler. The treaty had the following terms;

- France was to pay war damages or fine of 700 million Francs to the allied powers to pay for the losses that they had incurred. This was a very heavy punishment for a country which had been at war for over 20 (twenty) years.
- The boundaries of France were pushed back to those of **1790** and therefore France lost a lot of territories including **Saar region** which was then lost to Prussia yet it had a lot of coal.
- The allied army was to remain in the North East of France for three years and only to be removed after France had completed the payment of war damages.

REASONS FOR THE DOWNFALL OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

Napoleon's excessive or overwhelming ambition led to his downfall. This ambition was demonstrated by the creation of a very large empire over Europe which included countries like Spain, Belgium as well as the Italian states and German states among others. This brought him into conflicts with European powers like Russia and Britain as they resisted against the expansion of French power in Europe which threatened their independence. Further, the empire was too big to be controlled by Napoleon as one man. This weakened his administration which eventually contributed to his downfall.

The effects of continental system led to the downfall of Napoleon. This system was meant to destroy the British commerce by not allowing Britain to trade with the mainland European continent. The system led to the downfall of Napoleon because it created scarcity of British goods and this led to inflation throughout Europe. There was also unemployment caused by the absence of the British goods in Europe. The suffering that resulted from the continental system therefore made Napoleon unpopular, thus contributing to his downfall.

The imprisonment of **Pope Pius VII** in 1809 also led to the downfall of Napoleon. Napoleon imprisoned the Pope because he had refused to abide by the continental system. This made Napoleon to lose sympathy and support from the catholic states in Europe like Spain, Portugal, Italian states, Austria and France herself. As a result, these countries united to fight against Napoleon which eventually contributed to his downfall.

The Peninsular war of 1808 – 1813 also contributed to the downfall of Napoleon. This war was fought by France against Spain and Portugal located in the **Iberian Peninsula** because they were failing his

continental system by trading with Britain. During this war, Napoleon lost many soldiers because the guerilla fighting methods that were adopted by Spain and Portugal were very unfamiliar to the French forces. France was therefore defeated by Portugal and Spain with the help of Britain. This inspired even weaker states to rise up against Napoleon and this eventually contributed to his downfall.

The Moscow campaign of 1812 also contributed to the downfall of Napoleon. Napoleon invaded Russia so as to defeat it because it had violated the continental system. During this campaign, Napoleon lost many soldiers, including some of his experienced commanders due to the Russian winter, hunger and disease, thus weakening the French military ability. This campaign also encouraged Napoleon's continental enemies to form the Fourth coalition which eventually defeated him in 1815.

The increasing war fronts led to the downfall of Napoleon. From 1810, Napoleon engaged France in many battles. For example, during the Peninsular War his forces had to fight against Portugal, Spain and Britain. Similarly, while his forces were still fighting the Peninsula war, he declared the Moscow Campaign of 1812 on Russia. Because of this therefore, the French forces failed to defeat their enemies and instead they were defeated which eventually contributed to the downfall of Napoleon.

Military exhaustion of the French soldiers led to the downfall of Napoleon. The French soldiers by 1815 had been at war for over 20 (twenty) years. These wars exhausted the French troops and therefore they became tired. Consequently, Napoleon lost most of the battles that he fought especially in the later years like the Moscow campaign of 1812, the Battle of the Nations of 1813 as well as the Battle of Waterloo of 1815 because his soldiers were exhausted. This eventually contributed to the downfall of Napoleon.

Desertion also led to the downfall of Napoleon. By 1814, Napoleon had been deserted by some of his commanders, soldiers and close friends (allies) who leaked his military tactics and secrets to his enemies. For example, after the Moscow Campaign of 1812, Napoleon I's friend Marshal Bernadotte who was in Sweden joined the allied powers and revealed Napoleon's military tactics to them and how to defeat him. Talleyrand also revealed Napoleon I's political ambitions in Europe to the enemy. This strengthened the allies and therefore assisted them to defeat Napoleon which eventually led to his downfall.

Napoleon's downfall was also as result of better fighting methods which were adopted by his enemies. For example, in Peninsular War and Moscow campaign, the French troops were defeated due to the use of guerilla fighting methods yet the French forces were used to the regular warfare. Russia also denied the French troops food while in Russia and therefore, they were hit by hunger, became weak and they were easily defeated which contributed to the downfall of Napoleon.

Under estimation of the enemies led to the downfall of Napoleon. Napoleon used to underestimate his opponents which enabled them to

fight and defeat him. For example, during the Peninsular War, Napoleon had underestimated the military strength of the Spaniards who eventually defeated him with the support of Britain. This defeat weakened Napoleon's military ability which eventually led to his downfall.

The naval superiority of Britain led to the downfall of Napoleon. While France on several occasions defeated countries like Austria, Russia and Prussia, she never defeated Britain. This was because Britain was very superior at the sea compared to France and this is demonstrated by the **Battle of Trafalgar of 1805**. This is when Napoleon decided to attack Britain on water but the French troops were totally defeated. From that time, Napoleon gave up any attack on Britain using water. This naval inferiority on the part of France therefore gave Britain the advantage of defeating and weakening Napoleon, thus contributing to his downfall.

The formation of the Fourth Coalition led to the downfall of Napoleon. This coalition was formed in 1813 by Prussia, Austria, Russia, Britain and Sweden. These countries were determined to fight and defeat Napoleon once and for all. Consequently, they fought and defeated Napoleon in the Battle of the Nations in 1813 at Leipzig as well as at Waterloo in 1815 which marked the end of Napoleon's regime.

The rise of **nationalism** in the conquered states led to Napoleon's downfall. This was the desire by the people of the same historical background, language and geographical location to get independence from foreign control. Consequently, the spirit of nationalism made Spain, Russia and Italian states to fight wars against the French control of their territories. These wars led to the death of many French soldiers which weakened Napoleon's military ability and therefore contributed to his downfall by 1815.

The rise of **liberalism** in Europe also led to the downfall of Napoleon. This was the desire for the fundamental freedoms of man like freedom of worship, press and association. It also involved the desire for parliamentary governance and constitutional rule to avoid dictatorship. However, Napoleon had turned out to be a dictator both in France and the conquered states like Spain and the Italian states. As a result, the liberals decided to fight against Napoleon's dictatorship which eventually contributed to his downfall.

Fatigue contributed to Napoleon's downfall. By 1814, Napoleon had lost his intelligence, foresight and organizational abilities due to fatigue brought about by the endless wars and this is demonstrated by the many blunders he made in the later campaigns. For example, during the Moscow campaign he failed to foresee winter in Russia and as a result many of his soldiers were frozen to death because they lacked winter clothes that would keep them warm in the cold season. The death of the French soldiers therefore weakened the French army and the allies found it easy to defeat Napoleon by 1815.

Economic weakness led to the downfall of Napoleon. By 1815, the French economy had declined because of the revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars which drained the French resources. This caused

economic problems like industrial breakdown, unemployment and inflation. Such a deteriorating economic situation made France unable to properly sustain any war against the economically powerful European countries especially Britain. This led to the defeat of Napoleon which eventually contributed to his downfall.

Over reliance on Napoleon's command by the French soldiers led to the defeat of the army which equally contributed to the downfall of Napoleon. The French forces were used to winning battles when Napoleon was in command and many European countries used to fear the military power of Napoleon. However, the French forces were less effective in those battles where Napoleon was not in command and they were always defeated. His enemies also learnt that it was always easy to defeat the French forces as long as they were not commanded by Napoleon. Therefore, they would concentrate their forces in such battles which led to the defeat and subsequent downfall of Napoleon.

The weaknesses in the domestic policy of Napoleon contributed to his downfall. For example, by 1815, Napoleon had become a dictator who censored the press as well as oppressing his political opponents. His education system and the Code Napoleon were also against the revolutionary principle of equality between the men and women. Napoleon also practiced nepotism and favouritism when he employed his close friends and family members like Josef Bonaparte, Louis Bonaparte and Jerome Bonaparte. He also revived over taxation so as to finance his endless wars. All these domestic weaknesses made Napoleon unpopular among the Frenchmen and therefore contributed to his downfall.

THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE DOWNFALL OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

The downfall of Napoleon in 1815 was a result of the efforts of several European countries as noted below;

BRITAIN

- Britain was against the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon's policies. For example, British journalists like Gibbon and Burke always talked ill against the French revolution of 1789. This therefore influenced the British public to turn against Napoleon I.
- Britain's military success over Napoleon I like in the Egyptian Campaign of 1798 - 1799 as well as in the Battle of Trafalgar of 1805 finally weakened Napoleon Bonaparte I.
- Britain's superiority at the sea over Napoleon Bonaparte I led to his downfall.
- Britain's defeat of the Continental System through issuing the Orders in Council of 1807 weakened Napoleon Bonaparte I.
- Britain's economic power over Napoleon Bonaparte I challenged him.
- Britain played a big role in the formation of the Third coalition of 1805 as well as the Fourth coalition of 1813.
- Britain played a role in the Peninsular War of 1808 - 1813 by supporting Spain and Portugal which led to the defeat of

Napoleon.

- Britain aroused European nationalism against Napoleon in states like Spain, Denmark etc. She encouraged such conquered states to rise up against Napoleon.
- Britain participated in the Battle of All Nations or the War of Liberation of 1813 – 1814 which led to Napoleon's defeat at Leipzig in 1813 and also at Waterloo in 1815.
- It was Britain that exiled Napoleon to St. Helena in 1815 which marked his end.

RUSSIA

- Russia was a member of the Third and Fourth coalitions against France.
- Russia resented Napoleon's continental system.
- Russia denied food to the French soldiers during the Moscow campaign through the scorched earth policy.
- It used unfamiliar methods of fighting on the French troops.
- It reduced Napoleon's forces from over 610,000 soldiers to 20,000 soldiers leading to her military decline.
- Russia as a country was too large for the French forces.

SPAIN

- Spain resented Napoleon's dictatorship.
- It also fought France due to the imprisonment of the Pope.
- The Spanish mountainous nature disabled the French fighters as it made communication difficult.
- There was Spanish nationalism against the French country.
- Spain allied with Britain and Portugal in the peninsular war.

PORTUGAL

- It allied with Spain and Britain in the Peninsular War.
- Portugal was a member of the Fourth coalition.
- Its soldiers used unfamiliar fighting methods against the French forces.

PRUSSIA

- It was a member of the Third and Fourth coalitions against Napoleon.
- It fought against France in the Battle of the Nations of 1813.
- There was nationalism in Prussia against the French control.
- It was also advanced militarily compared to France.

AUSTRIA

- Fought against France in the "Battle of Nations" of 1813.
- It was a member of the Third and Fourth coalitions.
- It also resented the imprisonment of the Pope by Napoleon because it was a major catholic state in Europe.
- It resented Napoleon's expansion policy in Europe which threatened her survival as an Empire especially when Napoleon took over some Austrian territories like Italy and Belgium.

- It hosted the Congress of Vienna from 1814 to 1815 from where the European powers resolved to finally defeat Napoleon once and for all.

THE ITALIAN STATES

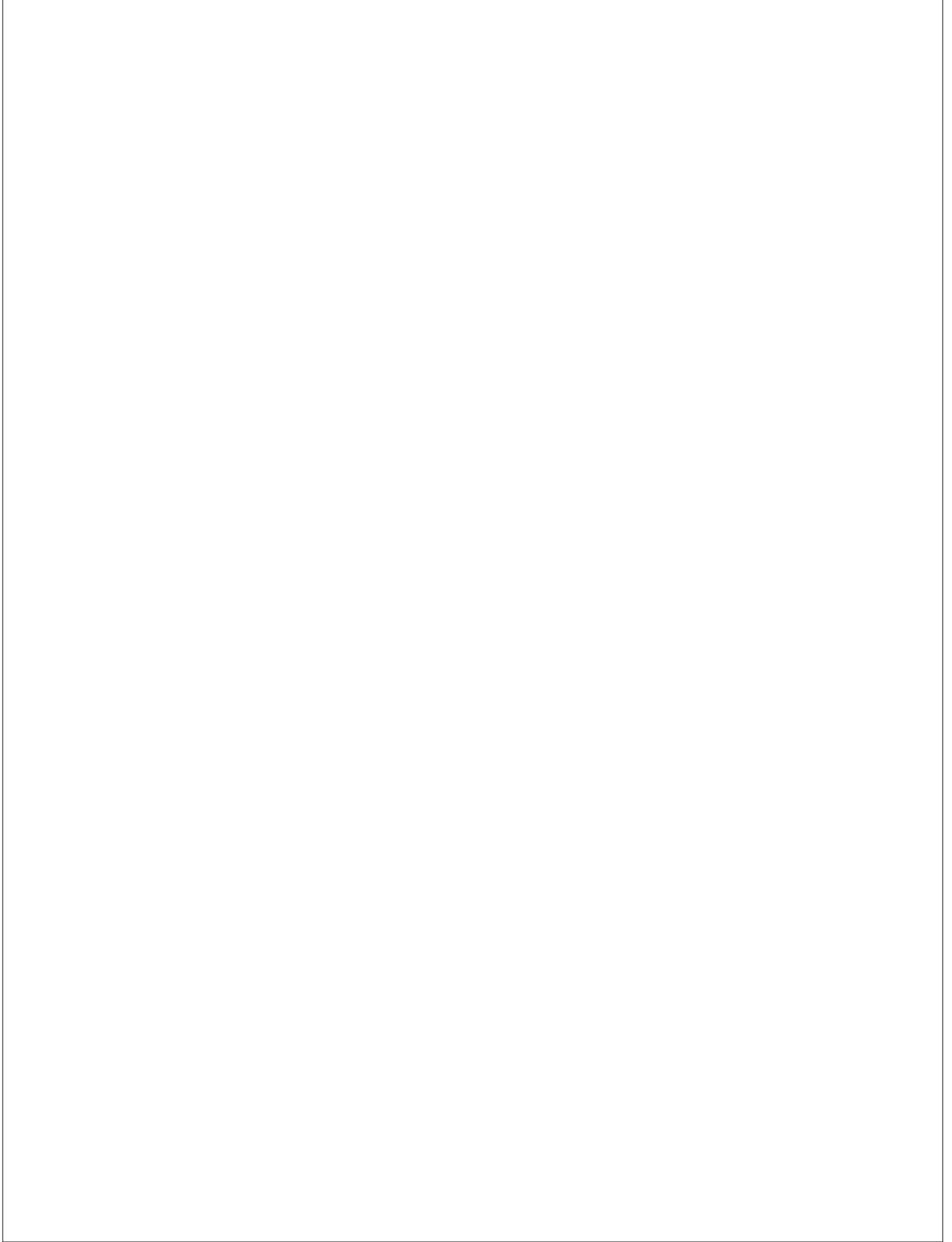
- They opposed the arrest and imprisonment of the Pope.
- They rejected the continental system.
- There was an Italian nationalism against the French control.
- They demanded for their freedoms or liberties.
- They resented the exploitation of their economic resources by Napoleon.

FRANCE

- The unpopularity resulting from the continental system made Napoleon to be rejected by France.
- The French military generals and parliament forced him to surrender because they were tired of his unending wars.
- France was also disgusted with his dictatorship.
- France had over relied on the command of Napoleon we failed the country with increasing war fronts.
- Weaknesses in Napoleon's domestic policy.
- France also opposed Napoleon because of imprisonment of the Pope.

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| | representatives of the four major powers who included Prince METTERNICH of Austria, Lord CASTLEREAGH of Britain, Tsar ALEXANDER I of Russia and King FREDRICK WILLIAM III of Prussia. France which was the defeated nation was represented at this congress by Bishop TALLEYRAND . |
| | NOTE: |
| | At the end of the Vienna Congress, a treaty was signed and this treaty had all the resolutions that the delegates that attended the congress had reached upon. This treaty came to be known as the Vienna Settlement of 1815. |
| Reference Books | AIMS OR OBJECTIVES OF THE VIENNA CONGRESS (SETTLEMENT): |
| | The delegates wanted to restore peace in Europe and also to avoid wars like those that had been caused by French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon Bonaparte I. |
| | To build large and strong states in Europe that would guard against further French aggression. During Napoleon I's regime, he had invaded territories like Belgium, Italian and German states among others which were later annexed to France. Such aggression had to be checked. |
| | It aimed at restoring the balance of power in Europe. They wanted to stop anyone country from becoming so powerful to dominate European affairs as France under Napoleon had done. Neither did they want countries that were so weak to the extent that they were being easily dominated. |

They wanted to restore the old regimes or legitimate rulers to power and protect them from being over thrown. The French revolution of 1789 and the Napoleonic wars had overthrown the old regimes in Europe. Therefore, the representatives wanted these rulers to be restored beginning with France.

They wanted to redraw the political map of Europe which had been distorted or changed by Napoleon's Empire.

They wanted to punish those countries which had collaborated with Napoleon and at the same time reward those countries that had participated alongside the great powers in bringing about the fall of Napoleon Bonaparte I like Holland.

The desire to maintain ineffective alliance or the congress spirit was among the issues that led to the calling of the Vienna congress. They agreed to meet periodically to discuss matters that affected Europe.

They wanted to divide the disputed territories among the great powers in a way acceptable to all.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE VIENNA CONGRESS (SETTLEMENT)

The Vienna congress led to the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte I. Napoleon escaped from Elba after the first defeat while the delegates were at Vienna discussing what to do with the defeated France. The peace makers at Vienna decided to mobilize a large force that defeated Napoleon at Waterloo on **8th June 1815**. He was subsequently exiled to the Island of St. Helena which marked the end of the Napoleonic era and chaos or wars in Europe.

The congress checked further French aggression through the creation of buffer or defensive states around France. These states reduced France's ability to conduct acts of aggression in Europe. For example, in the North of France, the United Kingdom of Netherlands that combined Belgium and Netherlands was created.

In the East of France, a Confederation or Union consisting of thirty nine (39) German states was created known as the **German Confederation**. This union was created to guard against further French aggression in the East of France. The union was put under Austria. Austria also took over the states of Lombardy and Venetia in Northern Italy.

Prussia was given more territories in the Rhine lands to create a bigger and stronger state which would guard against further French aggression in the Rhine lands.

Similarly, in the South East of France, the Italian territories of Genoa and Savoy were added to the Italian kingdom of Sardinia. The purpose was to check against further French aggression in Italy because Napoleon I had invaded and conquered Italy before his defeat.

In the Baltic Sea region, Finland which was part of Sweden was transferred to Russia. The purpose was to create a strong Russia that extended into Europe so as to check against the French aggression in the Baltic lands – (Baltic Sea) like Norway, Sweden and Finland. All in all, the above buffer states were so strong that French aggression was brought to an end which created peace in Europe.

The congress of Vienna restored balance of power in Europe. For example, Russia had wanted to annex the whole of Poland during the congress. However, the delegates gave Russia just half of Poland because they feared that Russia was to become a very powerful state to upset or change the balance of power in Europe.

In addition, Prussia had also wanted to take over the whole of Saxony. However, the delegates who feared that Prussia would emerge bigger and more powerful than before gave it only half of Saxony. This helped to create balance of power in Europe.

Similarly, the creation of the United Kingdom of Netherlands in the North of France and the merging of Genoa and Savoy in the South East of France as well as the giving of Lombardy and Venetia in Northern Italy to Austria were also intended to create states that were more powerful than before. Therefore, there was balance of power in Europe.

The Vienna Congress restored relative peace in Europe. France had been at war with European countries during the French revolution of 1789 and the regime of Napoleon. However, after the Battle of Waterloo of 1815, there was no major war that involved all the major powers Europe. This was because the Vienna Congress had restored the balance of power as well as stopping further French aggression in Europe. This therefore created relative peace in Europe for about 40 (fourty) years until the outbreak of the Crimean War of 1854 – 1856 in which Russia fought Turkey, Britain and France.

The Vienna congress (settlement) restored the old or legitimate rulers in Europe. These had been overthrown by the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon. In France for example, Louis XVIII was restored while in Portugal John IV was restored as king. In addition, the Pope who had been overthrown by Napoleon was restored in the Papal states. In the kingdom of Naples in Southern Italy, King Ferdinand I who had been overthrown by

Napoleon was restored. In Central Italy, the Austrian Princes were restored in the provinces of Modena, Parma and Tuscany while in Spain, Ferdinand VII was restored. Because these rulers were very conservative, they suppressed revolutionary ideas and revolutions which created peace in Europe.

In the case of France, the delegates restored Louis XVIII as a constitutional king who was supposed to govern according to the 1814 constitutional Charter. This was important because the delegates at Vienna did not want the people of France to get back to the old times when the Bourbons exercised dictatorial rule over the French men which had led to the outbreak of the French revolution of 1789. The French revolution had caused turmoil in Europe.

The Vienna congress re-drew the political map of Europe. Before 1841, Napoleon Bonaparte I had distorted the political map of Europe through annexing territories to create a large French Empire. At Vienna, the Napoleonic Empire was disintegrated or broken up and consequently the French borders were reduced to those that she had in 1792. Therefore, France lost a number of territories like Belgium, the Italian states and German states of the Rhine lands among others.

The Vienna Congress revived international economic co-operation in Europe. Before 1814, international economic co-operation had collapsed particularly when Napoleon declared the Continental System. At Vienna, the delegates allowed free navigation on the international water ways like the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, River Rhine and River Danube among others. This therefore avoided conflicts and wars that were bound to emerge in Europe due to the restriction over the use of such waters.

The Vienna congress succeeded in dividing the disputed territories in a way acceptable to all countries. During the congress there were territories that generated conflicts among some delegates but these were peacefully settled. For example, on the issue of Poland and Saxony, Russia wanted to take over the whole of Poland while Prussia wanted to take over the whole of Saxony. This was resisted by other powers like Britain and Austria who did not want Russia and Prussia to change the balance of power in Europe. Consequently, Russia was given only part of Poland while Prussia also took half of Saxony.

The Vienna Congress led to the reconciliation of France with other European powers. Much as France had been defeated by the allied powers in 1814 and therefore was a continental enemy, she was invited to attend this congress. Consequently, Bishop Talleyrand represented France at the meeting which promoted reconciliation in Europe.

It granted independence to Switzerland. Napoleon Bonaparte had gone ahead to extend the French control in Switzerland in the South East of France. However, the congress men at Vienna decided to change the political map of France and Europe by declaring the independence and neutrality of Switzerland. It must be noted that this declaration made Switzerland the most peaceful and stable nation in Europe.

It also compensated and rewarded some countries that had contributed to the down fall of Napoleon Bonaparte I. Britain for example, was recognized as the controller of India, West Indies and the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa because of her contribution to the defeat of Napoleon I. These territories were not in Europe.

In addition, besides guarding against further French aggression, Austria got Lombardy and Venetia which were found in Italy because Austria had lost Belgium and Netherlands. These states were not restored to Austrian control and therefore Austria which had contributed to the defeat of Napoleon was compensated with Lombardy and Venetia.

It gave birth to the Congress System also referred to as the “Concert of Europe”. In November 1815, following the Vienna Congress Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia signed a treaty known as the Quadruple Alliance. In this treaty, they agreed to meet in periodic meetings or congresses and see how to maintain the resolutions reached at in June 1815. This resulted into the Congress System in Europe which stretched from 1818 up to 1825.

The example of the Vienna Congress (settlement) also led to the formation of future international organizations like the League of Nations in 1920 after World War I and the United Nations Organization (UNO) in 1945 after World War II. These organizations were founded to see what to do with Europe and the rest of the world after a period of serious fighting the same way the Vienna Congress did after the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.

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| | their independence. |
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| Reference Books | It also restored unpopular legitimate rulers in Europe. These old rulers who were restored in France, Portugal, Spain and Naples among other countries were the worst rulers Europe had ever had because they exercised oppression over the subjects and total dictatorship. Consequently, revolutions were staged in the above countries from the 1820's up to 1848 to overthrow the restored legitimate rulers. These revolutions contributed to political unrest which undermined peace in Europe. |
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| | The Vienna Congress (settlement) delayed the unification of Italy. Italy as a United Kingdom emerged on the political map of Europe in 1871 which was fifty six years after the Vienna Congress. This was because the congress disunited Italy by the creation of states under different rulers. For example, there was the Pope in the Papal states, King Ferdinand I in Naples and Sicily as well as Austria in Lombardy and Venetia among others. It was therefore difficult to have a single Italian state under one ruler until 1871. |
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| | It also delayed the unification of Germany. Germany as a single state also emerged on the political map of Europe in 1871 just like Italy. The congressmen at Vienna had left the German state of Prussia as an independent kingdom while the other thirty nine (39) German states that were formed into the German Confederation or Union were put under the Austrian control. The Germans therefore took long to fight and undo the work of the Vienna Congress or Settlement so as to a united German nation. |

The Vienna Congress ignored small states. Although all European states attended, throughout the congress the discussions and decisions were dominated by the four big powers that included Russia, Britain, Austria and Prussia. This therefore caused discontent and unpopularity of the settlement because the wishes of the small powers were ignored.

It suffocated liberalism in Europe. In the kingdom of Naples for example, King Ferdinand I was restored without a constitution. Consequently, Ferdinand I ruled Naples as a dictator yet in 1812, Naples had been granted a liberal constitution by Napoleon Bonaparte I. Consequently, in 1821 a revolution broke out in Naples demanding for liberal reforms like freedom of worship, press and fair trial among other liberties.

The Vienna Congress promoted the influence or dominance of Prince Metternich in Europe. Since Austria had hosted the congress, Metternich took advantage of this to chair the discussions. This enabled Metternich to dominate Europe between 1815 and 1848. However, while in charge of European affairs, Metternich suppressed liberalism and nationalism especially in the Italian and German states that were under Austria. This partly contributed to the outbreak of liberal and nationalistic revolutions between 1820 and 1848 which undermined peace in Europe.

The Vienna Congress also brought Russia into European affairs. This later caused conflicts

The Vienna congress only focused on France and ignored the Ottoman or Turkish Empire. Located in Eastern Europe, the Ottoman Empire was facing many problems by 1815 but the delegates at Vienna completely ignored this part of Europe. For example, the conquered states in the empire like Greece, Serbia and Bosnia among others were demanding for independence but which the Vienna congress didn't grant. Similarly, Russia was not restricted from intervening in the affairs of this empire which was in her neighbourhood. Russia therefore started doing so and this led to conflicts between Russia and other powers like Britain.

Sample question(s)

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| | <p>EUROPE, 1818-1830</p> <p>The Congress System was a series of periodic meetings or congresses of the European powers intended to solve European problems diplomatically and it stretched between 1818 and 1830. The congress system was born out of a treaty or alliance between four countries i.e. Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia. This treaty or alliance was known as the <u>Quadruple Alliance</u> of 1815. The treaty was signed on 20th November 1815 and it was signed on the same day with the second treaty of Paris which punished France following the defeat of Napoleon I at the Battle of Waterloo of 1815.</p> |
| <p>Key vocabulary</p> | <p>Among other things, the quadruple alliance stated that “the four kings, united for the good of the world, have agreed to continue meeting “. Because those countries were to take a collective effort in handling European matters, then the Congress System came to be known as the <u>“Concert of Europe”</u></p> |
| <p>Reference Books</p> | <p>OBJECTIVES OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the signatories (those powers that had signed the alliance) continued to cooperate and therefore the aim was to promote international cooperation. • The four countries i.e. Austria, Russia, Britain and Prussia agreed to exclude the Bonaparte dynasty or family from the political affairs of France and Europe. • To ensure that the terms of the Second Treaty of Paris of November 1815 were implemented. To maintain peace in Europe. The aim here was to avoid other wars similar to the “Napoleonic Wars” which would disturb European Peace. • To protect and maintain the power of the legitimate rulers in Europe. |

- To maintain all the decisions that had been agreed upon in the Vienna settlement that was signed in June 1815.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

The Congress System was composed of the following congresses named after the places where they were held;

- The congress of Aix – la – chapelle of 1818
- The congress of Troppau of 1820
- The congress of Laibach of 1821
- The congress of Verona of 1822
- The congress of St. Petersburg of 1825.

NOTE: The congress of Vienna was not part of part of the Congress System because it ended its work on 9th June 1815 and the Congress System was born out of the Quadruple Alliance on 20th November 1815, several months after the Vienna Congress had ended its work.

THE CONGRESS OF AXI-LA-CHAPELLE, 1818

This congress was held in Prussia and it had a number of issues to deal with among which was the position of France. By 1818, France had paid the war damages which were demanded in the Second treaty of Paris of November 1815. It was therefore no longer necessary to keep France a permanent enemy and for that matter the army occupation was removed from France and to maintain peace with France, the members of the Quadruple alliance admitted France into their alliance and now it was an alliance of five countries. Therefore, the name was changed to the Quintuple Alliance.

Also, it was noted at this congress that the Jews had been persecuted for a long time and denied citizenship wherever they settled. It was therefore agreed in the Aix-la-chapelle that the Jews had to be given freedom and a right to settle peacefully in all areas where they had been living before and not to be persecuted anymore.

At this congress, the members also approved the measures for the security of Napoleon Bonaparte on the Island of St. Helena because they did not want Napoleon's influence in Europe again as they had an experience when Napoleon escaped from the Island of Elba and ruled France again for some time. This was achieved until the death of Napoleon I in 1821.

At this congress, Prussia and Russia suggested that an international army be established. That this army was to be used to protect the existing rulers (legitimate) from being overthrown by revolutions and also for the purpose of maintaining peace. This suggestion was made by the King of Prussia known as Fredrick William III and Tsar Alexander I of Russia.

At the same congress the issue of the **Barbary pirates** was brought. These pirates or robbers were operating on the Mediterranean Sea. They used to capture ships and steal their weapons and therefore Russia suggested that an international army was necessary to fight against these pirates.

There was also the issue slave trade of at the same congress. Countries suggested that it was necessary to cooperate and stop the practice of slave trade. Russia, Prussia and France for example suggested that the international army was to be used to look for those ships that were carrying slaves across the continents and give punishments to the slave traders.

REACTIONS Prince Metternich of Austria rejected the formation of an international army. He reasoned that the creation of this army would bring about the spread of Russian influence in Europe. He feared that Russian soldiers would get the advantage of being stationed across the continent of Europe and Russia would become the most powerful state and therefore would upset or change the balance of power in Europe.

The British representative **Lord Castlereagh** also opposed the idea of Tsar Alexander I to create an international army for the purpose of maintaining the legitimate rulers in power. The British representative feared that the congress system was to be used to intervene in the domestic affairs of other European countries for the purpose of protecting the existing rulers even when those rulers were unpopular. Therefore, Russia and Prussia withdrew their proposal on creating an international army.

On the issue of slave trade Britain proposed that other European powers give her permission to stop slave trade. The British representative Lord Castlereagh suggested that Britain was to hunt and search for ships that were carrying slaves in the waters of West Africa. He stated that Britain was to set the slaves free but arrest the crew and charge them in the British courts of law that had been established on the West African coast especially in Sierra Leone.

Other countries rejected the proposal by Britain because of national pride and national interests. The countries that had their sovereignty or independence refused because if Britain started to capture and search their ships and the ships that had flags of their nations, they would have abused their sovereignty or independence. They also rejected British interference in their trade with countries of West Africa where Britain already had an upper hand. They even wondered as to why Britain which had originally benefited from slave trade was denying them to benefit from the same.

The British government and public became annoyed because the other powers had refused to support their proposals and therefore the gap between Britain and other powers started to widen and it became very difficult for the congress system to achieve its objective of international cooperation. It should however be noted that the congress ended in disagreement over the issue of the creation of an international army.

THE CONGRESS OF TROPAU, 1820

The congress was called by Tsar Alexander I of Russia. He was scared of a liberal revolution that broke out in Spain which was South of France against King Ferdinand VII. This Ferdinand VII had been restored by the Vienna congress. Tsar Alexander I was also scared by the outbreak of other revolutions in Portugal, Naples and Piedmont. Naples and Piedmont were states in Italy which was not yet a united kingdom.

Tsar Alexander I wanted the allied powers to meet and deal with the revolutions because they threatened the survival of the existing legitimate rulers. In January 1820, a revolution broke out in Spain. The revolution was led by the Spanish soldiers who lived in very poor conditions at the Spanish ports as they waited to be shipped to South America where Spain and Portugal had colonies and these colonies wanted independence. The revolution started in Madrid and spread to other towns like Barcelona.

King Ferdinand VII of Spain feared that the revolutionaries were removing him from power and in a desperate move to save his seat, he gave the Spanish the liberal constitution of 1812 they had got from Napoleon I of France when he invaded Spain. When this happened, Tsar Alexander I who was very conservative (belief in no change) feared that such a move was to encourage liberals in other countries of Europe to demand for similar constitutions including those of Russia. Therefore, he wanted the members of the Congress System to crash the revolution in Spain and withdrew the constitution.

REACTION Lord Castlereagh reacted by presenting a paper on **5th May 1820** and this became the future British foreign policy. In this paper, he stated that Britain wasn't to intervene in the domestic affairs of any European state and that Britain wasn't to ignore a situation when other powers intervened. The British representative insisted that the Spanish revolution was a "Spanish affair" and he rejected the suggestion of Alexander I to send soldiers (allied forces) to Spain. As a result, the gap between Britain and other powers widened further such that it was difficult to promote the objective of international cooperation.

Lord Castlereagh refused to attend the Congress of Troppau but sent an observer. Even France also sent an observer. However, Alexander I persuaded the representatives of Austria and Prussia to accept his view of intervening in the internal affairs of other countries and keep in power those rulers who were threatened by revolutions.

Prince Metternich used the opportunity to issue a paper he called the **PROTOCOL OF TROPPAU** of 1820 which turned to be an agreement that was signed by Prussia, Austria and Russia. In this protocol, Prince Metternich declared that no changes were to be brought about by revolutions. He also stated that the signatories were to enter into those countries

that faced revolutions, suppress the revolutions and restore the legitimate rulers.

The protocol was rejected by Britain and France because they did not want their soldiers to die in foreign countries while maintaining unpopular regimes and the congress ended in disagreement.

THE CONGRESS OF LAIBACH, 1821

The congress was held in Austria and was called by Prince Metternich in the city of Laibach. The congress was called to discuss the liberal revolution in Naples and at this congress, Britain and France refused to send representatives and therefore it was attended by the conservative countries of Russia, Austria and Prussia who had accepted the “**Protocol of Troppau**” of 1820 which accepted intervening in the matters or domestic affairs of other states.

The conservatives agreed to intervene in Naples and save King Ferdinand I from being overthrown in March 1821. Austria was the first to send her troops in Naples which was in Southern Italy and while there, the revolutionaries were arrested, tortured and others were killed and those who survived went to live abroad. Britain strongly opposed this action and this was another demonstration that Britain was not ready to promote international cooperation and also to maintain unpopular regimes that had been restored by the Vienna settlement.

THE CONGRESS OF VERONA, OCTOBER 1822

In March 1821, the Greeks in the Ottoman Empire staged a revolution against their rulers. The Greeks were Christians and they revolted against their masters the Turkish who were Muslims. The Turkish rulers were mistreating them with imprisonment, over taxation, arbitrary arrests etc. When the revolution broke out both Prince Metternich and Lord Castlereagh feared that Alexander I of Russia who regarded himself as a guardian to the Greek Christians would go to war with Turkey in support of the Greek Christians. If this happened, it would increase the influence of Russia in Eastern Europe in case Russia defeated Turkey and this would upset or change the balance of power in Europe. This was something which those powers did not want to happen and therefore the Congress of Verona had to discuss this issue. As the meeting started, the revolution in Spain against King Ferdinand VII intensified. France which shared the Southern border with Spain feared that the “revolutionary virus” in Spain would infect her citizens and overthrow the restored regime of Louis XVIII.

In reaction, France changed her position from non-interference and therefore her troops entered Spain in 1823 to crush the revolution and restore King Ferdinand VII to full control. The consequence was that the congress of Verona discussed more of the Spanish revolt than the Greek revolt.

THE CHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES

As the congress system continued in its operations, it was hit by misfortunes. In August 1820, Lord Castlereagh of Britain died and he was replaced by **George Canning**. The new British representative had very little experience in European affairs.

Tsar Alexander I of Russia also died in 1825 and was replaced by Tsar Nicholas I. Like George Canning of Britain, Nicholas I had very little experience in European affairs.

George Canning hated armed intervention in other countries and therefore he was not different from Lord Castlereagh whom he succeeded. He did not even attend the Congress of Verona but sent a representative called the **Duke of Wellington**. He instructed the Duke

to protest the intended use of the French troops to crash the revolution in Spain and when the allies rejected the protest, the Duke withdrew immediately before the Verona congress ended its discussions.

France invaded Spain in 1823 with a force of 200,000 soldiers. The French forces defeated the liberals with less difficulty and abolished the liberal constitution. Thereafter, King Ferdinand VII was restored to full control and this annoyed Britain the more. Unfortunately, the allies were not able to send troops to South America to assist Spain keep the Spanish colonies which had revolted against the Spanish rule.

In an attempt to revenge, George Canning encouraged the President of USA **James Monroe** to support the Spanish colonies in South America in their struggle for independence against Spain. Consequently, the President of USA came out with his document known as the **Monroe doctrine of 1823** in which he stated that “the American continent was not a territory for future foreign colonialism and that the states of the continent should be left alone to run their own political systems”. USA therefore would regard any colonial attempt on the American continent as a danger to its peace and security and a very unfriendly act.

In the case of the Greek revolt which was discussed at Verona, Britain got a promise from the Sultan of Turkey that he would reduce the mistreatment of the Greeks and because of this promise, the danger of the Russian intervention was avoided. However, the Greek revolt continued until 1832 when Greece got her independence. The Greek war of independence divided up the members of the Quintuple alliance because Britain rejected interference and supported the Greek revolution of 1821 to 1832.

THE CONGRESS OF ST. PETERSBURG, 1825

The congress was held in Russia and it was attended by Russia and Austria. This congress did not discuss any issue regarding European powers because the member states failed to reach an agreement. This was because of lack of full membership. Therefore, the congress was aborted.

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Helena to return to France the way he had escaped from the island of Elba and ruled France again for one hundred years. It only became possible for a member of the **Bonaparte dynasty** to rule France in 1848 when the congress system was no more.

The system maintained a constitutional monarchy in France. Louis XVIII had been restored in France with a constitution and among other things the constitution provided for a parliament and personal freedoms like freedom of worship, press and association. This was important because Louis XVIII could not impose his own rule on the Frenchmen the way Louis XVI had done before he was overthrown by the revolutionaries.

The system maintained the balance of power in Europe. At the Congress of Aix-la-chapelle of 1818 for example, Prussia had suggested the creation of an international army so as to fight against the Sea pirates that were operating on the Mediterranean Sea. The proposal was rejected because Russia wanted to get the opportunity of stationing her soldiers in other countries and therefore Russia would gain a lot of influence in those countries which would have led to upsetting of the balance of power. However, the Russian proposal was rejected by other powers like Britain which therefore helped to maintain balance of power in Europe.

The system contributed to economic co-operation in Europe. The system for example allowed free navigation on the international water ways like the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, River Rhine and River Danube among others. Navigation had been disorganized by the continental system of Napoleon I and therefore this was a major achievement.

The Congress System laid a foundation for other world international bodies in future. The success of the Congress System for example contributed to the formation of the **League of Nations** in 1920 after World War I as well as the formation of the **United Nations Organization** in 1945 after World War II. All these organizations were intended to resolve international conflicts peacefully without going to war.

THE FAILURES OF THE CONGRESS SYSTEM

The system failed to promote unity and international cooperation in Europe. This was so because the representatives had different views on some of the major issues. For example, at the Congress of Verona of 1822, the congressmen were divided over the issue of the Greek revolt which was being supported by Britain while Austria wanted the revolt to be crushed. At the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1818, the powers also disagreed on the issue of slave trade in which Britain wanted to take over full control over the suppression or abolition of slave trade which was not accepted by other countries like Prussia and Russia.

The Congress System ignored the forces of **nationalism**. This was so because it maintained foreign rule in some of the European countries. For example, it maintained Austrian control in the Italian and German states and it also maintained the control of the Belgians by the Dutch. Consequently, there were nationalistic revolutions that challenged the Congress System between 1820 and 1830 and eventually led to its collapse by 1830.

The congress system ignored forces of **liberalism**. Unlike in France where Louis XVIII was restored with a constitution which provided for freedom of expression, a parliament, freedom of worship and association among other liberties, it was not the same case in some of the European countries. In the case of Naples and Spain for example, the congressmen overthrew popular liberal constitutions that had been granted to people and restored unconstitutional governments of the Ferdinands. Consequently, there were **liberal** revolutions that challenged the Congress System between 1820 and 1830 and eventually

led to its collapse by 1830.

The Congress System undermined the interests of the small powers. The small states had majority of the people in Europe but the major issues in Europe under the Congress System were always discussed and resolved by the five major powers of the Quintuple alliance i.e. Britain, France, Prussia, Austria and Russia.

The Congress System maintained despotic monarchs or leaders in Europe who caused untold suffering to the people they governed. In Spain and Naples for example, King Ferdinand VII and Ferdinand I respectively conducted arbitrary arrests, imprisonment, torture and killing of suspected opponents and the Congress System always protected these unpopular monarchs from being over thrown.

The Congress System contributed to unrest or instability in Europe. Many revolutions broke out in an attempt to over throw the unpopular regimes which were being maintained by the congress system for example in Spain, Naples and Belgium. Countries like France, Russia and Austria were committed to crash the revolutionaries in those countries and maintained the legitimate rulers.

The members failed to agree on the major revolutions which finally changed the work of the Vienna settlement which they were to protect. For example, in 1821 a revolution broke out in Greece in which the Greeks revolted against the Turkish rule and in 1832 with the support of some European countries like Britain, the Greeks were given full independence. In 1830, the Belgians staged a nationalistic revolution against the Dutch and surprisingly Britain and France supported the Belgians and in 1839, the Belgians got full independence. Therefore, these revolutions showed that some of the European countries supported undoing the work of the Vienna settlement while others did not support changing the work of the Vienna settlement especially Austria and Russia.

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| | <i>again, every nation for itself and God for all of us</i> ". This statement meant that there was no more international cooperation as every nation was to be on its own. |
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It lacked an international army to implement its resolutions. The armies of individual countries were used to crash revolutions between 1820 and 1830. The problem with this was that no single country would raise enough force to guard against successful revolutions in Europe. For example, when the revolution broke out in Belgium in 1830, Russia and Austria could not send their soldiers to Belgium because Russia had taken her soldiers to fight in Poland while Austria had her forces fighting against the revolutionaries in the Italian and German states.

There was mistrust among the member states and this contributed to the collapse of the congress system. At the congress of Aix-la-chapelle in 1818 for example, Tsar Alexander I of Russia proposed the creation of an international army to suppress the sea pirates or robbers on the Mediterranean Sea. The army was also to be used to protect the legitimate rulers against revolutions. This proposal was rejected by Britain and Austria as they feared that Russia was to take advantage of stationing her forces in countries of Western Europe which was to be followed by Russia gaining more influence. Therefore, Britain and Austria refused to cooperate with Russia which widened the gap between Russia and the above powers and led to the collapse of the congress system by 1830.

Britain's isolationist policy also contributed to the collapse of the congress system. Britain for example refused to attend some of the congresses for example that of Verona of 1822 and St. Petersburg of 1825 because she did not agree with the policy of intervening in the domestic affairs of other states to protect unpopular regimes.

Britain also undermined the spirit of international cooperation by indirectly supporting the Spanish colonies in South America to get independence. For example, George Canning of Britain encouraged President James Monroe of USA to stop any attempt by Spain and her allies like Russia, France, and Austria to go to South America and defeat the revolutionaries in the Spanish colonies and consequently members of the congress system feared going to South America and the colonies got their independence.

The selfish interests of the congressmen and their countries also undermined the spirit of international cooperation hence leading to the collapse of the congress system. Britain for example did not want to commit her soldiers to die in foreign countries for the purpose of maintaining the Vienna settlement of 1815 yet in those countries Britain did not have economic interests. Another example is shown by the proposal to abolish slave trade. There was disagreement because Britain wanted to search the ships of other nations in case they carried slaves. The other nations refused that this was violation of their independence while on the other hand they questioned as to why Britain which had benefited from slave trade was not giving them a chance to deal in the same trade.

The outbreak of the Greek war of independence in 1821 also led to the collapse of the system. The congress of Verona was called in 1822 to discuss this revolution of the Greeks against Turkish rule. However, without consulting other members, Britain, France and Russia supported the Greek rebels and this caused a conflict between Austria, Prussia and other countries because the Russian intervention in the Greek affairs was an expansion of the Russian influence in Eastern Europe. The Greek revolution therefore divided the congress system and eventually led to its collapse by 1830

The congress became very unpopular because it maintained unpopular regimes in Europe. In 1820s for example, King Ferdinand VII of Spain and Ferdinand I of Naples were threatened by revolutions. Under the congress system, the revolutionaries were defeated and the despotic Ferdinands were restored to full control in Spain and Naples.

The congress system was also short lived because of the ideological differences between the conservatives (no change) and the liberals. Britain for example, believed in liberalism i.e. constitutional governance and respect for human freedoms like freedom of worship and press. Therefore, when the liberal revolutions were staged for example in Naples and Spain, Britain gave them support yet the conservatives like Austria and Russia did not support changes brought about by the revolutions. It's not surprising therefore that Britain did not support the Protocol of Troppau of 1820 which supported fighting against all revolutions in Europe that threatened the survival of autocratic regimes.

The system lacked clear guiding principles and therefore could not live for a long time as an organization. Besides lack of a secretariat, the system did not have a constitution, no work plan or programme and many times lacked a proper agenda. It was not very clear as to what was to be considered as a crisis to call a congress and it was not stated clearly as to who was that congressman to call a meeting and therefore the congress men were crisis managers.

The congress system ignored the small nations. The system was based on discussions and resolutions of the members of the Quintuple alliance that consisted Austria, Russia, Britain, France and Prussia. Therefore, the smaller states refused to accept the resolutions of the congress system and instead they worked for the downfall of the congress system.

The **“Metternich System”** was very unpopular and this led to the collapse of the congress system. This system was put in place by Prince Klemens Metternich who was the Chancellor of the Austrian Empire up to 1848. It included an efficient spying network in those states where Austria had control like the Italian and German states, reading of correspondences or mails and the brutal suppression of revolutions among others. This system was linked to the congress system because Metternich had declared that it was not necessary to accept changes from the majority people of Europe and especially if those people revolted against their rulers. He wanted the status quo to be maintained. This system therefore led to the outbreak of liberal revolutions to challenge it and these revolutions divided up the members of the congress system leading to its collapse.

The rise of **nationalism** in Europe contributed to the collapse of the system. The congress system tried to maintain foreign rule among some European people yet people wanted to get independence which forced them to rise up demanding for independence. For example, the Greeks fought against Turkish rule in 1821. The Italians also fought against Austrian rule in 1830 and the Belgians fought against the Dutch and all these nationalistic revolutions discredited the work of the congress in an attempt to protect the Vienna settlement because the revolting people were able to get independence.

The Belgian revolution of 1830 led to the collapse of the congress system. The Belgians revolted against the Dutch demanding for independence. This was to undo the work of the Vienna settlement of 1815 which the congress system had an obligation to protect. However, Britain and France supported the Belgians which was against the wishes of the conservatives like Austria and Russia. Britain called a congress in London in 1839 where the Belgian independence and neutrality were. Therefore, the Belgian revolution of divided the member states of the congress system leading to its collapse.

The rise of **liberalism** also led to the collapse of the congress. The example of the success of the French revolution of 1789 had demonstrated that the European people were

disgusted with absolute rule and they preferred constitutional governance, freedom of the press, association, parliamentary democracy, equality before the law etc. however, the congress system became very unpopular because it was protecting absolute rulers from being overthrown for example in Spain, Naples and Austria.

The lack of past experience by the congress system led to its collapse. The congress system was the first of its kind in the history of Europe to be established. It therefore lacked a foundation from where to draw examples. As a result, it operated on an experimental basis which eventually led to its collapse by 1830.

The **“Monroe Doctrine”** of 1823 led to the collapse of the congress system. In 1823, the President of USA James Monroe issued the famous Monroe Doctrine which strongly warned the Great Powers of Europe against any attempt to intervene in South America to help Spain recover her colonies. This doctrine was supported by Britain which therefore widened the gap between Britain and the other congress powers, thus leading to the collapse of the congress system

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| <p>Key vocabulary</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>FRANCE UNDER THE RESTORED BOURBON MONARCHY, 1815 – 1830</p> <p>After the fall of Napoleon I and the conclusion of the Vienna Congress in 1815, the Bourbons were restored in France under the principle of legitimacy. The restored Bourbons ruled France effectively from 1815 up to 1830 when another revolution broke out in France and it brought about the complete end of the Bourbon rule in France. Two kings ruled France between 1815 and 1830 and these were Louis XVIII effectively from 1815 to 1824 and Charles X from 1824 to 1830.</p> <p>The Bourbons in France were restored with a Constitutional Charter of 1814. This was a document that described the rights the French people were to enjoy as well as the rules and regulations that the Bourbons were meant to follow. In order to understand better the regime of the restored Bourbons in France, it's important to note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the expectations of the Frenchmen from these restored Bourbons? • What were the achievements of the restored Bourbons in France? • What were the major issues in the Constitutional Charter of 1814 and how did the restored Bourbons respond to the demands of the charter? • The French revolution of 1789 broke out against the rule of the Bourbons and it had caused fundamental changes in France. What shows then that the restored Bourbons had learnt some lessons or did not learn any lessons from the French revolution of 1789? |
| <p>Reference Books</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>LOUIS XVIII, 1815-1824</p> <p>Louis XVIII was the eldest surviving brother of Louis XVI who was executed by the revolutionaries in 1793. At the time of his restoration, he was expected to bring about peace and stability in France and between France and the rest of Europe. He was also expected to accept a parliamentary system of government which embraced all the political groups that existed in France at that time for example the Bonapartists, Republicans and the Ultra-royalists among others.</p> |

The republicans for example wanted France to be a Republic again other than being a Monarchy while the Ultra-royalists wanted the revival or restoration of the complete power of the monarchy as it had been before the French revolution of 1789. There was also a group of the liberals who wanted constitutional governance in France. He also had to balance the interests of especially the liberals (revolutionaries) and royalists (his brothers).

The new king had not forgotten the glory and customs of the Bourbon monarchy. He adopted the traditional title- "*King of France by God's grace*", hence emphasizing his attachment to the customs of his ancestors i.e. absolute monarchism and strong relationship between the crown and the church. He returned as *Louis XVIII* and insisted on dating his reign from 1795 the year in which Louis XVI's son and heir died in prison. He also

retained the belief in the divine rights of kings. This worried the liberals or middleclass.

Despite the above, Louis XVIII did not have any desire to revenge against the supporters of the French revolution and Napoleon I. He went ahead and allowed all those Frenchmen who were living in exile to return to France as a way of reconciliation. This shows that Louis XVIII had learnt something from the revolution of 1789, hence an achievement.

Louis XVIII accepted and preserved the changes that were brought about by the French revolution of 1789. For example, he did not allow the Catholic Church in matters of the state and the peasants retained the land they had got from the church during the course of the revolution as per the Civil Constitution of the Clergy of July 1790.

Louis XVIII also preserved some of the changes or reforms that were brought about by Napoleon I. He for example maintained the local government system which was composed of departments that had been created by the French revolution of 1789 and retained by Napoleon I. He also maintained the communes and the provincial sub-divisions together with the local councils for the efficient administration and decentralizing of administrative powers.

Louis XVIII worked very hard to see that the ideas of the French revolution of did not spread to other countries of Europe. He feared that if this was to happen, the European powers would form another military coalition against France as it had happened during the course of the revolution and under Napoleon I's regime. Therefore, Louis XVIII maintained peace between France and her neighbours.

LOUIS XVIII AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER OF 1814

Louis XVIII ruled France with a liberal *Charter* known as the CONSTITUTIONAL CHARTER of 1814 which was put in place by the Great Powers at Vienna as the Bourbons were being restored in France. The charter was intended to prevent any return to absolute rule in France. Louis XVIII accepted the charter which set up a parliamentary system of government for France. The parliament in France had two bodies which were known "Chambers". There was the chamber of the "Peers" which served as the executive and the members of this chamber were nominated by the King. There was also the chamber of the "Deputies" and these members were elected by the voters or French men. This was important because the presence of a parliament in France meant that Louis XVIII would not impose his own rule the way Louis XVI had done before his overthrow. It was also in respect of revolutionary gains implying he had learnt something.

The charter granted important personal freedoms as established by the French revolution of 1789 like example equality before the law. Louis XVIII put in place a judicial system where all Frenchmen were subjected to the same law. This was important because during the Ancient regime the peasants used to suffer because of the unfair judicial system in which the nobles and clergy appeared to be above the law and on many occasions innocent Frenchmen would be arrested and imprisoned.

The charter also stated that every Frenchman had a right to participate in running the affairs of the government. Louis XVIII put this in practice by declaring that every Frenchman had a right to qualify for civil and military appointments. This was a good achievement on the part of Louis XVIII because he did not restore the old system of the Ancient regime where it was the clergy that dominated the civil service while the senior military officers were mainly from the nobility.

The charter condemned the arrest and imprisonment of people without trial. Louis XVI of the Ancient regime and his ministers used to issue warrants of arrest and imprisonment of

the arrested opponents of the regime. Louis XVIII did not want this to happen again and to show that he did not want to violate the charter he abolished arbitrary arrests and imprisonment of the Frenchmen.

Through the charter, Louis XVIII allowed freedom of worship. This shows that he had learnt some lessons from the French revolution of 1789. The revolution had abolished religious intolerance which was a practice of the Ancient regime whereby it was only the catholic faith which was allowed in France. Although the catholic faith remained the state religion, other religions were allowed in France by Louis XVIII.

Through the charter, Louis XVIII allowed freedom of expression or press. He abolished censorship of the press which Napoleon Bonaparte I had put in place. The newspapers and other publications operated freely in France. This was something that the 1814 constitutional charter had emphasized and therefore it was an important achievement by Louis XVIII.

Through the charter, Louis XVIII maintained the status of land ownership in France. All those people especially the former peasants who had obtained land from the church during the course of the French revolution were allowed to retain the land. He also allowed those who had purchased the land and property from the church and from the nobility to retain the land and other property and this was also provided for in the constitutional charter of 1814.

Besides the constitutional charter of 1814, Louis XVIII scored other achievements for France. For example, although he encouraged the members of the royal family, the clergy and nobles who had ran to exile during the course of the French revolution of 1789 to return to France, he did not restore their privileges that they had enjoyed during the Ancient regime like exemption from taxation and domination of government offices among others. Therefore, Louis XIII did not restore the social classes in France as they had been abolished by the French revolution of 1789.

He appointed moderate royalists as Chief Ministers like Richelieu who was the Chief or Prime Minister of France from 1815 - 1818. This Prime Minister aimed at maintaining all the liberties that were guaranteed in the constitutional charter of 1814. Louis XVIII and his Prime Minister tried to avoid revenge against those politicians that had carried out the 1789 French revolution which led to their overthrow. The King and the Prime Minister for example made sure that no investigations about the political actions before 1814 were carried out.

Louis XVIII and his Chief Minister persuaded the great powers to reduce the war indemnity or fine which had been imposed on France. This war indemnity or fine had been imposed on France following the return and overthrow of Napoleon I and this was in the Second Treaty of Paris of 1815. The war indemnity of 700 million Francs was reduced to two thirds and it was paid by the government of Louis XVIII.

The government of Louis XVIII also persuaded the Great powers to remove the army of occupation from France. This army had been put in Northern France to make sure that France fulfilled the provisions of the Second Treaty of Paris of 1815. For example, when France paid the war indemnity, the army of occupation was removed and this restored the independence and pride of France.

He also restored the influence of France in European affairs. Following the payment of the war indemnity and the subsequent removal of the foreign troops from France, the great powers at the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle of 1818 were forced to admit France into the alliance of the major four (Britain, Austria, Russia and Prussia) to form the Quintuple

The government of Louis XVIII re – organized the Frenchmen army. This army had fought the revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars and by 1814 many soldiers had been killed and the survivors had been demoralized. The government of Louis XVIII recruited more soldiers, trained them and they were equipped and they were also put under the command of Marshal Cyr. Therefore, France had a modern army.

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Peers. Similarly, the local government was centralized in the hands of the king as the case was during the days of Napoleon I. As a result, by 1819 the regime faced a lot of opposition from the liberals and republicans. The republicans led by Gregory felt the monarchy had failed and therefore should come to an end. In 1819, Gregory was elected to the parliament but Louis nullified or cancelled his election victory and therefore he was denied to take a seat in the parliament.

The regime of Louis XVIII provided for a narrow Franchise (electorate). For one to become an eligible candidate in an election, he had to be over forty years of age and to pay 1000 Francs per year in direct taxes. Voters were required to be over thirty years of age and to pay 300 Francs a year in direct taxes. The denial of the right to vote to the majority Frenchmen was so bad to the extent that out of the 29 million people by then, only 100,000 people qualified to vote. This was a violation to the Constitutional Charter of 1814.

THE MURDER OF DUC DE BERRI AND THE ERA OF REACTION

In 1820, liberalism in France suffered another setback. On 13th February 1820, *Duc de Berri*, a nephew of the king and apparent heir to the throne was assassinated or killed by *Louvel*, a Bornapartist fanatic who opposed the restoration of the Bourbon rule in France. This action was interpreted by the Ultra-royalists as an attempt to wipe out the Bourbon line. This murder forced Louis XVIII to shift from constitutional to dictatorial rule. In 1820, Richelieu, his Chief Minister issued a package of anti-liberal measures like detention of political suspects for up to three months without trial and revival of press censorship. Many officials opposed to the Bourbon monarchy were pushed into retirement. The Ultra-royalists now dominated the Chamber of Deputies. This was therefore a return to the Ancient Regime.

In 1822, Louis XVIII forced the moderate Chief Minister, Richelieu to resign and he replaced him with *Comte de Villele* because the Ultra royalists felt that the former was too slow and cautious in restoring the glory of the monarchy. *Villele* tightened the press laws further. For example, it was now a criminal offence to write any article which had the potential of provoking public disturbance.

Louis XVIII brought back the influence of the Catholic Church in the state affairs. The church for example, took over the control of University education. In 1822, he appointed a catholic Bishop Frayssinous as President of the University of Paris and he effectively became the government minister of education. This was opposed by the Frenchmen who had fought against the influence of the Catholic Church in the field of education and other affairs of the state.

The government of Louis XVIII went ahead to narrow the Franchise. The new electoral law gave a double vote (two votes) to those with large pieces of land and most of these were staunch supporters of the Bourbon monarchy like the Ultra-royalists. They therefore came to dominate the last phase of Louis XVIII's era of reaction and this created discontent among the peasants.

In 1824, after the establishment of these measures, elections to the chamber of Deputies were organized in which the number of liberal seats in parliament fell from 110 to 19 (out of 430 seats in total) i.e the liberal influence in the parliament greatly declined. In the same year (1824) a decree was passed which scrapped off interim elections and declared the current chamber in session for the next seven years (no more parliamentary elections for that period). These actions disassociated the monarchy from the French liberals and eventually prepared ground for the 1830 revolution in France.

In response to the above reactionary measures, secret opposition and underground movements were formed against the Bourbon monarchy and the desire for change became more pronounced, thus giving birth to the idea of another revolution. Luckily enough, the old King Louis XVIII died on 16th September 1824 before the revolution had matured.

CHARLES X, 1824 – 1830

Louis XVIII was succeeded by his brother Comte de Artois who continued with the Bourbon line. He was crowned as Charles X. He was a staunch catholic and strong advocate of absolute monarchism. He hated the French revolution of 1789 and went to exile because of it. Consequently, regime of Charles X was characterized by undoing what the French revolution had done, hence justifying the accusation against the Bourbon family that *“they had learnt nothing and forgot nothing from the French Revolution of 1789”*. Damages done to the church and landed aristocracy during the course of the revolution were repaired by Charles X. It is during this period that the monarchy assumed a more definable shape than under Louis XVIII. Within five years however, Charles X was overthrown because of such policies that were deemed unrealistic.

He was officially crowned on 29th May 1825 at Rheims Cathedral in accordance with old fashioned ceremonies. This reflected his strong attachment to the traditions of his ancestors with a strong belief in the divine right to kingship. Soon after the ceremonies, he visited hospitals claiming powers to heal patients with divine powers he had just received. This contrasted sharply with the new ideas of the French revolution of 1789.

He disregarded the Constitutional Charter of 1814 and ruled as he wished. He said *“I rather chop wood than becoming a king of the English type”*. The English King ruled constitutionally which Charles refused to do implying that he had learnt nothing and forgot nothing. Although he took an oath to defend the Charter, he prostrated himself before an arch-bishop who had earlier used the same occasion to condemn the same i.e. he was not committed to rule by the constitutional charter promulgated or set up in 1814. This greatly disappointed the revolutionaries who therefore planned another revolution.

Charles X revived the rule of the Nobility and Clergy or he brought back the traditional social class system by restoring the ancient privileges. In 1825, he compensated all those people who had lost their property during the revolution (former émigrés). One thousand million francs were allocated to this exercise though only about 630 million Francs were paid out. The fact that the émigrés were compensated with public money annoyed many Frenchmen. The money was raised by lowering the interest rates on government bonds, thus disappointing the middleclass businessmen who held such securities.

The influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the political affairs of France was strengthened by Charles X. Charles X was strongly determined to base his governance on a strong relationship between the church and the state (crown). In 1826, the law of sacrilege (the theft or vandalism of sacred objects used in church services) was passed. Such acts were made punishable by life imprisonment and in some cases death. This was intended to safeguard the position of the church. Charles X made it clear that the church was untouchable and could expect the full protection of the state against those who opposed its role and influence in France. This is what the Frenchmen had done away with from 1789. It therefore prepared ground for the 1830 July revolution in France.

In 1827, Charles x disbanded the National Guard or the national army of France. This army still had soldiers that had fought in the French revolution against the Bourbon rule and others were a creation of Napoleon I. This is because when he assembled the soldiers for supervision, a minority echoed opposition statements against government. The Bonapartists and liberals expected this army to protect the 1814 constitutional charter and

other revolutionary gains. The dissolution of the army therefore hurt many in France and no doubt caused the downfall of the restored Bourbons in France.

Charles X also abolished the revolutionary Tri-color flag of Red, white and blue colors. This flag had been adopted during the course of the French revolution of 1789 and therefore it was one of the revolutionary gains to the Frenchmen. However, Charles X abolished it and instead reintroduced the “White color” or Bourbon flag which was greatly opposed by the Liberals, Republicans and Bonapartists.

Charles X adopted conservative or harsh means of dealing with the opposition. This repression was adopted in 1827 which caused more discontent. For example, he rigidly censored the press and therefore newspapers and other publications in France were not allowed to operate freely without the strict approval of the government of Charles X. This was greatly opposed by the liberals.

Realising that he was losing grip on his throne, Charles X dissolved the chamber of deputies which was full of opposition and he organized fresh elections. Unfortunately however, the liberals swept the polls in November 1827 despite a sharply limited Franchise (the liberals won 180 seats). The results of the elections alarmed Villele who therefore resigned. Villele was replaced by a moderate –royalist known as Martignac as the Chief Minister for the next two years (1828 – 1829). When Martignac failed to control the situation, he was also dropped in 1829.

In 1829, King Charles X blundered further when he appointed as his chief minister, the notorious ultra-prince-*Jules de Polignac*, a former émigré and the King’s personal advisor and together with Charles X, the two made a terrible combination for France. Polignac was opposed to constitutional governance and thus he refused to swear the oath to the Charter. He was arrogant, too conservative and insensitive to the interests of the ordinary people. He was hated by almost the whole of France. His appointment therefore increased discontent in France against the Bourbon Monarchy which gave chance to the opposition to prepare the 1830 revolution.

During the same period, France was hit hard by an economic recession which affected the peasants mainly. The recession led to many social and problems and the government failed to handle these problems. The depression characterized by poor harvests and food shortages leading to increase in the prices of food. For example, in Eastern France between 1826 and 1830, wheat prices rose by 66%. Other problems included poor housing, taxation as well as high unemployment especially in industrial towns. Such economic problems added to the political grievances made a revolution inevitable in France by 1830 as the masses rose up to overthrow the Bourbon Monarchy which they accused of failing to neutralize the effects of the depression.

In March 1830 Charles X’s regime suffered another serious blow from the opposition. By a majority of 221 to 181, the Chamber of Deputies insisted that the only legitimate government was that endorsed by the majority in Parliament. This implied that people had got tired of monarchical rule and therefore they wanted the voice of the majority to prevail. In response to the above, Polignac dissolved the Chamber of Deputies and fresh elections were held in May 1830. The King’s supporters secured 143 seats while the number of the opposition deputies went up to 274.

THE ORDINANCES OF ST. CLOUD

Finally Charles blundered by issuing the ORDINANCES of ST. CLOUD. On 25th July 1830, Charles X issued four ordinances (decrees) known as ordinances of St. Cloud. By these ordinances, Charles X suspended the freedom of the press, dissolved the newly

elected Chamber of Deputies, reduced the life of the legislature from seven years to five years and ordered for new elections under a restricted franchise i.e. the electorate was reduced from 100,000 to 25,000 voters. In the political atmosphere of 1830, the ordinances were meant to silence growing opposition but they instead fueled it. As a result, they sparked off the 1830 July revolution that forced Charles X out power.

THE JULY REVOLUTION OF 1830

Two days after the issuing of the ordinances, people were up in arms in the streets of Paris. Rioters organized by the middle and working classes together with the Republicans and journalists under the leadership of Lafayette and Adolph Thiers who were opposed to press censorship took to the streets. They were joined by the disbanded National Guard still in possession of their arms and on 27th July 1830, the capital was under rebel control. Charles X realizing the need for action offered to withdraw the ordinances and to dismiss Polignac. These concessions were unsatisfactory. Charles X was forced to abdicate in favour of his grandson the *Duc-de Bordeaux* (Comte de Chambord). Charles X and his family fled to England and Polignac was arrested. Charles' grandson was ignored and nine days later, a new King known as Louis Philippe was proclaimed King of France.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHARLES X

Despite his many mistakes, Charles X deserves credit in the few areas that he handled relatively better. In the first case, he respected a little the work of the French revolution of 1789. For example, the peasants' land acquired during the revolution was not confiscated, parliamentary rule established by the 1789 French revolution was not eroded during Charles X's reign. Elections were held during his regime in 1827 and 1829 for parliamentary deputies.

He also promoted the French glory or prestige abroad by pursuing a vigorous foreign policy. For example, in 1830 before his overthrow Algeria was conquered by France. In addition, France joined hands with the British who helped the Greeks against the Turks. When the Turkish fleet was destroyed in the Battle of Navarino in 1827, the French fleet also took part in it. Eventually this led to the independence of Greece. These achievements however are far less than the many mistakes of Charles X's government and this therefore explains the outbreak of the July Revolution 1830.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the Bourbons fail to restore the glory of the ancient monarchy? 2. Why the regime of Charles X so short was lived? 3. What were the causes of the 1830 July Revolution? 4. "The Bourbons learnt nothing and |

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| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | | <p>forgot nothing from the French revolution of 1789". Discuss.</p> <p>5. Examine the achievements of Louis XVIII in the period 1814 –1824.</p> |
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| <div> <p>Key vocabulary</p> </div> <div> <p>Reference Books</p> </div> | <div> <p>REASONS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE RESTORED BOURBON MONARCHY IN FRANCE BY 1830</p> </div> <div> <p>Account for the collapse or the restored Bourbon Monarchy in 1830</p> </div> <div> <p>The limited franchise established by Louis XVIII contributed to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy. According to of 1814 constitutional charter, the majority of the people of France especially the peasants were denied a right to vote or to be voted. For example, for one to vote or qualify to be voted he or she had to pay 300 Francs in form of taxes and 1000 Francs were to be paid by one who was to stand as a member of the Chambers of Deputies. This denied of the people of France a right to vote and therefore contributed to the downfall of the Bourbon Monarchy.</p> </div> <div> <p>The activities of the Ultra-Royalists also contributed to the downfall of the Bourbon Monarchy. These were the former émigrés who returned to France after the defeat of Napoleon I in 1815 and they wanted France to return to the pre-1789 period. They carried out policies of revenge against the supporters of French Revolution of 1789 and Napoleon I. This led to the period of “White Terror” of 1816 during which many French men lost their lives especially the Bonapartists, hence making the restored Bourbon Monarchy unpopular.</p> </div> <div> <p>The rise of liberalism in France led to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy. The Bourbon Monarchy failed to accommodate the forces of liberalism and democracy by refusing to grant constitutional liberty to the people of France especially Charles X who abolished the 1814 Constitutional Charter. This forced the liberals to decampaign the Bourbon Monarchy, thus leading to the collapse of restored the Bourbons</p> </div> <div> <p>The people of France would not wish the Bourbon Monarchy to become their leaders once again because the Bourbon Monarchy before 1789 emphasized social divisions, feudalism or despotism, corruption etc. This meant that the Bourbon rulers in 1814 were just imposed on the French masses and therefore they had to oppose them.</p> </div> |
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The restored Bourbons like Charles X ignored the conditions of the workers and did nothing to improve on their living and working conditions. This led to rise of **socialism** as the workers started advocating for state ownership of property and promotion of their rights. This increased opposition against the Bourbon Monarchy which eventually led to its collapse in 1830.

The presence of different political parties in France with different interests also led to the collapse of the Bourbon Monarchy in 1830. In France, there were different political groups like the **Republicans** who wanted a republican government, the **Bonapartists** who wanted to revive the French glory, the **Liberals** who believed in liberalism and **Legitimates** who believed in the old order. Therefore, the Bourbon Monarchy could not meet all the

demands of these political groups which created opposition against it.

The dictatorship and despotism of the restored Bourbon kings contributed to their collapse in 1830. For example, Charles X did not believe in constitutional kingship i.e. he wanted to be above the law and not controlled by it. It is this kind of dictatorship that made his government unpopular, thus leading to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy in 1830.

The policy of compensating the émigrés for the losses incurred during the French Revolution of 1789 led to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy. Charles X paid the Ultra-royalists **40 million Francs** as compensation for the losses and he got the money through overtaxing the peasants and middle class which made the restored Bourbon ruler unpopular and therefore contributed to its downfall.

The restoration of the influence of the Catholic Church in the state affairs also led to the downfall of the Bourbon Monarchy. For example, the church controlled education and charged taxes from the people, religious sins were equated to crime and breaking church laws would lead to a death penalty which made the restored Bourbons unpopular and therefore led to its downfall by 1830.

The dismissal of the moderate government officials like **Martignac** as a Chief Minister who believed in reconciliation and the appointment of **Polignac** who was conservative led to the collapse of the Bourbon Monarchy. Polignac believed in the old order and he therefore revived it which annoyed the Frenchmen and thus led to the collapse of the Bourbon Monarchy by 1830.

The nullification or cancellation of the elections of 1830 also led to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy. For example, in these elections the Ultra-Royalists lost and Charles X nullified or cancelled the results and reduced the **Franchise** of the people in the Ordinances of St. Cloud of July, an action which sparked off the 1830 French revolution.

The role played by intellectuals also led to the downfall of the Bourbon Monarchy. The intellectuals wrote newspapers and magazines which inspired the masses to stage a revolution in 1830. For example, strong Journalists like **Adolf Thiers** did a remarkable work by mobilizing the masses to overthrow the Bourbon Monarchy in 1830.

The impact of the 1789 French revolution and Napoleon I led to the collapse of the restored Bourbon Monarchy. The revolution introduced the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity and brought about a new order in France which was free from social stratification and despotism. However, the restored Bourbons forgot the mistakes committed by the Ancient Kings and brought back fully the period before 1789 especially Charles X. As a result of the influence of the revolutionary ideas, there was the 1830 French revolution which overthrew the Bourbon Monarchy.

The influence of Britain also led to the collapse of the restored Bourbon rulers in 1830. Britain sympathized with liberal institutions since she was a liberal country. This encouraged the liberals in France to stage a revolution against the restored Bourbons in 1830 which eventually contributed to their collapse.

The weakness and later collapse of the Congress System also contributed to the collapse of the restored Bourbons in 1830. One of the objectives behind the formation of the Congress System was to protect the restored legitimate rulers in Europe from being overthrown by revolutions. Indeed, during its existence the Congress System saved a number of rulers from being overthrown like Ferdinand I and Ferdinand VII of Naples and Spain respectively. Therefore, had the Congress System been in existence by 1830, it is unlikely

that Charles X would have been overthrown by the revolutionaries.

EFFECTS OF THE 1830 REVOLUTION IN FRANCE

It led to the abdication or resignation of Charles X in July 1830 because he tried to suppress the revolution and he failed. Charles X fled from France and went to England, thus marking the end of the restored Bourbon Monarchy in France.

It led to the rise of the Monarchy to power in 1830. The Bourbon Monarchy was replaced by the Orleans Monarchy under Louis Philippe whose government lasted up to 1848 when it was also overthrown in a revolution.

It led to the establishment of the revised 1830 Constitutional Charter. By this new constitution, the number of voters was increased by reducing on the age and tax qualifications from 300 to 200 Francs. As a result, the number of voters increased from 100,000 to 200,000 people.

Freedom of worship was also re-introduced by this new constitution of 1830. The Roman Catholic Church was recognized as the state religion but other religions were also allowed to operate in France.

Even censorship of press was abolished and cases involving the press were to be handled carefully by the government.

Also, according to the 1830 constitution cabinet ministers were to be nominated by the king with the recommendation of the parliament and this was done to reduce corruption from the National Assembly.

The control of education by the church was also abolished and there was establishment of government aided schools. This therefore led to the improvement in education system of France.

The Orleans Monarchy under Louis Philippe undertook reforms in the industrial sector of France by setting up many industries. In addition, infrastructural development like railway construction was undertaken which led to the economic recovery of France.

The Ordinances of St. Cloud introduced by Charles X were abolished in 1830. For example, there was no more state of emergency and therefore absolutism was abolished.

There was loss of lives and destruction of property during the course of the revolution.

The success of this revolution encouraged the outbreak of other 1830 revolutions in European countries like Belgium, Poland, as well as the Italian and German states.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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The political discrimination of the Belgians caused the revolution. The Dutch monopolized all the official positions in the government like the army, the civil service and the diplomatic mission or department. For example, out of the seven cabinet ministers, six were Dutch and only one was a Belgian. Also, thirty out of the thirty-nine ambassadors were Dutch and all the Generals in the army of the Kingdom were Dutch. Therefore, this favouritism by King William I annoyed the Belgians, hence inspiring them to rise in 1830 as they demanded for equality in the political affairs.

The conflict over the education control caused the Belgian revolution of 1830. The Belgians favoured the control of education by the Catholic Church but in the union with Dutch, King William I put education under the control of the protestant Church. Therefore, the dominance of the education system by the Dutch annoyed the Belgians and hence they revolted against the Dutch in 1830.

The unfair or unequal representation in the parliament caused the Belgian revolution of 1830. In the United Kingdom of the Belgians and the Dutch, there were three million Belgians and two million Dutch. What caused discontent was that the Belgians were given equal representation with the Dutch in the parliament which was found at Hague in Holland yet the Belgians were the majority. They therefore regarded this as unfair representation, thus inspiring them to rise up against their masters in 1830.

The unfair taxation system practiced by the Dutch over the Belgians also caused the Belgian revolt of 1830. Bread was the staple food for the Belgians while the Dutch had Irish potatoes as their staple food. However, King William I imposed high taxes on bread thus making the Belgian food very expensive. On the other hand, the taxes on the Dutch food were lowered. Consequently, the Belgians were discontented because of the high food prices and the high cost of living while the Dutch enjoyed cheap food. This therefore led to the outbreak of the Belgian revolution of 1830.

The economic differences between the Belgians and the Dutch led to the outbreak of the 1830 Belgian revolt. The Belgians had developed because of **industrialization** while the Dutch were **farmers and traders** and were therefore less developed compared to the Belgians. What caused conflict between the Belgians and the Dutch was that King William I favoured an economic policy of **free trade** while the Belgians wanted **protectionism**. The Belgians feared the loss of markets for their manufactured goods due to competition with the cheap foreign products that were not subjected to taxation and therefore they decided to revolt in 1830.

The other economic cause of the Belgian revolution of 1830 originated from the conflict over the **national debt** of the Dutch. Before the union, the Dutch had accumulated a very big national debt. What caused conflicts was that King William I forced the Belgians to contribute to the repayment of this debt which would have been a responsibility of the Dutch alone. The Belgians saw no reason for paying the debt from which they had not benefited and this discontent therefore made them to revolt in 1830.

The difference in language was another factor that caused the Belgian revolution of 1830. King William I declared the Dutch language as the official language for the union of the two countries yet the Belgians used French as their official language. Consequently, the Belgians were stopped from using their mother language. The Belgians considered this as a policy of undermining their culture which generated a conflict revolution of 1830.

The influence of French revolution of 1789 also contributed to the outbreak of the Belgian revolution of 1830. Out of the French revolution of 1789, the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity were born. In addition, the Frenchmen had managed to overthrow an oppressive Ancient regime. In the union, the Dutch used to violate the liberty the Belgians had

enjoyed since they were liberated by France (Napoleon I) from the Austrian rule. The example of the French revolution of 1789 therefore encouraged the Belgians to revolt against oppression by the Dutch.

The demand for liberalism contributed to the Belgian revolution of 1830. The government of King William I for example put in place discriminative laws that censored the Belgian press or newspapers. The liberal journalists therefore opposed the censorship laws because while the Belgian newspapers were censored, those of the Dutch were not. This caused a conflict between the Dutch and Belgians which caused the 1830 Belgian revolution.

The Collapse of the Congress System also led to the outbreak of the 1830 Belgian revolution. This was because it weakened the **“Metternich System”** that had been used to suppress the forces of liberalism and nationalism in Europe. Its collapse also meant that the European Powers could no longer unite to suppress revolutions in Europe and this therefore explains the outbreak of the 1830 Belgian revolution.

The July revolution of 1830 in France also contributed to the outbreak of the 1830 Belgian revolution. In 1830, the French staged a revolution against King Charles X who had succeeded Louis XVIII in 1824. Among other things, they accused Charles X of being autocratic. The news of the overthrow of Charles X reached Brussels which was the capital of Belgium and this encouraged the Belgians to stage a revolution against the Dutch control.

THE COURSE OF THE BELGIAN REVOLUTION OF 1830

On **6th August 1830**, the Belgians revolted against the Dutch and the revolution started in Brussels which was the capital of Belgium. In September 1830, Brussels came under the Belgian control.

On **4th October 1830**, the independence of Belgium was proclaimed or declared. In **November 1830**, a new constitution was formed in which a monarchy was established and there was to be a parliament, freedom of speech and press among other fundamental liberties. This constitutional arrangement made the Belgians happy, hence encouraging them to fight harder to complete independence from the Dutch.

However, in 1831 the Dutch King made an attack on Belgium but the French and British forces helped the Belgians to defeat the Dutch. This factor helped the Belgians to consolidate or strengthen their independence.

As the revolution progressed, King William made an appeal to the Great Powers for help so as to regain Belgium. However, the signatories of Vienna settlement of 1815 refused to accept this request. This was because countries like Austria and France feared to annoy Britain if they supported the Dutch to protect the Vienna settlement. This factor further facilitated the success of the Belgians in their struggle against the Dutch.

Britain then authorized the King Louis Philippe of France to intervene and protect Belgium from any further invasion by the Dutch. In 1838, King William of Holland was persuaded to accept Belgium's independence and Britain pushed for this independence to protect her economic interests in Belgium from the French interference.

Finally, in 1839 the British Foreign Secretary known as **Palmerstone** persuaded Russia, Austria and Prussia to join Britain and France to guarantee the independence and neutrality of Belgium. This was done in the **London Conference of 1839** by the above great powers. Therefore, in 1839 a new state of Belgium emerged on the political map of Europe under the guardianship or protection of Britain.

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Reference Books

The outbreak of other revolutions in Europe also contributed to the success of the Belgian revolution. Different parts of Europe experienced disturbances like the 1830 revolutions in France, Poland, Italy and Germany. These revolutions diverted the attention of the European powers that would have assisted the Dutch. For example, major powers like Austria and Russia were pre-occupied with the 1830 revolutions in their territories of Poland and Italy respectively.

The constitutional arrangements made by the Belgian National Assembly or Parliament in **November 1830** made the Belgians to succeed. In this new constitution, the Belgians agreed to put in place political tolerance where the rights of man like freedom of speech and press among others were granted. This increased the Belgian determination to fight and achieve their independence by 1839.

The military superiority of the Belgians over their Dutch masters led to the success of the Belgian revolution. The Belgians had a bigger army, well-motivated, better armed and more determined to fight than the Dutch troops. This explains why the Belgians were able to repulse the Dutch invasion and remain free.

The strength of the Belgian economy also contributed to the success of the revolution. Belgium was an industrialized nation with a strong economy unlike Holland whose economy was based on agriculture. This strong economy enabled Belgium to train, arm, maintain and motivate a big army that defeated the Dutch by 1839.

The failure of the Great powers to assist the Dutch also led to the success of the Belgian revolution. During the course of the revolution, King William of Holland appealed to the Great Powers for help so as to regain Belgium. However, the signatories of Vienna settlement of 1815 refused to accept this request. This was because countries like Austria and Prussia feared to annoy Britain if they supported the Dutch to protect the Vienna since Britain was pursuing the policy non-interference. As already noted, other powers like France and Russia were also struggling with the 1830 revolutions back home and therefore there was no way they could support the Dutch against the Belgians.

The absence of Metternich's influence in Belgium also led to the success of the revolution. Metternich did not have direct control over Belgium unlike the Italian and German states since Belgium was not part of the Hapsburg Empire which he governed. Metternich had succeeded elsewhere in the German and Italian states as well as Austria in suppressing the forces of liberalism and nationalism but in Belgium he did not. More ever, the Metternich system was strong opposed by Britain.

The success of 1830 revolution in France also led to the success of the Belgian revolution. In **July 1830**, Frenchmen had succeeded against Charles X which inspired of Belgians to also work hard and defeat the Dutch by 1839.

The diplomacy of Palmerstone also favoured Belgium's independence. He was the Foreign Minister of Britain or the United Kingdom. He persuaded other European powers to join Britain and sign the London Treaty of 1839 which established the neutrality and

independence of Belgium.

The determination of the Belgians contributed to the success of the revolution. The Belgians were so determined to bring to an end the union and exploitation of the Dutch. The Belgians were struggling against the 1815 Vienna settlement that had imposed Dutch control on to them. Even after 1830, the Dutch displayed ruthlessness when they invaded Belgium in 1831 and they caused unjustifiable destructions and killings on to the Belgium. All this made the Belgians determined to liberate themselves from their Dutch masters.

The big size of the Belgian population led to the success of the evolution. The Belgians were three and half million people as opposed to the two million Dutch. This therefore meant that the Belgians were able to mobilize more financial resources and men than the Dutch which eventually contributed to the success of the revolution by 1839.

The role of Britain contributed to the success of the Belgian revolution. The government in Britain was sympathetic to the Belgian cause and never wished to see any intervention which was bound to jeopardize the British commercial and strategic interests in Belgium. This explains why the Belgian revolution succeeded by 1839.

The massive support to the revolution contributed to its success. The 1830 revolution in Belgium was a massive movement that included the middle class members (intellectuals), traders, peasants, clergy and soldiers among others. There were no traitors and therefore everyone was ready to fight for freedom and independence. This explains why the Great Powers like Britain and France instead of suppressing the movement just helped the Belgians to succeed in setting up an independent and neutral state by 1839.

The London Conference of 1839 contributed to the success of the Belgian revolution. This conference gave birth to the London treaty of 1839 which decreed the independence and neutrality of Belgium and this was reorganized by the great powers as well as Holland. Besides, the conference clearly defined the boundaries of Belgium and her neighbors line Holland. All these made the Belgian revolution on international issue, thus leading to its success.

THE IMPACT OF THE BELGIAN REVOLUTION OF 1830

Belgium was saved from foreign rule and therefore she became independent. Out of the 1830 Belgian revolution, an independent state known as Belgium emerged on the political map of Europe.

Independent Belgium came to enjoy the constitutional liberties that had partly inspired them to rise up against the Dutch in 1830. For example, freedom of worship and press were established. This explains why Belgium survived the 1848 revolutions that broke out throughout Europe.

The Belgian revolution further inspired **liberalism** in Europe thus leading to the outbreak of liberal revolutions. For example, the 1830 revolutions in Italy and Poland broke out partly because of the demand for liberalism. In 1830, there was also a liberal revolution in Spain. The revolution in Belgium also contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in European countries like Austria, France and the German states. This was because the demand for liberalism had partly led to the successful Belgian revolution of 1830.

The Belgian revolution and the subsequent independence of Belgium changed the work of Vienna settlement of 1815. Belgium and Holland were united at Vienna so as to create a strong state that would guard against the French aggression in the North East. However, this situation was no more as the Belgians had got their independence.

The Belgian revolution of 1830 contributed to the collapse of the congress system. One of the objectives of the congress system was to protect the Vienna settlement of 1815 and to promote international co-operation for the purpose of maintaining peace in Europe. However, when the Belgian revolution broke out in 1830, Britain and France who were members of the congress system supported the Belgians up to when they attained independence. Therefore, they did not live up to the objective of protecting the Vienna settlement as desired by the other powers like Austria, Prussia and Russia. This therefore weakened the congress system, thus leading to its collapse.

The Belgian independence and neutrality caused World War I of 1914 to 1918. Following the 1830 revolution, Belgium became an independent and neutral country and the protection of this country was given to Britain. However, in 1914 Germany wanted to invade France from the north using Belgium as a short cut. Britain reminded the Germans that Belgium was an independent and neutral country and therefore they were not to use Belgium to attack France. When the Germans refused to respect this independence and neutrality of Belgium, war broke out between Germany and Britain in 1914.

The Belgian revolution and independence exposed the weakness of the conservative aristocrats in Europe like Prince Metternich of Austria. Metternich had already convinced the monarchs (kings) of Europe to crush all the revolutions and to regard all the changes brought about by revolutions as illegal. However, there was a successful Belgian revolution which Metternich failed to defeat. This there inspired the outbreak of other revolutions in Europe, hoping for the same success.

The revolution and independence of Belgium restored international diplomacy in Europe which had collapsed by 1830. This was illustrated by the holding the London conference of 1839 where Russia, Britain, France and Austria declared the independence and neutrality of Belgium.

The independence of Belgium out of the 1830 revolution contributed to the unpopularity and downfall of King Louis Philippe of France. When the Belgians got their independence, they offered the throne to the son of Louis Philippe. This was opposed by Britain and therefore Louis Philippe withdrew his son for peace with Britain and the throne went to Leopold who was an uncle to Queen Victoria of Britain. However, those Frenchmen who wanted to revive or restore the glory or fame of France blamed Louis Philippe for being a weak king. This eventually led to his downfall in 1848.

The Belgian revolution of 1830 created a marriage alliance between France and Belgium. The French supported the Belgian independence and this created links or relations with the Belgian throne. This later resulted into the marriage alliance of the daughter of Louis Philippe to king Leopold of Belgium.

The revolution created a closer link between Belgium and Britain. When the revolution broke out in 1830, Britain gave total support to the Belgians. It was also Britain through her foreign secretary Palmerstone that called the London conference of 1839 that declared Belgium an independent and neutral state. Above all, Britain took over the protection of Belgium since the throne had been offered to Leopold an uncle to queen Victoria of Britain. This therefore increased the British influence in European affairs particularly Belgium.

After the success of the revolution, the boundary problems between Belgium and Holland were solved once and for all. For example, Belgium was not to include the territory of Luxembourg in its boundaries.

When the Belgians got their independence, they put up an economic system of

protectionism to safeguard their manufactured goods from foreign competition. This affected the economies of very many European countries especially those whose products used to find markets in Belgium.

The Belgian revolution of 1830 also contributed to the destruction of property as well as loss of lives on both sides. For example, industries were destroyed in Belgium during the heavy fighting.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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changing hands from one power to another. During Napoleon I's rule, their hope for independence and democracy became frustrated when Napoleon combined the Polish territories to create the **Grand Duchy of Warsaw**. The Vienna Settlement of 1815 restored the old kingdom of Poland but under Russian control, thus injuring the Polish national pride and aspirations. Thus, the 1830 revolution was intended to liberate their country from foreign rule.

The Poles considered themselves to be of a superior race to that of the Russians. The Poles were proud of their culture and catholic religion. Hence, they had to fight the Russian rule which they regarded as a great insult.

The unsatisfactory Russian administration inspired the Poles to stage a revolution in 1830. The liberal concessions granted by the Russians like the recognition of their freedom of the press and the Polish national language were considered too inadequate by the Poles. The Poles were politically restricted especially after the death of Tsar Alexander I in 1825 in Russia. Therefore, freedom of the press was suppressed and representative assemblies and a constitution lost their meaning. Such conditions eventually led to the outbreak of the revolution.

The rise of Tsar Nicholas I to power in 1825 caused the 1830 Polish revolution. He took over power following the death of Tsar Alexander I in 1825. Nicholas I violated people's liberties. For example, he killed many people who had participated in the conspiracy that had led to the death of his father. Nicholas I also proposed to use the Polish army to crush the 1830 rebellions in France and Belgium. This annoyed the Polish army which therefore decided to rebel in 1830, thus sparking off a revolution.

THE POLISH REVOLUTION OF 1830

By the Vienna settlement of 1815, Russia annexed part of Poland, hence leading to the loss of independence by the Poles. As a result, the Polish nationalists led by a secret society and university students staged a nationalistic revolution in 1830 demanding for independence from Russia. The revolution was staged in **Warsaw** which was the capital of Poland. The revolutionaries were supported by similar revolts in other towns of Poland.

CAUSES

The demand for national independence caused the Polish revolution of 1830. Since 1772, Poland had been a subject state changing hands from one power to another. During Napoleon I's rule, their hope for independence and democracy became frustrated when Napoleon combined the Polish territories to create the **Grand Duchy of Warsaw**. The Vienna Settlement of 1815 restored the old kingdom of Poland but under Russian control, thus injuring the Polish national pride and aspirations. Thus, the 1830 revolution was intended to liberate their country from foreign rule.

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The success of the 1830 revolutions in France and Belgium contributed to the outbreak of the 1830 Polish revolution. The success of the above two revolutions encouraged the Poles to rise up against their Russian masters as they hoped for the same success.

The French revolution of 1789 also caused the Polish revolution of 1830. This revolution introduced the ideas of liberty and democracy which led to the growth of liberalism that had an impact on the Poles. These ideas appealed to all the oppressed people of Europe and no doubt they were responsible for the outbreak of the 1830 Polish revolution.

The Vienna settlement of 1815 contributed to the outbreak of the 1830 Polish revolution. By the Vienna settlement, Poland was denied independence since she was placed under the Russian control. This inspired the Poles to stage a revolution in 1830 so as to end this Russian imperialism that the Vienna Settlement had imposed over them by the Vienna settlement.

THE COURSE OF THE POLISH REVOLUTION OF 1830

When the revolution broke out in 1830, Tsar Nicholas I of Russia was not willing to be intimidated by the revolutionaries and therefore he refused to negotiate with them. He instead sent a large Russian army to Poland to crush the revolution.

The Russian army using extreme brutality was able to put down the Polish revolution. Thousands of suspected revolutionaries were rounded up (arrested), imprisoned, others killed and survivors fled to exile.

In an attempt to weaken the Poles further, Tsar Nicholas I took measures to stamp out all the Polish traditions and customs which he regarded as factors of unity and which encouraged Polish nationalism. Warsaw which was the center of the opposition and the Polish cultural life was reduced to a military town where Tsar Nicholas I stationed thousands of Russian troops. He also closed all the universities. This move scared the Polish liberals, intellectuals and nationalists and therefore, the Polish revolution of 1830 proved abortive or it failed.

REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF THE POLISH REVOLUTION OF 1830

The lack of massive support led to the failure of the revolution. The revolt was not widely supported because the rebel grievances were isolated and could easily be ignored. Russian rule in Poland had been efficiently accommodative and tolerant. Tsar Alexander I had tried to develop the Polish economy through protectionism. As a result, the revolution appealed to a small section of the Polish society and that is why it was easily suppressed.

The lack of unity led to the failure of the Polish revolution. The revolutionaries suffered divisions within their ranks. The moderates of Poland thought of reclaiming the Eastern province that Russia had taken in 1781 while the radicals talked of national independence. Such division deprived the revolution of its success.

The outbreak of epidemic diseases led to the failure of the 1830 Polish revolution. For example, during the course of the revolution, there was an outbreak of cholera which hit the revolutionaries. This disease was so disastrous to the Poles although it affected both armies. The Russians therefore easily captured Warsaw which was the capital of Poland in October 1831 and the revolutionaries just surrendered.

The Poles lacked foreign military assistance which also led to the failure of the 1830 Polish revolution. This was because nationalists and revolutionaries elsewhere in Europe were also busy occupied with their own revolutions. Therefore, without external help the Poles did not effectively manage the Russian army. For example, France which was the mother of all revolutions in Europe was busy attending to her domestic problems by 1830.

The Poles were militarily inferior and ill-equipped as compared to the well-equipped superior Russian army. This therefore contributed to their defeat by the Russian army.

Economic backwardness contributed to the failure of the 1830 revolution in Poland. The Polish revolutionaries were also financially handicapped and therefore they could not sustain a spirited resistance against the Russians for long. As a result, Russia got the chance to economically inferior Polish nationalists.

THE 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN THE ITALIAN STATES

In 1830, there were nationalistic and liberal revolutions in the Italian states of Parma, Modena, Tuscany and Naples. Revolutions were also staged in the Papal states of Umbria, Romagna, and Marche. These states were under the direct political and religious control of the Pope. The nationalists in Italy wanted independence while the liberals demanded for constitutions which would give them freedom of press, speech and association among others. The nationalists in Italy wanted an end to the Austrian control in Northern Italy and the control of Naples by King Ferdinand I who was restored by the Vienna Settlement of 1815.

CAUSES OF THE 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN THE ITALIAN STATES

The mistakes of the 1815 Vienna settlement caused the 1830 revolutions in the Italian states. For example, the settlement imposed direct Austrian rule or imperialism over the Italian states of Lombardy and Venetia. The Central Duchies of Modena, Parma and Tuscany were also put under Austrian rulers while in Naples and Sicily as well as the Papal states, the Austrian influence was greatly felt. It was only Piedmont-Sardinia that was under a true Italian leader known as King Victor Emmanuel I. therefore, the Italians rose up so as to overthrow this Austrian foreign domination and get their independence.

The desire for liberal institutions among the Italian states caused the 1830 revolutions. By 1830, the Italians were under the autocratic restored rulers who denied the Italians the right to constitutional and parliamentary rule. This therefore influenced the Italians to stage revolutions in 1830.

The oppressive Metternich system also caused the 1830 Italian revolutions. This was the case with the revolts in states like Lombardy and Venetia.

The success of the French revolutions of 1789 and 1830 also led to the outbreak of the 1830 Italian revolutions. These revolutions provide an example which was picked up by

the Italians. These revolutions also gave birth to nationalism and liberalism in Europe which were particularly responsible for the outbreak of the 1830 revolts in Italy.

The “Napoleonic influence” in Italy caused the 1830 revolutions. When Napoleon I conquered the Italian states from Austria during the 1796-1797 Italian Campaign, he introduced reforms in Italy like the freedom of worship and press. This undoubtedly prepared the people of Italy for revolts especially when such gains were eroded by the restored kings in the Italian states.

The influence of the earlier revolutions in the Italian states also caused the 1830 revolutions. For example, in 1820-1821 there had been revolutions in the Italian states of Sicily, Naples and Piedmont which were crushed by Prince Metternich of Austria. These revolutions gave rise to the 1830 revolts in the Italian states because the demands of the revolutionaries were not fulfilled in 1830.

The formation of secret societies in the Italian states also caused the 1830 revolutions. A number of underground societies were formed by the Italian patriots to advance the liberal and nationalistic aspirations of the Italians. These secret societies therefore spread revolutionary propaganda against the restored kings and Austrian rule in Italy, thus calling for an end to foreign and dictatorial rule. This therefore inspired the Italians to rise up in 1830. The most important was the ***Carbonari Society*** which had its headquarters in Naples.

THE COURSE OF THE ITALIAN REVOLUTIONS OF 1830

When the revolutions broke out in the various Italian states, Austria under Prince Metternich was not willing to see changes brought by these revolutions. Therefore, within a few days Metternich’s troops that were in Italy managed to defeat the revolutionaries and the old status was restored. Arrests, imprisonment and killing of the revolutionaries were carried out by the Austrian troops. Queen Marie Louise of Parma who had been driven out of power was also restored. Therefore, the revolutions in Italy of 1830 also proved abortive or failed.

THE 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN THE GERMAN STATES

In 1830, there were revolutions in the German states of **Saxony** and **Brunswick**. The Germans were demanding for independence from Austria and at the same time wanted a liberal constitution to safeguard them against autocratic rule. However, as long as a Prince Metternich was in control of the German Confederation or states, his spying system and the army made it very difficult for the revolutionaries to stage a successful revolution and therefore the 1830 revolutions in German states also failed.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher’s explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| <p>Reference Books</p> | <p>shared a common history, language and culture but were under foreign rule revolted in order to attain independence and unification. In Italy for example, revolutions broke out against the Austrian control. In the kingdom of Netherlands, the Belgians revolted against the Dutch while in Poland, a revolution was staged against the Russian control.</p> <p>The desire to end unjust or bad governments in European countries caused the 1830 revolutions in Europe. In the United kingdom of Netherlands, France, Naples and Poland there was widespread censorship of the press by the ruling governments. The Dutch imposed unfair taxation over the Belgians and also substituted their language with that of the Dutch as the official language. In general, therefore, revolutions broke out in order to overthrow the bad government in the respective countries.</p> <p>The economic hardships in some of the European countries led to the 1830 revolutions. In the Kingdom of Netherlands for example, the Dutch imposed high taxes on the Belgian food and also collected revenue from the Belgians to pay the Dutch national debt. In France, there was a problem of unemployment, which was worsened by food shortages. Such conditions caused discontent, thus leading to the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions in Europe.</p> |
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The harsh system used by Prince Metternich also influenced the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions in Europe particularly in the Austrian Empire. In the German Confederation, Prince Metternich abolished students' societies, political clubs and the university professors who opposed his views were expelled. In the Italian states, Prince Metternich deployed spies and foreign armies, the opponents would be arrested, tortured, imprisoned and others killed. The revolutionaries in the Italian and German states therefore revolted in against the unpopular "Metternich System".

The French revolution of 1789 influenced the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions in Europe. In 1789, the French men revolted against the unfair, bankrupt and autocratic system of government. They managed to achieve fundamental changes like religious freedom, abolition of social classes as well as the introduction of constitutional governance. The success of the French revolution of 1789 therefore encouraged the people who were experiencing autocratic regimes like in France of Charles X, in Naples of Ferdinand I and Poland which was under the Russian control to stage revolutions so as to bring about political, social and economic reforms.

The desire for liberal reforms led to the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions in Europe. The revolutionaries wanted the restoration of a fair parliamentary democracy, freedom of the press, expression, worship and equality before the law in those countries where liberalism was being abused. In France for example, Charles X abolished the **Constitutional Charter of 1814** and ruled as the dictator. In Naples, Ferdinand I abolished the liberal constitution of 1812. In Belgium, France and the Italian states, there was no freedom of the press. Such conditions therefore created grounds for the masses to revolt so as to attain liberal reforms.

The success of the French revolution of 1830 influenced outbreak of other revolutions in Europe. In July 1830, the Frenchmen revolted and overthrew the Bourbon regime of Charles X. This encouraged the Belgians who shared their common boarder with France to

stage a revolution against the Dutch. The July revolution in France also influenced the people of Poland to revolt against Russian rule.

The rise of a strong middle class and the growth of industries influenced the outbreak of revolution in 1830. In France for example, the middle class (rich merchants) opposed the policy of Charles X who confiscated their funds and compensated his supporters who had lived in exile since the outbreak of the 1789 French revolution. In Belgium, the industrialists wanted to put an end to the policy of free trade preferred by the Dutch and replace it with protectionism so as to protect their manufactured goods from competition with foreign goods. The industrial workers also demanded for better pay, housing conditions to be improved and less working hours because most of the employers were not willing to improve on the working conditions of the workers as their interest was to maximize profits.

The British support towards liberal movements also encouraged the outbreak of revolutions in 1830. Britain had a constitutional monarchy and allowed freedom of worship and press among other liberties. The British government had hatred for governments in Europe which violated the fundamental human rights or which were autocratic. It is not surprising therefore, that Britain supported the Belgians to rise up against the Dutch who were oppressive to the Belgians.

The weaknesses of the Congress System also contributed to the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions. In the first place, members of the congress system like Russia and Austria were very conservative and therefore they were also against the forces of change like nationalism for example in Naples and Poland. They were also committed to protecting the unpopular and restored regimes in Europe while on the other hand, other members of the congress system like Britain encouraged revolutions as a means of rectifying or correcting the mistakes of the Vienna settlement of 1815.

The example of the Greek War of Independence of 1821- 1832 contributed to the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions in Europe. In 1821, the Greeks revolted against the Turkish foreign control and poor administration. In **1829**, the Greeks attained **semi- independence** and finally full independence in **1832**. This encouraged the oppressed people in Europe and those who were under foreign rule to stage revolutions with a hope of attaining their goals for example in Belgium, Poland, Naples as well as the German and Italian states.

EFFECTS OF THE 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

The outbreak of the 1830 revolutions led to the triumph or success of the French people. The French were able to overthrow the oppressive regime of Charles X which had caused a lot of suffering to the French masses.

Similarly, the outbreak of the 1830 revolutions led to the success (triumph) of the Belgian nationalism. While the Dutch had wanted to maintain the union with the Belgians, the Belgians were able to undo or change the union and attain their independence in 1839.

The 1830 revolutions also led to the defeat of some revolutionaries in certain countries. In Poland for example, Russia defeated the revolutionaries and restored her full control over Poland until the end of World War I in 1919. The revolutionaries in the Italian and German states were also defeated by Austria.

Out of the 1830 revolutions, new governments emerged in Europe. In Belgium for example, a monarchy led by King Leopold was established while in France, the Orleans Monarchy led by King Louis Philippe replaced that of Charles X and this marked the end of the Bourbon rule in France.

The 1830 revolutions led to the establishment of oppressive systems and laws in certain countries of Europe. In Poland for example, Warsaw that was the centre of Polish liberalism and nationalism was turned into a Russian barracks. Many Poles also fled the country to Prussia. Austria also strengthened denial of freedom of worship, association and the press was highly censored in her empire. All this was intended to “kill” liberalism.

The revolutions exposed the need for constitutional liberties and independence in certain countries. In France, Louis Philippe was enthroned with a constitutional charter which had been removed by Charles X. The charter guaranteed fundamental human rights like freedom of the press, worship and a parliament among other liberties. In Belgium, King Leopold was enthroned with a constitution and subsequently the Belgians were recognized as an independent state at the London Conference of 1839 by the European powers.

The 1830 revolutions overthrew or changed the work of the Vienna Settlement of 1815. For example, the independence of Belgium which was out of the Belgian revolution of 1830 created a new state on the political map of Europe which was formerly part of the United Kingdom of the Dutch and the Belgians. In France, the Bourbon regime that had been restored by the Vienna Settlement of 1815 was also overthrown and the first elected king in France was voted into power in the name of Louis Philippe.

The 1830 revolutions led to the total collapse of the congress system. The European powers failed to co-operate in order to protect the status quo in those countries which experience revolutions. For example, Britain and France decided to support the revolutionaries especially in Belgium. On the other hand, Russia and Austria crushed the revolutions in Poland and Italian states respectively because they were conservative yet Britain was liberal. Therefore, the revolutions divided the members of the congress system thus leading to its collapse.

New rulers emerged on the political scene of Europe. In France, Louis Philippe took over power and ruled as king from 1830 up to 1848 when he was overthrown through a revolution. In Belgium, King Leopold who was an uncle to Queen Victoria of Britain was enthroned as King of Belgium.

Out of the 1830 revolutions, the forces of nationalism and liberalism were strengthened. In the German states, the Italian states and Austria, the liberals and nationalists never gave up the struggle so as to achieve their objectives. Consequently, in 1848 liberal and nationalistic revolutions were staged against King Ferdinand I of Naples, against Austria in the Italian and German states as well as in Vienna against Prince Metternich.

The 1830 revolutions led to destruction of lives and property. In Poland for example, Warsaw which was the capital of Poland and a centre for political and cultural life was destroyed by the Russians. In Naples, the revolutionaries were hunted down, arrested and others were killed some of the survivors in Italy and Poland fled to exile. In Belgium, there was destruction of industries.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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some revolutionaries were republicans and therefore they favoured the establishment of a Republic in case Italy got liberated from the Austrian rule while others were monarchists. In German states, some of the revolutionaries were liberals while others were conservatives. Such divisions were therefore exploited by Austria to defeat the revolutionaries in 1830, thus leading to their failure.

Military backwardness also contributed to the failure of the 1830 revolutions in Europe. For example, in the Italian and German states the revolutionaries were militarily weak without a well trained and equipped army as opposed to Austria that was very strong militarily. This therefore helped Austria to suppress many of these uprisings in Germany and Italy. The same was true in Poland where the revolutionaries were defeated by Russia which had a well-equipped and trained army that could not be challenged by the inferior army of the Poles.

The lack of foreign military assistance contributed to the failure of the 1830 revolutions in Europe. Some of the 1830 revolutions were staged against major European powers like Austria and Russia and since these powers were militarily strong, it became difficult for the revolutionaries to defeat them without the help of other foreign powers. Even France which would have offered a hand as a champion of the revolutionary movements was still pre-occupied by her internal problem of July 1830 revolution.

Most of them were urban centred i.e. they began in urban centres like Paris of France, Vienna in Austria, Rome in Italy, Warsaw in Poland and Brussels in Belgium. This was due to the fact that most of the middle class members lived urban areas where economic hardships like inflation and unemployment were too much experienced. This made them vulnerable to defeat

Poor leadership; most of the leaders of these revolutions never minded about foreign support e.g Mazzini of Italy, while others were divided on ideological grounds yet others just betrayed the revolts. e.g Fredrick William of Prussia

Parochial movements: e.g Cabonari in Italy was just for charcoal burners and ignored other populations. Only centered the revolts in urban areas ignoring countryside populations thus limiting support and hence easy defeat by AUSTRIA and RUSSIA

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF 1830 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

In all parts where the revolutions occurred, they were inspired by the force of liberalism and nationalism. For example, they wanted to achieve national independence as the case was with Belgium from Holland, Poland from Russia, the Italian and German states from Austria.

They were all against the arrangement of the Vienna Settlement of 1815. For example, the principle of creation buffer states, legitimate rulers and that of balance of power were all hated by the small states like Italy, Germany and Belgium leading to the 1830 revolutions.

They were all carried out by the intellectuals and middle class members. For example, the 1830 revolutions in Belgium, Poland and Austria were engineered by the middle class.

Adolf Thiers journalist engineered that of 1830 in France.

Most of them were urban centred i.e. they began in urban centres like Paris of France, Vienna in Austria, Rome in Italy, Warsaw in Poland and Brussels in Belgium. This was due to the fact that most of the middle class members lived urban areas where economic hardships like inflation and unemployment were too much experienced.

Most of the 1830 revolutions were against the “Metternich System”. For example, in the Italian and German states revolutions were staged against the oppressive policies of Metternich who had restored the old order like despotism, feudalism, monarchism and absolutism in the above states.

They all took place almost at the same time whereby the progress of one revolution would influence the outbreak of other revolutions. For example, the success of the 1830 revolution in France inspired others like the 1830 revolution in Belgium and the Polish revolutions. In other words, the 1830 revolutions were successive in nature and occurred at the same time.

Most of the 1830 revolutions were sparked off by economic hardships like unemployment, inflation. The economic hardships brought problems in urban centres like growth in population, industrialization, and poor harvest in countries like Austria, France and German which made people to revolution.

In almost all the 1830 revolutions, foreign armies weren't used or there was lack of foreign supports because they almost took place at the same time therefore there was no room for one country to support the other. This partly explains the causes of the failures of 1830 revolutions in Italy, German and Spain.

In almost all the countries where the revolutions took place, they failed to except in France and Belgium. They failed because military weakness, lack of unity among revolutionary leaders etc.

They were all influenced by the 1789 French revolution and its ideas or slogans of liberty, equality and fraternity were used by the revolutionaries in their struggle against dictatorship and despotism for example in Italy, German, Poland and Belgium.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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with the Reign of Terror that France had witnessed from 1792 – 1794 during the reign of the First French Republic. When in this confusion Louis Philippe's name was mentioned, nobody seriously challenged it. He was therefore voted by the majority in the Chamber of Deputies (Parliament).

LOUIS PHILIPPE, 1830 -1848

Louis Philippe was the son of **Philippe Egalite**, the Duke of Orleans, a junior branch of the Bourbon family. He was born in **1773** and he was just 16 years when the French revolution of 1789 broke out. He once belonged to the Jacobins club and fought in the revolutionary wars against Austria from 1792 - 1794. He voted for the death of his cousin Louis XVI in 1793. Later, when he lost favour of the revolutionaries, he fled to Switzerland and later to England. He returned to Paris after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and began mixing with people of all classes especially the middleclass members. This made him a familiar figure in Paris and the Parisians identified him as an ordinary citizen. He was the first French Monarch or King to be elected and was presented to the *Chamber of Deputies* as a champion of the revolution.

REASONS WHY LOUIS PHILIPPE BECAME KING OF FRANCE IN 1830

The revolutionary background of Louis Philippe assisted him to rise to power. He actively participated in the 1789 French revolution. For example, he fought in the revolutionary wars from 1792 – 1794 and he went to exile because of the revolution. He even voted for the death of his cousin, Louis XVI in 1793 because of the King's anti-revolutionary behaviour. This influenced the revolutionaries to support him because they expected him to champion the cause of the 1789 French revolution.

Louis Philippe was opposed to the ideals and practices of the Ancient Regime. He for example showed little interest in the extravagancy of the Ultra-royalists and he disassociated himself from the unrealistic policies of Charles X and Louis XVI. Therefore, he did not believe in the customs and traditions of his ancestors, the royalists. This increased his popularity among the revolutionary Frenchmen who hated the royalists.

His friendship with **Adolf Thiers** enabled him to come to power in 1830. Adolf Thiers was the President of the French journalists and had resisted the censorship of the press by Charles X. It was Adolf Thiers and his colleagues who presented Louis Philippe to the Chamber of Deputies as a candidate for the French monarchy. They extensively explained his revolutionary background and social habits. Adolf Thiers even went ahead to put up placards (posters) throughout the streets of Paris appealing to the Frenchmen to accept Louis Philippe as the next King of France. This therefore made Louis Philippe popular among the Frenchmen which helped him to come to power in 1830.

His ordinary social habits enabled him to rise to power. He associated with all people and led a simple kind of life. He mixed freely with all sections of the society and took his children to local schools. This identified him with the common people of Paris and France in general. It therefore earned him the love of the ordinary people who welcomed him as

their King in 1830.

Louis Philippe supported the interests of middleclass members, a class to which he belonged. He promised to promote their interests like ownership of private property. This enabled him to win the support of the middleclass members. He was therefore elected by the Chamber of Deputies which was dominated by the middleclass members.

The liberal demands of 1830 and the unpopularity of Charles X assisted Louis Philippe to become king of France. Charles X's reign had led to political frustration among the Frenchmen and the confusion was exploited by Louis Philippe. For example, Charles X had abolished the Constitutional Charter of 1814 and ruled as a dictator. There was no freedom of the press, association and worship among others. As a result, the revolutionaries hoped that Louis Philippe was to restore liberalism in France.

The fear of republicanism in France benefited Louis Philippe. This fear existed among the members of the wealthy class and the Royalists. They feared that if France was made a republic, the republican government was to take away the right to private ownership of property, the same way Robespierre's government behaved in the 1790s. Republicanism was also associated with anarchy or violence considering the Reign of Terror that followed the establishment of the First French Republic in 1792. Similarly, there was a possibility of war from the conservative monarchies of Austria and Russia against republican France. Due to such fears, the wealthy Frenchmen, Royalists and Bonapartists supported Louis Philippe to come to power in 1830.

The royalist background of Louis Philippe assisted him to come to power in 1830. Louis Philippe was born in a royal family i.e. the Orleans family which was a junior branch to the Bourbon family in France. He therefore had a true hereditary claim to the throne, being a member of the aristocrats. The Royalists therefore readily accepted him hoping that he would maintain their privileges and keep the status of the monarchy.

The association of Louis Philippe with veteran **General Lafayette** also assisted him to be accepted as King of France. General Lafayette had served in the American war of Independence and he influenced the Frenchmen to revolt against the Ancient regime so as to attain constitutional governance as was the case in America. On their first meeting in public, Louis Philippe accepted and received the **Tri-colour** flag which was the symbol of the French revolution of 1789 from General Lafayette. Therefore, Louis Philippe was seen as a King who was to promote the revolutionary goals.

The success of the 1830 revolution in France assisted Louis Philippe to come to power. The revolution marked the end of Charles X and as a result the revolutionaries declared the throne vacant and organized elections for a new king. Therefore, the political vacuum created by the July 1830 revolution enabled Louis Philippe to come to power in 1830.

Louis Philippe accepted to rule as a constitutional monarch or king and that is why he was accepted by the French in 1830. He accepted a revised **Constitutional Charter of 1830** which among other things prohibited the King from issuing special decrees or orders, declared ruling alongside a parliament which was to make laws without considering the proposals of the King and his ministers. The Frenchmen therefore expected Louis Philippe to restore constitutional governance which had been removed by Charles X.

Louis Philippe himself wrote books suggesting solutions to the problems of France at the time and hence many saw him as a man of vision. Social problems like unemployment, poverty and food shortages were reflected in his writings. The writings made him popular among many Frenchmen.

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used to practice absolute or bad rule or monarchism. He therefore accepted to rule with the revised Constitutional Charter of 1830 that restricted his powers including the right to suspend laws and to rule by decrees or orders. This charter maintained a parliamentary system of government with a parliament consisting of the *Chamber of Deputies* and the *Chamber of Peers*. This is what the liberals and revolutionaries had yearned for by 1830 and therefore it made him popular.

The revised 1830 Constitutional Charter also led to the abolition of the press censorship which restored freedom of the press in France. This made the French men happy especially the liberal journalists who had fought against press censorship by Charles X.

Through the same Constitutional Charter, the electoral system was also revised to widen the franchise. This was through lowering the tax qualification and voting age. To qualify as a voter for the members of the Assembly or Parliament, the Frenchmen now had to pay 200 Francs per year in direct taxation as opposed to 300 Francs under the Bourbons. As a result, the number of those who qualified to vote was increased from 94,000 to almost 170,000 people. This made Philippe's

regime more representative and democratic than that of the restored Bourbon rulers and ensured its survival until 1848.

Louis Philippe protected the gains or achievements of the French revolution of 1789. For example, he adopted the revolutionary **Tri-Color Flag** as the flag of France. He also restored the National Guard (Revolutionary army) as well as land ownership by the peasants which the restored Bourbons had abolished. Such attempts also made the Frenchmen happy especially the revolutionaries who had been annoyed during Charles X's regime.

Louis Philippe also restored **religious tolerance or freedom** in France. Although Catholicism was recognized as the state religion, Louis Philippe allowed other religions to operate. In addition, the Church influence in state matters was reduced as the Church became a subject of the state. Such changes were generally fair and therefore, they made Louis Philippe's regime popular among some sections of the French society.

He promoted proper financial management in France. He often dressed like any businessman with no royal robes, leading a simple kind of life. He pursued a life of **economic restraint** that involved lighting his own study fire, shaving himself, living principally on soup and moving round the shops with no greater protection than an umbrella. This life style saved state funds and helped France to avoid a financial crisis and therefore it made many people happy in the first days of Louis Philippe's reign.

Louis Philippe carried out several economic reforms in France which helped to create a strong economy. For example, his government attempted to improve workers' conditions through the passing of the **Factory Act of 1841**. Consequently, by 1843 there was a uniform scale of wages for the workers in France. This also made the regime popular among some Frenchmen.

Similarly, Louis Philippe promoted industrialization in France. Several industries were set

up especially wine, coal, textile and iron industries. These local industries were protected from foreign competition by charging high import tariffs so as to compete favourably with England. These industries provided employment opportunities to the Frenchmen, thus addressing the problem of unemployment in addition to raising state revenue and strengthening the economy.

Louis Philippe's regime also modernized the transport and communication sector in France especially railway transport. France had the first railway network established during this time. This eased the movement of goods which promoted internal and external trade and brought about general prosperity for the country. The railway network connected the different towns of France and made transport cheaper and easier. It also boosted the industrialization drive in the country especially in carrying bulky goods. Roads and other communication systems were also improved.

His regime promoted urbanization in France. Louis Philippe expanded and developed a number of towns. Similarly industrialization encouraged the growth of towns due to the general increase in the population. For example, Paris, Lyon and Marseille more than doubled in population. Paris, the Capital was furnished with smart shops and buildings to entertain the visiting dignitaries. This satisfied the glory seekers for the meantime.

Louis Philippe promoted internal peace and stability in France with no major revolution breaking out in France until 1848. This was done by suppressing internal uprisings that broke out against his regime especially in the 1830s.

He attempted to promote **reconciliation** with the Bonapartists. For example, as a way of pleasing the Bonapartists, the Napoleonic flag was raised while the body of Napoleon I was exhumed from St. Helena and returned to France in 1841 for the official state burial. Similarly, a monument - the "**Arc de Triomphe**" initiated by Napoleon I in commemoration of the great emperor's achievements was completed by Louis Philippe. But the attempts were considered inadequate by the Bonapartists because they were not accompanied by the foreign glory that France boasted of during Napoleon I's time. They therefore remained a serious threat to Philippe's reign until his downfall in 1848.

Louis Philippe's government promoted education in France. For example, through the **Minister of Public Instruction and Cults** known as **François Guizot**, the government passed a comprehensive law on primary education in **June 1833**. This law led to the establishment of an elementary and primary school in every Commune of over 6000 inhabitants, thus promoting primary education. Teacher training colleges were also established. This made the regime popular among those French men who benefited from such educational reforms.

FAILURES IN THE DOMESTIC POLICY OF LOUIS PHILIPPE

The regime of Louis Philippe was characterized by a number of failures which significantly contributed to its downfall in 1848. The following were the main failures of the regime:-

The regime was dominated by the minority conservative **middleclass** members (bourgeoisie) at the expense of the ordinary Frenchmen (peasants). This class was composed of the manufacturers, bankers, lawyers, journalists and university teachers. This was a small section of the entire population of France. Besides, they were rigidly opposed to any reform in line with democracy. Most of his Chief Ministers such as Adolf Thiers and François Guizot were from this class. He completely ignored other classes especially

the poor yet they were the ones who had brought the hisregime to power in 1830. Consequently, the poor Frenchmen organized themselves again to overthrow Louis Philippe in 1848.

His regime was characterized by corruption or embezzlement and bribery promoted by the Chief Minister François Guizot. For example, François Guizot maintained himself in power by a system of bribery and corruption. Though he was supported throughout the years 1840-1848 by a parliamentary majority, he was hated and opposed by most people in the country. This was because he was arrogant and insensitive to the needs of the poor. As a result, he encouraged bribery by distributing government posts, pensions and business contracts among the members of parliament in order to win their support towards his policies. This behavior of François Guizot therefore made the Orleans Monarchy under Louis Philippe unpopular.

The regime of Louis Philippe restricted the right to vote or franchise. Still less than three percent of the adult Frenchmen (about 200,000 out of 35 million people) were entitled to participate in national elections. The masses believed that if the franchise was widened to include at least all the Frenchmen, their views would be represented in the parliament. Unfortunately, all efforts put in to bring about electoral reforms by constitutional means were rejected by the Bourgeoisie who dominated Louis Philippe's government. Louis Philippe and his Chief Minster Guizot refused to put in place electoral reforms and instead Guizot's answer to those who wanted an extension of the Franchise was "*Get rich and qualify to vote automatically*". This greatly annoyed the Frenchmen especially the liberals.

Louis Philippe failed to carry out reforms in the army. Although he restored the National Guard that had been disbanded by Charles X, Louis Philippe ignored the cries of the army. As a result, the French army had many grievances against the government. This explains why this army (National Guard) turned against the Orleans Monarchy in 1848 and supported rebels which led to the overthrow of Louis Philippe.

He failed to address the **1846 – 1848** economic hardships or problems. For example, despite industrial development in France, **unemployment** increased during the regime of Louis Philippe. This caused general discontent among the unemployed people and it became easy for them to stage a revolution in 1848 which led to the overthrow of the Orleans Monarchy.

Similarly, the government of Louis Philippe failed to solve the problem of famine. In **1846-1847**, France was hit by bad weather in form of severe winter which led to poor crop harvests. The government did not have enough food resources in storage neither did it have money to purchase the food from elsewhere. The poor classes were hit harder by this development. It therefore eroded the remaining support for Louis Philippe among the poor classes. The food crisis caused frustration and desperation among the already aggrieved (annoyed) people who therefore organized themselves to change the status quo in 1848.

Both Louis Philippe and his Chief Minister François Guizot completely failed to improve the living conditions of France's poorer classes. Instead the government promoted prosperity amidst widespread poverty of the masses. For example, while industrialization benefited the middleclass and fostered national growth, it exposed the workers to poor working conditions in the factories. Many workers were residing in slums, received low wages, worked for very long hours and most of them failed to acquire private property. As a result, the wealthier middleclass, the bankers and industrialists were prospering greatly while the poor were getting poorer. This poverty eventually contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolution which overthrew Louis Philippe.

Industrial conflicts increased during the regime of Louis Philippe. There were many strikes

by the industrial workers and the formation of trade unions to express discontent. In 1831, republican and other forms of demonstrations broke out in Paris, Lyon and other parts of the country. The reaction by the government was to break up strikes by bloodshed, suppress trade unions and political clubs and ignore the ever-increasing demand for an extension of the Franchise. This increased discontent among the Frenchmen which eventually contributed to the collapse of the Orleans Monarchy.

The return of Napoleon I's remains in 1841 for state burial by Louis Philippe had negative implications. For example, it led to the rise of **Bonapartism** in France which undermined the survival of the Orleans Monarchy. Bonapartism was the belief in the restoration of Napoleon I's glory. The Bonaparte supporters increased in numbers year after year led by a nephew to the Emperor Napoleon I- **Louis Napoleon Bonaparte** who promised to restore the foreign glory of Napoleon I. Louis Philippe failed to satisfy these people. When he returned Napoleon I's body in 1841, the Bonapartists were provoked to ask for more especially in the field of foreign glory where Louis Philippe had failed. As a result, they demanded for the downfall of Louis Philippe so as to re-establish the "Napoleonic France". This eventually contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolution in France which overthrew the Orleans Monarchy.

The regime was hated for its harsh reaction towards the opposition. Louis Philippe resorted to political repression or harassment which further annoyed the Frenchmen. In April 1834 for example, there was opposition in parliament over a new electoral law restricting the right of association among the parliamentarians. This caused civil unrest and the brutal response by the regime led to the death of many Frenchmen.

Louis Philippe later promoted dictatorship which generated discontent that overthrew him. For example, he rigidly censored the press through the introduction of new press laws in 1832, 1833, 1834 and 1835 contrary to the 1830 constitutional charter that had put an end to press censorship. These laws made it difficult for opposition news papers to operate without facing fines, confiscations and even prison terms. Some republican newspapers were forced to close down. This earned him opposition from the liberal journalists.

Further still, he imposed the "**Law of discussion**" in **1835** by which the Frenchmen were not to discuss any other political party except the one in power. He even restricted the freedom of association amongst the Frenchmen through passing the **Law of Associations** by which heavy penalties were imposed for forming societies aimed at overthrowing the government. This annoyed the Frenchmen especially the liberals.

Louis Philippe failed to stand the growing pressure of **socialism** as a political ideology in France. The socialists led by **Louis Blanc** wanted the state to take over the factors of production and then distribute the wealth so as to reduce the gap between the rich middle class and the poor. Louis Blanc also argued that the whole unemployment problem would be solved when the state becomes an employer. However, Louis Philippe feared annoying his friends, the rich middleclass with any plan of confiscating their wealth. This therefore isolated him from the poor who in big numbers supported socialism to overthrow Louis Philippe in 1848.

Louis Philippe failed to restore the full political influence of the Catholic Church in the state affairs which was demanded by a section of the Catholics in France. Charles X had revived the powers of the Catholic Church in the state affairs for example the control of the education system which was reversed by Louis Philippe. This made him unpopular among the Catholics of France.

Louis Philippe failed to satisfy the interests of the **Republicans** and this became a major challenge to his regime. Led by **Lamartine**, the republicans demanded for the

establishment of a **republic** because the monarchy had failed deliver for the second time. They also demanded for parliamentary reforms and widening of the Franchise. Louis Philippe failed to control their increasing numbers as well as implementing their demands. This undermined the popularity of the Orleans Monarchy which eventually contributed to collapse of the Monarchy in 1848.

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(independence). Such interests required a vigorous foreign military policy that would lead France into war with other countries.

On the contrary, Louis Philippe pursued a peaceful policy with the rest of Europe for fear of losing his newly won throne. He had not secured the support of the hereditary monarchies of Europe and therefore his survival depended on a successful publicity campaign and cooperation with Europe or else the European powers would unite and restore Charles X to the throne. As a result, his conduct in the foreign affairs was restrained and France posed no danger to international peace and stability. To some extent this was an achievement in the foreign policy of Louis Philippe.

He improved the commercial and trade relations between France and Britain and never did he re-assert France as a continental power. A free-trade treaty was signed with Britain in 1840 to expand trade and consolidate international relations. This enabled France to secure the support of Britain, and other Great Powers like Austria, Russia and Prussia and to also maintain general peace in Europe. This sustained his regime for 18 years.

In spite of the above achievements, the peaceful foreign policy of Louis Philippe greatly damaged his image in France. He failed to satisfy the interests of the nationalists (glory seekers) and liberals and this therefore contributed to his downfall in 1848. The following were the major events in French foreign policy of Louis Philippe during the period 1830-1848;

The Belgian Revolution of 1830

The Belgian revolution of 1830 undermined the popularity of King Louis Philippe. The French people especially the Bonapartists, liberals, Catholics and nationalists wanted Louis Philippe to assist the Belgians against the Dutch. Louis Philippe initially decided not to get involved and Britain diplomatically emerged victorious which annoyed the Frenchmen. Worse than that, Louis Philippe declined the offer the Belgians made to his son **Duc de Nemours** to become King of their new state. The British candidate, **Leopold of Saxe-Coburg** who was related to Queen Victoria instead took over the throne. There was therefore a general feeling in France that the King was coward and weak and worked to serve the interests of Britain. This greatly reduced his popularity at home.

Later in **1831** when the Dutch troops attacked Belgium, the allied powers selected Louis Philippe to defend Belgium. This he did successfully and was thus able to claim part of his lost reputation (that France had supported the Belgian independence). But even then, his role was restricted by Britain thus undermining the position of France as a great power. Eventually, the matter of the Belgian independence was settled by the London treaty of 1839 and was accepted by the Dutch King but had significantly weakened the Orleans Monarchy.

The Polish revolution of 1830

The Polish revolution of 1830 also undermined the credibility of the regime. In 1830, the Bonapartists and Catholics appealed to the King to intervene in Poland and save the fellow Catholics from the Russian control and brutality as they had staged a nationalistic revolution against Russia. Louis Philippe feared the possibility of Russia, Austria and Prussia declaring war against France since all these countries had Polish nationals. He therefore refused to assist the Catholics in Poland.

The Italian revolutions of 1830

This was another event which undermined the regime of Louis Philippe. In 1830, the Italians staged nationalistic revolutions against Austria and the French Catholics and Bonapartists wanted Louis Philippe to save the fellow Catholics from Austrian oppression. Louis Philippe declined and was labelled as a very weak King not interested in promoting the French glory abroad.

The events in Spain and Portugal of 1834

In 1834 a quadruple alliance of Britain, Portugal, Spain and France was able to bring the liberal forces to power in Spain and Portugal by overthrowing the despots (absolutes). But this did not please the liberals at home because Louis Philippe was only acting as a liberal outside but a conservative at home (France).

The Spanish Marriages of 1846

In 1846, the Spanish marriages brought further trouble for Louis Philippe. Both the Queen of Spain **Isabella** and her young sister **Infanta** were unmarried. France and Britain eagerly presented candidates, for the successful candidate would mean prestige and international fame for that particular country where he came from. England supported the German Prince, the **Duke of Cadiz** (who was related to Queen Victoria) while Louis Philippe presented his youngest son **Duc de Montpensier**. Because of the conflicting interests, a compromise was finally reached that the Queen marries a British candidate (rumoured to be impotent) and the Queen's sister marries Louis Philippe's son but only after the heir to the throne was born by the Queen. This was accepted by both Guizot and Louis Philippe but of course this was again to the advantage of Britain.

Realising their mistake, Guizot and Louis Philippe secretly arranged the marriages of the Spanish ladies on the same day contrary to the initial understanding. This double minded behavior of Louis Philippe annoyed Britain and the Frenchmen in equal measure. Britain had for many years prevented such closeness of France to Spain because of its proximity to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the gateway to the British commercial Empire in the Far East. As a result, the Anglo-French relations worsened from 1846 onwards following the Spanish Marriages of 1846. This annoyed the Middle class members who used to trade with Britain and therefore they abandoned Louis Philippe's regime which eventually contributed to its collapse in 1848.

The Syrian Question, 1831-1841

Louis Philippe's involvement in the Syrian crisis (part of the Turkish Empire) ashamed France and damaged his reputation. War broke out in 1831 between Mehmet Ali of Egypt and the Sultan of Turkey (Mahmood II) over who should rule Syria. Britain and Russia rapidly supported the Sultan of Turkey while Louis Philippe of France supported Egypt due to public opinion. Britain worked with Russia to defeat the Egyptians.

At the height of the crisis, France was isolated by the great powers who organized the **1840 London Conference** to discuss the Syrian question without France as the enemy. Louis Philippe, realizing danger withdrew the support to Mehmet Ali of Egypt and therefore he

was therefore unable to defend the French interests in the Middle East. Adolf Thiers-the Prime Minister wanted to go ahead with the venture but Louis Philippe, a cautious man refused and ordered the French troops to withdraw from Egypt to avert war with Britain. Consequently, Adolf Thiers resigned in **1840** and was replaced by François Guizot who pressed for peace. The Frenchmen were severely hurt especially the glory seekers and nationalists who therefore criticized Louis Philippe for his failure to promote the French glory abroad.

The Tahiti Island Issue

Between 1843 and 1844, the French friendship with Britain was threatened with matters concerning the Island of Tahiti in South Pacific claimed by both England and France. The French had previously forced the British out of this island and it was annexed to France. However, during the regime of Louis Philippe, Britain warned France that war was likely to happen over the control of this Island. Consequently, Louis Philippe returned the island to Britain. This humiliated the French who hated Louis Philippe and Guizot's submission to Britain.

The Swiss Civil war of 1846

In 1846, a civil war broke out in Switzerland between the conservative Catholics and the Protestant liberals. Britain secretly supported the Protestants but France feared helping the Catholics. Louis Philippe feared to annoy Britain and the liberals at home. The Catholics of France condemned Louis Philippe's government for failing to help fellow Catholics while the nationalists were annoyed by Louis Philippe's peaceful foreign policy.

The Algerian venture or project

This is the only area where Louis Philippe scored some success in the foreign policy. The project began during Charles X's reign. When Louis Philippe came to power, he consolidated or strengthened the French control over Algeria by suppressing an armed resistance against the French rule there. Consequently, he encouraged steady colonization of Algeria and by 1847 around 50,000 French citizens had established themselves in Algeria. This project pleased the French glory seekers though it was very expensive as it costed France a lot money and lives which also damaged the reputation of the Orleans Monarchy.

By 1847 therefore, Louis Philippe was doing badly in the foreign affairs. The regime was generally peaceful with the rest of Europe and served the interests of Britain but this was contrary to the traditional values of France. The Frenchmen were generally disappointed not so much because of what he did but because of what he failed to do. In 1848, Louis Philippe was therefore overthrown in a popular revolution.

THE REVOLUTION OF 1848

The spark for the revolution was provided by Louis Philippe's negative reaction towards **reform banquets**. Reform banquets were political rallies at which the opponents used to criticize the regime and also to demand for reforms through speeches. On **22nd February 1848**, a great reform banquet was announced to take place in Paris but it was stopped by the government before it was held. The reformists decided to meet by force and they formed a very big gathering in the town. They agreed to start a revolution.

On **23rd February 1848**, Louis Philippe decided to order the **"National Guard"** to disperse the demonstrators, a move which aborted or failed. The soldiers instead expressed their sympathy with the demonstrating crowd and so encouraged it. Consequently, Louis

In December 1848, **Louis Napoleon Bonaparte** was elected as President of France due to the political advantages associated with his uncle and the name Napoleon. He later became the Emperor of France with the title of Emperor **Napoleon III** in 1852 and ruled France up to **1871**. His election marked the creation of the Second **French Republic** and he also later created the Second **French Empire**.

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| <p>Reference Books</p> | <p>These two had the political responsibility of safeguarding the empire from the new challenges of liberalism and nationalism that had developed in Europe following the 1789 French revolution and the “Napoleonic Wars.”</p> <p>PRINCE KLEMENS METTERNICH AND THE AUSTRIAN EMPIRE, 1814-1848</p> <p>Prince Metternich was born in 1773 at Coblenz town in the German Rhinelands from the Austrian ruling family and that is why he was a prince. Metternich was an Austrian aristocrat and diplomat who dominated European affairs from 1814 to 1848 and that is why this period is popularly known as the “Metternich era or age” in European History. He was thus dubbed the “Coach man” of Europe.</p> <p>Metternich was a well educated man who understood the European affairs of the time. He was a linguist who understood the English, Latin, German, French and the Russian languages. It was because of this that from 1801 to 1807, Metternich served as the Austrian ambassador in Berlin, the capital of Prussia. He also served as ambassador in Paris and Moscow. In 1809, Emperor Francis Josef of Austria appointed him as Foreign Minister and in 1810 he was appointed as Chancellor of</p> |
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Austria, thus becoming the leader of government in Austria. He was therefore in charge of the foreign and domestic affairs.

Metternich was very **conservative** as an aristocrat whose beliefs were opposed to forces of nationalism and liberalism. Specifically, Metternich’s beliefs as a statesman included the following;

- He believed in the preservation of peace and stability in Europe after the French revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.
- He aimed at reconciling the conflicting interests of European powers through negotiations.
- He wanted to maintain the balance of power in Europe.
- He believed in the preservation of the Austrian empire which had thirteen races (heterogeneous).
- As an aristocrat, he was keen to maintain the status quo in Europe by encouraging legitimacy or monarchism as the best form of government. He therefore supported the preservation of the Hapsburg rulers in Europe.

Metternich made Vienna which was the capital of Austria the centre of the “Metternich power”.

THE IMPACT OF PRINCE METTERNICH ON EUROPE

Prince Metternich had a great impact on the history of Europe between 1814 and 1848 and that is why this period is commonly known as the “Metternich age” in Europe. This impact was both positive and negative as shown below;

THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF PRINCE METTERNICH ON EUROPE

Metternich contributed to the final or complete defeat of Napoleon I between 1814 and

1815. He was instrumental in mobilizing the European Powers or allies to form coalitions to defeat Napoleon I. For example in 1814, Metternich persuaded Britain, Prussia and Russia to form a military coalition that finally defeated Napoleon I of France in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo. Since Napoleon I had caused a lot of turmoil in Europe with his wars of conquest, this restored peace in Europe and was therefore a major positive impact of Metternich on Europe.

Prince Metternich hosted and chaired the Vienna congress of 1814 - 1815. It was held from **1st November 1814** up to **8th June 1815** in the Austrian capital of Vienna. All European states attended this congress except the Ottoman Empire. During this congress, a lot of negotiations and decisions were made especially by the representatives of the four major powers of Europe who included **Prince Metternich** of Austria, **Lord Castlereagh** of Britain, **Tsar Alexander I** of Russia and **King Fredrick William III** of Prussia. These decisions resulted into peace and stability on the European continent. For example, At this same congress, the European powers agreed to Metternich's idea of balance of power in Europe, among other issues, in order to maintain peace.

Metternich influenced the conclusion or signing of the Vienna Settlement of 1815. As the host and chairman of the Vienna Congress that was held between 1814 and 1815, Metternich influenced the European powers that had attended this congress to sign a treaty known as the Vienna Settlement on 8th June 1815. This treaty had all the resolutions that the delegates that attended the congress had reached upon. The terms of this treaty had a profound positive impact of Europe. For example, they brought about peace in Europe for next forty years without a major breaking out among the Great Powers since the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 which further shows Metternich's positive impact on Europe.

Metternich also led to the extension of the Austrian influence and might in Europe. For example, as the chief negotiator of Austria during the Vienna congress of 1814-1815, Prince Metternich used this congress to extend the Austrian influence to other areas of Europe for the benefit of Austria. These areas included the Italian states of Dalmatia, Lombardy and Venetia together with the German states, Hungary and parts of Poland all of which were put under Austrian control.

Prince Metternich influenced the restoration of legitimate rulers or old regimes to power in Europe. These regimes had been overthrown by the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon I. Consequently, under Metternich's influence several legitimate rulers were restored in Europe by the Vienna Congress of 1814-1815. For example, the Pope was restored in the Papal states, King Charles Albert in Piedmont, Ferdinand I in Naples and the Bourbons were restored in France under Louis XVIII among other leaders. Since these rulers were conservative, this helped to check on the extremist forces of nationalism and liberalism that had been born by the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon I and had created instability in Europe.

Prince Metternich disintegrated the Napoleonic Empire in Europe. During the regime of Napoleon I European countries like Spain, Naples and Denmark and the Italian as well German states among others had been conquered, leading to the creation of a large French Empire under the "**Bonaparte dynasty**". With the defeat of Napoleon I in 1815, this Empire was completely broken up and those states were liberated by Metternich while others were given to the Great Powers as the map of Europe was being redrawn after Napoleon I's downfall.

Prince Metternich influenced the birth of the **Congress System** or "**Concert of Europe**". He was among the founder members of the Congress System and a number of congresses were held between 1818 and 1825. These included the Congress of Aix-la-chapelle of 1818, the Congress of Troppau of 1820, the Congress of Laibach of 1821, the Congress of

Verona of 1822 and the Congress of St.Petersburg of 1825. Prince Metternich therefore influenced the birth of European diplomacy and through this diplomacy or Congress System, Metternich maintained peace after the downfall of Napoleon I. This therefore saved Europe from a war involving all the major powers until the outbreak of the Crimean war of 1854 - 1856. By this time, Metternich was no longer in power.

Metternich promoted unity or co-operation among the conservative European Monarchies of the time namely; Austria, Russia and Prussia. During the Congress of Troppau of 1820, Metternich persuaded the conservative leaders of Austria, Russia and Prussia to sign an agreement known as the **Protocol of Troppau** of 1820 which brought together these three monarchical countries. By, this protocol, Metternich persuaded these European monarchies to fight against revolutions that were staged against the aristocratic governments in Europe which helped to create peace and stability on the continent.

Metternich maintained balance of power in Europe. This balance of power had been restored in by the Vienna Congress of 1814 – 1815. Prince Metternich did not want a single country to dominate European affairs after Napoleon I's downfall in 1815. As a result, he struggled to ensure balance of power in Europe. For example, during the Congress of Aix-la-chapelle of 1818, he refused the creation of an international army as was suggested by Tsar Alexander I of Russia. This was because he did not want the Russian troops to be stationed in the foreign countries so as to give Russia the opportunity of expanding her influence in those countries. When this army was not formed it therefore prevented the spread of Russian influence in Europe which maintained the balance of power in Europe. This also indirectly contributed to peace and stability on the continent.

Prince Metternich managed to preserve the Austrian empire up to 1848 when he left office. The empire was the most **heterogeneous** in Western Europe having Italians, Slavs, Germans and Croats among others all totaling to thirteen races. During this time, he made sure that there were no successful nationalistic and liberal revolutions that could break up the Austrian Empire and thus the empire remained intact. This also indirectly contributed to peace and stability on the European continent.

The “Metternich age” witnessed improved economic and trade relations among the European powers. Through defeating Napoleon I in 1815, Metternich led to the end of the Continental System in Europe. This therefore restored free navigation on the major international waters and also led to spread of the industrial revolution in Europe from 1830 onwards. All this contributed to economic progress in Europe in the period 1815 to 1848.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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well as agricultural and mineral resources of the conquered states of the Austrian Empire like the Italian and German states. He also overtaxed the above states which kept them so poor. Metternich therefore promoted economic backwardness in the Austrian Empire.

Metternich's conservative tendencies alienated or isolated the liberal monarchical countries like Britain from the European affairs after Napoleon I's downfall in 1815. These were liberal countries that could work with Metternich due to his conservatism. This instead promoted disagreements between Metternich and such liberal monarchical countries like Britain and France. The disagreements finally led to the collapse of the Congress System by 1830.

Metternich and his system delayed the unification of Italy. From the Vienna Settlement of 1815, Austria under Metternich directly controlled the Italian states of Lombardy and Venetia. Austrian influence was also felt in the Central Italian states like Modena, Parma and Tuscany where the Hapsburg rulers had been restored by Metternich. This Austrian foreign influence frustrated or delayed all attempts by the Italians to create a single united and independent Italy until his downfall in 1848.

Metternich also delayed the unification of Germany. He kept a firm control of Austria in the German Confederation established in 1815 by the Vienna Settlement. This too frustrated the attempts by the Germans to create a united and independent Germany. It was only after Metternich's downfall in 1848 that efforts to unite the German states started registering positive results.

Metternich ignored the small states in Europe. He hosted and chaired the Vienna congress of 1814 to 1815 and during this congress he made sure that the major decisions came from the Great Powers of Austria, Russia, Britain and Prussia only. Even during the Congress System that Metternich initiated in 1818, it were the same Great powers that made key decisions in all the congresses that were held in Europe up to 1825.

Metternich led to the development of anti-European sentiments in America. This demonstrated by the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. As a conservative, Metternich wanted to lead a coalition of the European powers to America so as assist Spain suppress revolutions that had broken out in her South American colonies by 1820. This planned foreign intervention greatly annoyed the United States of America (USA). Consequently in 1823, the President of USA by then known as James Monroe issued the famous Monroe Doctrine which strongly warned the Great Powers of Europe against any attempt to intervene in South America to help Spain recover her colonies. This doctrine was a clear manifestation of the American hatred or enmity towards Europe.

HOW PRINCE METTERNICH CONTROLLED OR DOMINATED EUROPE UP TO 1848

Prince Metternich was born in 1773 at **Coblenz town** in the German Rhinelands. At the age of thirty six years, he was appointed Chancellor of Austria in 1809. Metternich succeeded in controlling Europe for about thirty four years from 1815 to 1848 and that is why this period is called the "Metternich age or period". To achieve this, he used the following measures;

Metternich controlled Austria and the affairs of Europe between 1815 and 1848 through the "**Metternich System**". The system controlled the nationalistic and liberal movements in Europe. For example, he put in place a detailed system that perused (read) through all letters within the Austrian empire which enabled him get advance information about the activities of the revolutionaries and they were defeated.

Metternich also used the "divide and rule" policy to maintain peace in Europe. He did not

allow soldiers of the controlled states to remain in their countries. He instead sent them to foreign countries and in exchange, the foreign soldiers were also stationed in their countries. For example, the Italians were stationed in Austria and Austrians were stationed in Italy. Therefore, the foreign forces could not support instability in the countries where they were stationed.

He exploited his aristocratic background to suppress revolutions. As an aristocrat by birth, Metternich hated all revolutions and therefore he worked hard to suppress them and remain in power up to 1848.

Metternich created a very strong Austrian army. He used this army to crush revolutions in Europe for example in the Italian and German states, thus helping him to controlling Europe between 1815 and 1848.

The nature of the Austrian Empire also assisted Metternich to dominate Europe. The empire was heterogeneous with various nationalities like the Croats, Italians, Germans, Hungarians and Slavs among others. These were so divided to the extent that they could not unite against Metternich.

Metternich utilized his career or position as an ambassador or diplomat to dominate Europe up to 1848. While serving as an ambassador to the various European countries like Prussia, France and Russia, Metternich got a chance to understand the operation of such countries and this helped him to know how to deal with them, thus assisting him to dominate Europe.

Prince Metternich used diplomacy to control the European affairs. In 1814 to 1815, he hosted and chaired the Vienna congress which ended with the signing of the Vienna treaty. This was significant because Vienna became the centre of European diplomacy and Prince Metternich was able to influence his views on the European statesmen as a host and chairman of the Vienna Congress. He was thus encouraging European statesmen to solve conflicts through negotiations.

He utilized the support from the Catholic Church in Austria and Europe in general to control European affairs. The Catholic Church under the Pope supported Metternich's conservative policies like religious intolerance and censorship of the press in Austria, the Italian and German states.

Metternich imposed Austrian or Hapsburg rulers over large areas of Europe where Austria had influence. For example, the Hapsburg rulers were put in charge of the Central Italian states of Modena, Parma and Tuscany. These rulers served Metternich's interests in those areas by promoting his conservative policies which enabled him to dominate Europe.

Metternich promoted illiteracy or misinformation in the Austrian Empire. He strictly controlled education and banned the teaching of liberal subjects like History, Philosophy and Literature. This helped Metternich to reduce the political awareness or enlightenment of the masses under the Austrian control, thus assisting him to control them up to 1848.

Metternich succeeded in controlling the conquered states by keeping them poor. He exploited the human, agricultural and mineral resources of the Italian and German states. He also overtaxed the masses in those states. Therefore, the states were so poor that they could not challenge the economically powerful Austria up to 1848.

Metternich restored and maintained the legitimate rulers who had been overthrown by the French revolution of 1789 and Napoleon I. For example, there was Ferdinand I who was restored in Naples, the Hapsburg rulers in Central Italy, the Pope in the Papal states and the Bourbons in France among others. Metternich later used these rulers to suppress liberalism in Europe since they were themselves against liberalism, given the fact that they were also

conservative as Metternich.

Metternich exploited his talent as a linguist and as an educated man to control European affairs. He could speak Latin, English, German, French and the Russian language. This enabled him to read all publications so as to get information which enabled him to defeat the liberals and nationalists. It also enabled him to have an influence on European statesmen. Therefore, he became a dominant personality in the history of Europe that the period between 1814 and 1848 is referred to as the “**Metternich age**”.

He was also able to dominate Europe through suppressing liberalism and this was largely done by controlling the University professors and students. These were fond of inciting the masses into liberal revolutions. In 1819, he issued the “**Carlsbad Decrees**” in which spies were stationed in all universities, students’ societies were abolished and the liberal professors were dismissed. Therefore, Metternich was able to defeat liberalism in Austria and the German states.

Prince Metternich started the congress system and he used it to control European affairs. Using the congress system, Metternich was to bring together all the European powers under “**one thinking tank**” except Britain. It was through this joint effort under the congress system that was able to suppress revolutions in countries like Spain, Naples, the Italian and German states between 1820 and 1848.

NOTE: His measures increased opposition rather than reducing it. In 1848, a revolution broke out in Vienna which forced him to resign on the 21st November 1848 and he went into exile. He returned later and lived as respected statesman until his death in 1859. He was succeeded by **Schwazenburg** when he resigned.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| Key vocabulary <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>those that were nationalistic aimed at ending foreign rule or achieving national unity</p> <p>The 1848 revolutions took place in almost every city in Europe like Vienna in Austria, Berlin in Prussia, Paris in France, Rome in Italy, Budapest in Hungary, Palermo in Sicily and other European cities. Only Britain and Belgium survived these revolutions.</p> <p>CAUSES OF THE 1848 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE</p> |
| Reference Books <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>The Vienna settlement of 1815 contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. The Vienna settlement of 1815 simply meant a set of resolutions that were adopted at the end of the Vienna Congress of 1814-1815. By the Vienna settlement, a number of states in Europe were placed under foreign rule. For example, the Italian states of Lombardy and Venetia as well as the German states were put under the Austrian rule. Therefore, in 1848 the Italians and Germans staged revolutions in order to overthrow the Austrian imperialism that had been imposed over them by the Vienna settlement of 1815.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Vienna settlement made a mistake of restoring the unpopular legitimate rulers in Europe. For example, in the Italian states of Naples and Sicily, Ferdinand I was restored as king while the Pope was restored in the Papal states. These rulers were very conservative and therefore they denied their subjects political liberty and other and other forms of constitutional governance. As a result, revolutions were staged in 1848 against these absolute or despotic rulers that has been restored by the Vienna Settlement of 1815.</p> |

The rise of nationalism or desire for independence was another factor that led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. In 1848, European states that were still under foreign rule revolted in order to get their independence for example, the German, Italians and Hungarians revolted in 1848 in order to get their independence from the Austrian empire under Prince Metternich.

The Metternich system contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe particularly in the Austrian Empire. In the German Confederation for example, Prince Metternich abolished students' societies, political clubs and university professors who opposed his views were dismissed using the Carlsbad Decrees of 1819. In the Italian states, Prince Metternich deployed spies and foreign armies and the opponents would be arrested, tortured, imprisoned and others killed. The Metternich system therefore generated discontent among the Italian and German states which inspired them to stage revolutions in 1848.

The collapse of the Congress System by 1830 contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. One of the major objectives behind the formation of the Congress System in 1818 was to maintain peace in Europe through suppressing revolutions. Therefore, the Congress System was opposed to the growing forces of liberalism and nationalism in Europe. When the congress system collapsed in 1830 therefore, Europe remained without a concerted effort to suppress any liberal and nationalistic movements in

Europe. This therefore inspired the European states to stage revolutions in 1848 in Austria, Prussia and Italy.

The influence of the 1820 and 1830 revolutions in Europe also caused the 1848 revolutions. For example, in 1821 the Greeks revolted against the Turkish bad rule and were able to get their independence by 1832. Similarly, in July 1830 the Frenchmen organized a revolution that overthrew the restored Bourbon Monarchy under King Charles X. In addition, the Belgians staged successful revolution in August 1830 and got their independence from the Dutch in 1839. The success of these revolutions therefore greatly inspired the nationalists in Germany, Italy and Hungary to stage revolutions in 1848 hoping for the same success.

The influence of the February 1848 revolution in France contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. In February 1848, a revolution broke out in France and King Louis Philippe was overthrown which marked the end of the Orleans Monarchy. When this revolution occurred, the university professors, students, liberals and the middle class members in other European states like Austria and Prussia decided to stage revolutions in 1848.

Liberalism contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. liberalism was a political ideology that emphasized individual fundamental freedoms. It was advocated for by the liberals in Europe who believed in liberties or freedoms like freedom of worship, press and equality before the law. They also wanted the restoration of parliamentary democracy and constitutional governance in which the political rights of the masses would be protected. Their desires were ignored by the despotic rulers in Europe like Metternich of Austria, King Louis Philippe of France and King Fredrick William IV of Prussia. As a result, liberal revolutions were staged in 1848 in countries like France, Austria, Hungary and Prussia.

The negative effects of the industrial revolution also caused the 1848 revolutions in Europe. By 1840, the industrial revolution had swept across most European countries. However, this industrialization in Europe brought about many problems like poor pay, overcrowding in factories as well as poor ventilation among others. It also increased rural – urban migration which led to open urban unemployment and the development of slums with poor sanitation and accommodation facilities. The European governments failed to address the above problems resulting from the industrial revolution. This therefore inspired the European masses to stage revolutions in 1848 in the so-called industrialized states of Europe like Austria, France, Switzerland and the Italian states.

The role of the intellectuals or middle class led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolution in Europe. By 1848, enlightenment had spread to many parts of Europe which gave birth to several intellectuals. In Prussia and other states of the German confederation, criticism was spearheaded by the university professors and students. In Italy, Mazzini spread patriotism through an organization called the Young Italy Movement. In Hungary, Louis Kossuth demanded for independence from the Austrian Empire while in France it was Adolph Theirs who mobilized the masses for a revolution. This eventually sparked off the 1848 revolutions in Europe.

Natural calamities also led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. For example, in France, Austria, Prussia and other German states there were poor harvests between 1846 and 1847 due to the bad weather which caused famine and a sharp rise in food prices. This was followed by the epidemic diseases like typhoid, cholera and dysentery. The suffering resulting from these natural disasters created discontent among the European masses which provoked them to stage revolutions in 1848 against their governments which had failed to

provide practical solutions.

The increased population in Europe also contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. Most European countries had witnessed population explosion by 1848. This population increase resulted into problems like urban congestion, food and water shortages, growing unemployment, diseases and growth of slums. Even the few who were employed suffered from poor working conditions like low wages and congestion in the factories. This therefore provoked the European masses to stage revolutions in 1848 against those governments that had failed to provide adequately for the rising population.

The rise of socialism also contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe especially in Austria and France. The socialists advocated for the state ownership of property and better conditions of work. In France for example, the socialists were led by Louis Blanc who wanted the state to take over the factors of production and then distribute the wealth so as to reduce the gap between the rich middle class and the poor. They also emphasized that the state should have the duty of employing and maintaining the welfare of the workers. When some states never took socialism seriously, strikes and demonstrations were organized by the socialists which eventually led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions.

The downfall of Prince Metternich and his oppressive system in 1848 led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. Prince Metternich, Chancellor of the Austrian empire was overthrown by the October 1848 revolution in Vienna. Before 1848, Metternich had suppressed all the liberal and nationalistic movements in the Italian and German states through his oppressive system. Therefore, his downfall gave the revolutionaries courage to demonstrate without fear, thus causing the 1848 revolutions in Europe.

The influence of the French revolution of 1789 contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. In 1789, the Frenchmen staged a successful revolution against the autocratic regime of the Bourbons under King Louis XVI who was removed from power in 1793. The Frenchmen managed to establish fundamental changes like freedom of worship, abolition of social classes and constitutional governance. The success of the 1789 French revolution therefore encouraged the European masses that were still under despotic regimes like in Austria, Naples and Prussia to stage revolutions in 1848 hoping to overthrow such regimes as the Frenchmen had done in 1789.

The weaknesses of the European governments contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions. By 1848, many European governments had failed to fulfill the expectations of the masses due to their numerous weaknesses. In France for example, the regime of King Louis Philippe was characterized by wide spread corruption and bribery that was promoted by the Chief Minister Francois François Guizot. Such weaknesses made the European governments unpopular and as a result revolutions were staged in 1848 so as to overthrow them.

Social segregation in some European countries led to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions. In Austria and Hungary for example, there existed the nobility and clergy. These social classes enjoyed many privileges like ownership of land and tax exemption. The tax burden instead fell on the peasants who did not even own land. In France, Louis Philippe promoted favouritism of the middle class members at the expense of the peasants. As a result, the peasants in several European countries revolted in 1848 against their governments.

The economic crisis or decline in Europe caused the 1848 revolutions. By 1848, there were economic hardships in many European states that encouraged the masses to revolt. For example, there was a decline in the industrial sector towards 1848. This was because of the poor people spending most of their money on the expensive food which led to a fall in the

The influence of reform banquets also contributed to the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions in some European countries. Reform banquets were political rallies at which the opposition members used to criticize the existing governments and also demand for reforms. They therefore influenced public opinion in European countries to demand for a change which eventually caused revolutions. In France for example, a great reform banquet that was organized in Paris in February 1848 eventually sparked off the February 1848 revolution that marked the end of King Louis Philippe.

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| <p>Key vocabulary</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p><u>Magyars</u> and the other people were known as the Croats.</p> <p>On 15th March 1848, the Magyars staged a nationalistic revolution demanding independence from Austria. They were led by an intellectual by the name of Louis Kossuth. The revolution was staged in Budapest which was the capital of Hungary.</p> <p>However in August 1849, with the support of Russian troops which were sent by Tsar Nicholas I, the revolution of the Magyars was crushed with brutality. In fact during the course of fighting, the Croats who lived in Hungary and were enemies of the Magyars fought on the side of Austria and the Hungarian revolution failed.</p> |
| <p>Reference Books</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <p>In June 1848, the Czechs who also lived in Austria staged a nationalistic revolution in PRAGUE which was their capital. However, within four days the Austrian troops crushed the revolution in Prague.</p> <p>THE 1848 REVOLUTION IN PRUSSIA (GERMANY)</p> <p>By 1848, Prussia was still an Independent German state under King Fredrick William IV. Berlin was its capital and the seat of the Prussian Parliament.</p> <p>In March 1848, the Prussians staged a liberal revolution in Berlin demanding for freedom of expression, a parliament elected by the people, equality before the law and a written constitution. They also demanded for an elected parliament for the whole of Germany other than having one for Prussia and another one for the German Confederation which was under Austria at Frankfurt.</p> |

Taken by surprise, King Fredrick William IV verbally yielded to all the demands of the revolutionaries, including parliamentary elections, a constitution and freedom of the press. He also promised that "Prussia was to be merged forthwith with other German states so as to create a united Germany". These developments annoyed Austria which controlled the German Confederation and therefore did not to create a united Germany in Europe. Austria therefore rejected the creation of an assembly or parliament for the whole of Germany which the Prussians had forced onto King Fredrick William IV.

King Fredrick William IV who feared annoying Austria which had the ability to fight against Prussia therefore withdrew the Prussian representatives from the new Assembly or parliament and thus, the Old confederation Parliament was restored. This was a blow to the Prussian liberals and nationalists and therefore it led to the failure of the revolution in Germany.

THE 1848 REVOLUTION IN VIENNA

Vienna was the capital of Austria. A revolution broke out against the government of Prince Metternich. On 21st November 1848, Prince Metternich resigned and was succeeded by

SCHWAZENBURG.

REASONS FOR THE FAILURE OF THE 1848 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

Apart from France, the revolutions in Austria, Hungary, the Italian and German states i.e. the German Confederation and Prussia were a failure because of the following factors:

There was disunity among the liberals and nationalists in Europe. This weakened their struggle and gave the rulers that opportunity to exploit the disunity and the revolutionaries were defeated. In Austria-Hungary for example, the Croats in Hungary refused to support the Magyars and they instead supported Austria because they did not want to be dominated by the Magyars in an independent Hungary. In Italy, instead of fighting against Austria, Naples fought against Sicily.

The ideological conflicts among the revolutionaries led to the failure of the 1848 revolutions. In Italy for example, King Charles Albert of Piedmont was interested in the creation of a Kingdom of Italy after the expulsion of Austria. Other nationalists like Mazzini and Garibaldi wanted the creation of a republic while others wanted leadership of the Pope. This generated a conflict which disabled them to cooperate and Austria was able to defeat them.

The apathy or negative attitude by the peasants led the failure of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. In Austria, the revolutions did not get full support from the peasants who formed the majority of the population. The Austrian government for example made reforms when it abolished the **Robot tax** which was a Labour rent where peasants had to work for their landlords for a specific period of time. Other peasants did not see the reason of supporting revolutions in 1848 because they had supported them in 1830 for example in Italy and Germany states and they did not succeed.

The failure of the revolution in Vienna contributed to failure of other revolutions in the Austrian empire. Although Prince Metternich was overthrown by the revolution which was staged in Vienna, the Austrian government finally defeated the revolutionaries. Austria then removed the forces that had been concentrated to fight in Vienna to protect the Hapsburg Monarchy from being overthrown and they were sent to Hungary and the Italian states. These forces were able to defeat the revolutionaries.

Some of the autocratic and conservative monarchs gave support to each other which led to the defeat of the revolutionaries in 1848. Austria and Russia feared that the success of the revolutions was to contribute to the collapse of their empires. It is not surprising therefore that Tsar Nicholas of Russia sent a large Russian army which helped Austria to defeat the revolution of the Magyars in Budapest the capital of Hungary.

There was lack of support from Britain during the revolutionary period. By 1848, Britain was a major European power which enjoyed parliamentary democracy but she decided to be at peace with the rest of Europe. It refused to use her influence to support the revolutionaries against the unpopular regimes as it had done to the Belgians in 1830 against the Dutch. Therefore, it did not stop the Austrian and Russian activities against the revolutionaries and as a result, they were defeated.

Natural calamities like famine and diseases contributed to the failure of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. The persistent food shortages weakened the struggle of the revolutionaries due to crop failure. The situation was worsened with the outbreak of the Cholera disease resulting from the overcrowding which was being experienced in the urban centres of Europe. The revolutionaries therefore became frustrated such that they could not put in enough effort to defeat their enemies.

The defeat of the revolutionaries was due to their military weakness. Austria and Russia were militarily powerful yet the revolutionary mobs were militarily inferior. This gave an opportunity to the military forces of Austria commanded by **General Radesky** together with those of Russia to defeat the revolutionaries.

The economic backwardness in some of the European states led to the defeat of the revolutionaries. In Italy, Hungary and the German Confederation, Austria had exploited their land resources for her own development. The exploited states did not have good roads, no strong industrial base and so their economies were in a sorry state. Therefore, they could not sustain fighting against an economically powerful state like Austria.

There was also the lack of experience by some of the revolutionary leaders. Some of the revolutionary leaders were men of a weak character and had views that were very difficult to achieve. There were no ruthless leaders like Robespierre of the 1789 French revolution who was willing to kill for the purpose of making the revolution succeed. Fredrick William IV of Prussia feared to take a lead against Austrian control in the German Confederation as demanded by the German nationalists because he admired the influence of Austria in Germany.

The 1848 revolutions were largely staged in urban centres. This affected the success of the revolutionaries because of the limited mobilization of the entire population. In Austria – Hungary, the revolutions were staged in Vienna, Budapest and Prague. Some people even thought that the revolutions had been staged to address urban problems. It therefore became easy to concentrate soldiers in the urban centres that defeated the revolutionaries.

There was lack of charismatic leadership among the revolutionary leaders. The leaders were intellectuals like lawyers, university professors and students. This type of leadership did not attract all the people in their states and therefore their mobilization was limited to the educated groups. In Italy for example, the activities of mobilization by Mazzini were localized in Naples and Sicily yet it needed the whole of Italy to defeat foreign rule.

The “Metternich System” frustrated the nationalists and liberals and therefore they failed to achieve their objectives in 1848. His system of using a spying network, perusing through all correspondences and censorship of reading materials plus arrests and imprisonment of revolutionaries enabled him to defeat the revolutionaries.

The conservativeness of the Catholic Church also contributed to the failure of the 1848 revolutions in Europe. In Prussia and Italy for example, there were religious differences between the Catholic and the Protestants. The Catholic Church feared that its powers were to be reduced in case the Protestant Church or leaders took over government in case Austria was expelled from the respective states. Austria which was a Catholic state exploited this situation and defeated the revolutions.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| | EFFECTS OF THE 1848 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE |
| | The 1848 revolutions marked the end of Prince Metternich and his repressive system in Europe. This gave the liberals and nationalists a chance to fight and achieve their objectives since Metternich had provided a hostile environment to them. |
| Key vocabulary | The 1848 revolutions led to the loss of lives as many people were killed and wounded during the fighting. This was experienced especially in the Italian and German states where Austria wanted to restore her dominance in the above states. |
| | The 1848 revolutions led to the fall of governments in some European countries. For example, in France the Orleans Monarchy of Louis Philippe was overthrown and the 2 nd French Republic was established under Louis Napoleon Bonaparte III. In Rome, the Pope lost power when the Italian revolutionaries led by Mazzini and Garibaldi established a Republic in Rome although this was short lived. |
| Reference Books | The revolutions led to the destruction of property like industries and infrastructures plus farms. This affected the economies of countries like France, the Italian and German states. |
| | As a result of the 1848 revolutions, new personalities emerged on the political scene of Europe like Bismarck of Prussia which later became Germany, Cavour of (Piedmont) Italy and Louis Napoleon III of France. In some cases, these personalities provided political freedom, liberty and democracy to the people. For instance, the new leaders of Austria in Vienna abolished feudalism in September 1849. |
| | The 1848 revolutions were successful in France because Louis Philippe was overthrown and a new government was established. However, in Austrian Empire and Prussia they were only short lived because the despotic leaders came back to their positions |

After the 1848 revolutions, Europe witnessed a period of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the infrastructures which were destroyed during the revolutions. For example, economic reforms were carried out by Louis Napoleon III in France.

In areas where the 1848 revolutions failed, revenge was done against the revolutionary leaders. For example, in Hungary and Austria parliamentary structures were cancelled out and the liberal leaders were imprisoned or exiled.

Great lessons were learnt even if some revolutions had failed. For example, the Italians realized that their failure against Austria was due to disunity and as a result, they began a united struggle under the leadership of Cavour. In Prussia, Bismarck introduced the policy of "Blood and iron" or force which eventually led to the unification of Germany by 1871.

THE COMMON FEATURES OF THE 1848 REVOLUTIONS IN EUROPE

The common features of the 1848 revolutions can be noted in the causes, course and effects of these revolutions as indicated below;

- They were all influenced by the rise of liberalism.
- They were all inspired by the common desire to destroy the bad arrangements the Vienna Settlement of 1815.
- They were all led by intellectuals like university professors, students and journalists.
- Most of them failed except the one in France.
- The revolutionaries were all divided along ideological lines as the case was in Hungary.
- The revolutions took place in the less industrialized states of Europe like France, the Italian states, Hungary and Austria. That is why the poor harvests of 1847 to 1849 greatly contributed to the outbreak of revolutions in these states since their economies were largely agricultural.
- All these revolutions lacked support from their domestic armies except in France and that is why they were easily suppressed by their enemies.
- All the revolutions lacked foreign assistance yet they were fighting against powerful enemies like Austria.
- All the 1848 revolutions lacked proper leadership since they were largely led by the intellectuals of the time like university professors, university students and journalists.
- All the revolutions were inspired by the outbreak of natural calamities like bad weather or famine and epidemic diseases.
- In all the revolutions, Austria appears to be the common enemy except in France.
- Most of these revolutions were inspired by the desire for independence and national unification except in France.
- Most of the 1848 revolutions took place in urban centres like Palermo (Sicily), Paris (France), Vienna (Austria), Berlin (Prussia) and Budapest (Hungary) among others.
- They all took place in the same year i.e. 1848 with one revolution inspiring the outbreak of revolutions in other countries.
- Almost all of them were inspired by the oppressive Metternich System which suppressed liberalism and nationalism.
- Most of the revolutions led to the rise of new personalities on the political scene of Europe.

REASONS WHY BRITAIN AND BELGIUM SURVIVED THE 1848 REVOLUTIONS

Britain and Belgium were among the most liberal states of Europe. Although Britain was a monarchical state, it was administered using a constitution. For Belgium independence had been achieved in 1839. Therefore, there was no need for revolutions in 1848.

Both Britain and Belgium were among the most industrialized states of Europe by 1848. The industrial advancement in these countries contributed to better employment opportunities as well as the production of a variety of goods at cheaper prices which wasn't the case with the other countries of Europe. There were no trade unions in the two countries which would have been instrumental in causing revolutions.

Since most of these revolutions were caused by unemployment and it was not with Britain and Belgium. As a result, both countries had to escape the outbreak of the 1848 revolutions.

In Britain, the excess population which would have caused unemployment had been sent to colonies like South Africa, New Zealand and Canada.

Although Britain had a number of provinces, troublesome states were few unlike countries like Austria which had very many states, nationalities, cultures and religions.

The British colonies had been given semi-independence status by 1848. For example, Canadian colony was responsible for her local parliamentary affairs and same applied to New Zealand.

The location of Britain also made her to survive the 1848 revolutions. She was found on an island and therefore there was minimal interaction with continental Europe. This made her not to be contaminated by the revolutionary ideas as the case was with France and Austria.

For a long time Britain had kept herself away from the matters of Europe. She had maintained a policy of non-interference in the matters of the other countries. This attitude of isolation made her survive the 1848 revolutions.

Britain and Belgium were free from the Metternich system and its policies like the Carlsbad Decrees, a spy network and a police machinery which made other states to rebel in 1848.

The two states weren't affected by the poor harvests and disease outbreaks. For Britain, there was enough food which solved the poor economic situation which would have caused a revolution.

Britain and Belgium didn't have social classes and the associated privileges which had caused the 1848 revolutions in European countries like Austria and France. For example, there weren't peasants in Britain who would have caused of revolution.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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| <u>WWW</u> | <u>QUESTION</u> |
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| Key vocabulary | disunity. The Italians were conquered by powerful neighbouring states like France, Austria, Spain and Prussia. |
| | By the close of the 18 th century, the numerous states that were found on the Italian Peninsular, though independent of each other were under the Austrian domination which subjected them to a lot of exploitation and injustices. There was neither political nor socio-economic co-operation among these states of Italy. The Italians were people of different races, languages and cultures and this explains why Prince Metternich referred to Italy as a “mere geographical expression” in 1815. |
| Reference Books | Following the French occupation of the Italian Peninsular in 1796, Napoleon Bonaparte tried to instill the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity which the Italians were to use later against their oppressive foreign rulers. During his reign, Napoleon Bonaparte merged the numerous Italian states into three divisions namely: the Kingdom of Italy ruled directly by France, the Kingdom of the Popal states under the Pope and the Kingdom of Naples under Marshall Murat one of Napoleon’s senior Generals which laid a foundation for the later unification of Italy. However, with his defeat in 1815, the peace makers at Vienna decided to re-organize Italy by bringing back the old political divisions which the Italian patriots struggled to unite right from 1815 to 1870. Thus, by the Vienna settlement of 1815, Italy was left with the following divisions which fell in five broad groups; |
| | a) To the West; <u>the Kingdom of Sardinia</u> later to become Piedmont-Sardinia. This included the state (island) of Sardinia in the south, Piedmont in the north, Genoa as well as Nice and Savoy to the extreme west, all recovered from France. Sardinia was a very poor or barren island. This kingdom was governed at Turin in Piedmont by King Victor Emmanuel I who was restored by the Vienna settlement and it was free from the Austrian influence. |

b) **To the East; were Lombardy and Venetia** which were combined together in a new kingdom in 1815 and put under the direct control of Austria. Lombardy was the most fertile province in Italy while Venetia was the richest trading centre. Therefore, the two were the richest provinces of Italy.

c) **The Popal States or States of the Church.** These were ruled by the Pope. They were among the worst governed states of Italy. There was no freedom of expression; the Pope killed and imprisoned the Italian nationalists and it was difficult for the nationalists to operate from these states. Besides, they had the highest level of illiteracy on the Italian Peninsular.

d) **At the centre of Italy were three independent Duchies of MODENA, PARMA AND TUSCANY.** The duchies were relatively better governed than the Popal States and the two Sicilies. The ruler of Parma was Marie Louise, the second wife of Napoleon I. The rulers of Parma and Tuscany were both **Austrian Hapsburgs**, while the ruler of Modena was married to one. The three duchies were too dominated by Austria.

e) **To the South was the Kingdom of the two Sicilies i.e. NAPLES AND SICILY.** These

were very poor, highly infested with armed robberies and ruled badly by King Ferdinand I, a member of the Spanish Bourbon ruling House of Spain who was restored by the Vienna settlement of 1815. Though initially independent of each other, King Ferdinand I brought the two kingdoms together into one single state which he ruled as one state.

From the above, it is clear to conclude that after 1815, Italy was no longer a nation but a mere geographical expression. Therefore the unification of Italy refers to the amalgamation or union of the various Italian states namely Piedmont – Sardinia, Lombardy and Venetia, the Central Duchies of Modena, Parma and Tuscany, the Papal States, Naples and Sicily to form a united state of Italy under a single Italian ruler in 1870.

PROBLEMS THAT DELAYED THE UNIFICATION OF ITALY

Before 1850, there were several obstacles or problems that affected the Italian nationalists in their struggle to have a united Italy as noted below;

The Vienna settlement of 1815 delayed the unification of Italy in several ways. For example, it re-divided Italy into numerous entities or states, thus making all her attempts towards unification difficult. From the three divisions which Napoleon Bonaparte had divided Italy, the peace makers at Vienna re-divided Italy into twelve smaller states or provinces each almost independent of the others. This complicated the mobilization as well as coordination of the Italian nationalists during the unification struggle.

Secondly, the Vienna settlement of 1815 gave AUSTRIA a dominant position in the Italian states. For example, Austria was given direct control in the two richest provinces of Lombardy and Venetia and an indirect control over the central Duchies or provinces of Modena, Parma and Tuscany whose rulers were from the Austrian ruling family. Austrian presence in Italy was a very big obstacle because Austria suppressed Italian nationalism and liberalism as it continued to rule these states and this delayed the unification of Italy.

The settlement also restored the old or legitimate rulers in Italy who retarded the revolutionary progress in Italy. For example, King Ferdinand I was restored in Naples and Sicily and the Pope was restored in the Papal states while Victor Emmanuel I was restored in Piedmont. These rulers were very conservative and therefore they suppressed all efforts by the Italian nationalists and liberals aimed at establishing a united Italy.

The Congress system also delayed the unification of Italy. For example, at the Congress of Troppau of October 1820, the Congress men signed a joint anti-revolutionary treaty known as the Troppau Protocol of 1820, through which Austria, Russia and Prussia vowed to suppress any liberal uprisings in Europe. As it came to be, it suppressed most of the early 1820s uprisings in Italy, hence delaying the Italian unification.

The “Metternich system” frustrated the Italian nationalists. First and foremost, Austria and Prussia became the policemen over the Italian affairs. From the Vienna settlement of 1815, Austria acquired Lombardy and Venetia which were the most rich and prosperous Italian states and exploited them for her own benefit. Metternich also set up a spying system which was important in detecting anti-Austrian secret societies in the army, civil services, the middle class as justified by an Italian lady that “My daughter cannot sneeze, but soon Metternich will know of it”. There was also perusing or reading through correspondences so as to get information on the activities of the Italian nationalists. This assisted Metternich to defeat the Italian nationalists for example in the 1820s and 1830s, thus delaying the unification struggle.

The French interference in the process of the Italian unification was another obstacle. For example, in 1848 the Mazzini and Garibaldi overthrew the Pope and declared a Roman republic in Rome. The Pope was forced into exile in Naples. However, Louis Napoleon

Bonaparte who wanted to win the support of the Catholics at home, sent the French troops under General **Oudinot** to Rome, defeated the republicans and eventually the Pope was restored in 1849. The Roman republic was therefore dissolved. This denied the Italian nationalists a strategic base from where they could effectively mobilize themselves and liberate other parts of Italy. Worst of all, the French soldiers sent to restore the Pope remained in Rome guarding the Pope from any invasion by the Italian nationalists until the 1870-1871 Franco-Prussian War. This made all attempts to liberate Rome a failure.

The lack of foreign assistance delayed the unification of Italy. Though the struggle for Italian unity had started way back in the 1815, no foreign aid was given to the Italians until the late 1850s. By the 1840s, the Italian patriots lacked foreign assistance because many of the European states were ruled by despotic monarchical regimes that were not prepared to witness the success of the forces of liberalism and nationalism in Europe. The conservative states of Russia, Prussia and Austria had even signed a joint protocol in 1820 during the Troppau Congress to fight any revolutionary uprisings in Europe while liberal Britain which many Italian patriots expected to help them had opted to isolate herself from European affairs. All these left the Italian nationalists isolated without any kind of aid. This strengthened the Austrian control over the Italian states, thus frustrating the Italian unification.

The lack of broad based mobilization and sensitization or politicization about the need for Italian unity delayed the struggle for unification. Before 1850, the majority of the Italians were still ignorant about the idea of a united Italy. Mazzini who attempted to educate the Italians about this cause could not achieve any progress among the peasants due to illiteracy. This therefore confined or limited the unification struggle only to the urban centres where the Austrian influence was very great.

The influence of the Pope delayed the unification of Italy. By religious connection, most of the Italian states prior to 1870 were fanatic supporters of the Pope. The Catholic Church under the Pope opposed any liberal and nationalistic activities to take place in Italy. The Pope was a pillar of conservatism in Europe and was also a strong ally (friend) of Metternich and the catholic Austrian Empire. The Pope and the Catholic clergy therefore sustained the Austrian interests in Italy and such an obstacle remained influential until 1852 when Count Camillo Cavour emerged.

The economic backwardness of the Italian states also affected their struggle for unification. The Italian states were poor in industry, agriculture and commerce. Naples and Sardinia though large states, were barren islands, poverty stricken and infested with armed robbers. The two economically powerful states of Lombardy and Venetia were heavily exploited by the Austrians to sustain the Austria's despotic administration. There were no banking facilities and no serious resources to attract continental commerce. Besides, Italy lacked a sizeable bourgeoisie class that could finance and spearhead the nationalistic activities across the Italian Peninsular.

In addition, there was lack of modern transport and communication infrastructures. In Italy, there were no properly developed transport and communication networks for effective mobilization and flow of the unification ideas. In the Papal states for example, the development of communication networks was hindered for many years by the Pope's refusal to allow the railway and telegraph lines in within his domains. As a result, the Papal states remained uncoordinated either because of the poor or absence of modern transport and communication systems. This therefore left the Italian unification entirely to the economically poorer states of the South which could not support the unification struggle that needed a modernized army as well as developed transport and communication networks.

The selfishness of the Italian leaders in the various states weakened the struggle for unification. The leaders in the smaller states refused to surrender their sovereignty or

independence for sake of a united Italy. For example, the Pope in the Papal States did not want to surrender his political powers to a united Italy. The one of Naples and Sicily together with those in the central duchies of Modena, Parma and Tuscany did not want to be subordinates of the Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia which was spearheading the Italian unification struggle from the 1850s.

The military weakness of the Italian states delayed the unification struggle. Until the 1850s, the Italian states lacked a strong army that could effectively challenge their enemy Austria. Austria had frequently suppressed the Italian liberal and nationalistic movements because the former had no established national army. Each state owned its garrisons that were very poor and ill equipped. Though revolutionary movements such as the Carbonari tried to put up forces, they too were weak, disorganized, too localized and equally ill equipped. This therefore made it difficult for the Italians to dislodge or expel the Austrians who had highly trained and well equipped forces in Italy.

The ideological differences (nature of government) delayed the unification of Italy. Different Italian nationalists had conflicting opinions regarding the nature of the government to form in a United Italy. For example, Mazzini, one of the pioneer members of the Young Italy Movement wanted a united Republican government led by a constitutional monarch or king while Abbey Giobert wanted a Federal government under the leadership of the Pope from Rome. The Monarchists led by Mazzimo – de – Azeglio preferred a United Italy under King Charles Albert of Piedmont –Sardinia. Such diverse political ideologies worked against the early Italian efforts towards their unity.

The conflicts and disunity among the Italian nationalists hindered the unification struggle. There were conflicts among the Italian nationalists regarding the means and strategies to achieve the Italian unification. For example, where as some nationalists like Mazzini insisted that Italy on its own could achieve her unity without foreign aid, others like Cavour desired for foreign help in the unification struggle. Such antagonism was worsened by interstate rivalries and selfish interests which affected the unification struggle. For example, Sicily was opposed to Piedmont's leadership for unity, Rome was against Venetia and worst of all the Pope allied with Austria to frustrate the Italian efforts in the 1840s. Such divisions amongst the Italian nationalists explain why the Italians failed to organize a coordinated movement but isolated uprisings which were easily crushed by Austria.

The economic inequality or disparity also affected the struggle for Italian unification. Although generally Italy was economically backward, some of her states were more resourceful than others. The north had more wealth like industries and minerals than the south which was poor for cultivation. These inequalities delayed the unification struggle because the wealthy north was reluctant to unite with the southern states for fear that the southern poor states would get the opportunity of sharing their wealth.

There was lack of able leadership in Italy. Before 1850, there existed no reliable and capable leaders in Italy to spearhead the struggle to liberate and unite the Italian states. The few available leaders had a lot of weaknesses. For example, Mazzini, the leader of the Carbonari and founder of the Young Italy Movement operated from exile i.e. Switzerland, Britain and France and was against foreign military assistance. Charles Albert who was the king of Piedmont – Sardinia was anti-unification and merely wanted to expand his kingdom and this is why he was reluctant to attack Austria in 1848. Pope Gregory XVI was too conservative and a supporter of Metternich and the Italians only had hopes in Pope Pius IX who replaced Gregory XVI in 1846. Unfortunately, he betrayed them in 1848 when he defected and turned against the revolution within two years. He was even restored to the throne of Rome in 1849 by Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. So such lack of foresighted leadership delayed the unification of Italy by 1850.

The lack of a national language delayed the unification of Italy. The different states of Italy spoke different languages and this undermined the progress of the unification struggle. Italian was a language of the intellectuals while Latin was widely used as a medium of instruction in schools, universities and churches. In states like Naples and Sicily, the Italian language was unknown. Instead, they spoke French or their local languages, hence making it difficult for the Italian nationalists to sensitize (politicize) and mobilize the Italians for a successful struggle.

There were also religious differences between north and the south which undermined the unification struggle. Northern Italy was predominantly Catholic while the south was Protestant. These religious differences worked against the unification because the Catholics feared to be dominated by the Protestants.

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| Lesson Objective | <u>Do now</u> |
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| <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p>THE PROCESS OF THE ITALIAN UNIFICATION UP TO 1870 {FACTORS THAT FAVOURED}</p> <p>The process of Italian unification ended in 1870 with the liberation or the conquest state of Rome. A number of events or factors facilitated the Italian unification by 1870 which included the</p> |

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| | following; |
| Key vocabulary | The contribution of Napoleon I laid a foundation for the unification of Italy. During the Italian campaign of 1796-1797, Napoleon Bonaparte expelled the foreigners (Austrians) out of Italy. He then preached and instilled in the Italians the 1789 French Revolutionary ideas of equality, liberty and nationalism (independence) and reminded them of the same goal and historical background. Napoleon I later reduced the numerous states of Italy from over two hundred into three major kingdoms that included the Kingdom of Italy ruled directly by France, the Kingdom of the Papal states under the Pope and the Kingdom of Naples under Marshall Murat, one of Napoleon's brilliant Generals. This new arrangement made the Italians to interact more closely, develop solidarity and they therefore started thinking as one people, thus developing the idea of unification. |
| Reference Books | <p>The formation of the Carbonari Movement facilitated the unification of Italy. This was a secret movement that mobilized the Italians for unity and independence against foreign rule. This movement had been formed in 1810 to resist the rule of Napoleon I in Italy and therefore it was a nationalistic movement. The Carbonari movement organized the 1821-1830 revolutions in Italy. Although the revolutions were suppressed by Austria the Carbonari movement helped to maintain the struggle for unification from 1810-1830.</p> <p>The emergence of the Young Italy Movement also favoured the unification of Italy. The movement was formed in 1831 by an Italian nationalist know as Mazzini for the purpose of driving Austria out of Italy. This movement improved on the work of the Carbonari by mobilizing all people for unity and independence for Italy. It included people from all classes because the Carbonari had concentrated on the members of the middle class only. It therefore facilitated the Italian struggle for unity.</p> |

The role of Garibaldi was vital in the unification of Italy. He was member of the Carbonari and later the Young Italy Movement. As a nationalist, he actively participated in the 1830 Carbonari uprisings which failed. In 1848, he joined King Charles Albert of Piedmont in a war against Austria. Unfortunately, he was defeated at Custoza. Garibaldi further took part in the revolutionary movements against Pope Pius IX in 1848 which resulted into the creation of a republic in Rome but again due to the French intervention under General Oudinot, the republic was crashed and the Pope was restored in 1849. Despite this defeat, Garibaldi's his efforts encouraged the Italians to keep up the spirit of fighting. Garibaldi was later responsible for the liberation of Naples and Sicily in 1860.

The fall of Metternich in 1848 favoured the unification of Italy. Out of the 1848 revolutions, there was the fall of Prince Metternich and his system. Prince Metternich of Austria had been a major factor in maintaining a disunited Italy. He set up a police and army to suppress the liberal and nationalistic activities throughout Italy. He also instituted spies in Italy who helped him to frustrate the activities of the Italian nationalists. Therefore, his fall in 1848 was a step ahead for the Italian nationalists who began to progressively weaken the Austrian influence in Italy.

The election of a liberal Pope Pius IX in 1846 also promoted liberalism and nationalism throughout the Italian Peninsular. Unlike his predecessor the conservative Pope Gregory XVIII, Pope Pius IX was liberal and therefore he was sympathetic to the ideas of the Italian unification. He even released all the political prisoners in the Papal states jailed by Pope Gregory XVIII. This encouraged the Italian nationalists to begin operating from these states with a hope that the Pope was to have political powers in the united Italy.

The role of the Italian writers and philosophers promoted the unification of Italy. These people condemned the foreign domination of Italy and wrote patriotic poems, novels and books in which they expressed how the Austrians tortured the Italians. The most common was Alessandro Manzoni (1860-1873) who wrote a famous novel; *“The Betrothed”* in which he showed Europe how Austria had reduced the Italians to the lowest and most degrading position in the world. Therefore, the work of the writers prompted many Italians to fight for their unification.

The role of King Charles Albert facilitated the unification of Italy. He was King of Piedmont from 1831 to 1849. He introduced constitutional and other political reforms in Piedmont-Sardinia. For example, in March 1848 he gave Piedmont - Sardinia a liberal constitution and a new parliament. This was important because the liberals in Piedmont-Sardinia gave Charles Albert support to fight against Austria in northern Italy. However, Charles Albert resigned in favour of his son King Victor Emmanuel II in 1849.

The role of Victor Emmanuel II was also vital in the unification of Italy. He became King of Piedmont-Sardinia in 1849 following the resignation of his father Charles Albert due to the 1848 revolutions. He played a major role in the unification of Italy and without him, the struggle for unifying Italy would have been difficult. Unlike his father, he was anti-Austrian, liberal minded and a patriot who had a very strong love for his nation. He was therefore committed to the Italian struggle for unification and independence. He is the one who made Piedmont the centre of the struggle for the liberation of Italy from foreign rule, hence solving the problem of lack of able leadership that had for long hindered the progress of the Italian unification.

As a liberal minded king, Victor Emmanuel II maintained the liberal constitution of 1848 left behind by his father Charles Albert. This was important because the Italian liberals gave him support in the struggle as they thought that he would never be a dictator as king of the united Italy. This therefore promoted the Italian struggle for unity.

Victor Emmanuel II appointed Count Camillo Cavour as Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia in 1852 who greatly contributed to the unification of Italy. It should be noted that Cavour's new appointment gave him the platform to modernize Piedmont-Sardinia, thus making it admirable for the rest of the Italians and also to realize that Piedmont-Sardinia would be the centre of the Italian unification.

In addition, Victor Emmanuel II co-operated with Camillo Cavour, the Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia and indeed he financially supported all Cavour's unification programmes or efforts. That's why most of his contributions towards the unification of Italy were channeled through Cavour, the Prime Minister.

He carried out military reforms in Piedmont. Realizing that the Italian struggles of 1848 were largely undermined by military weakness, Victor Emmanuel II created a big and efficient army in preparation for war with Austria. He spent more money on training soldiers, purchase of weapons and ammunitions. Using such an army, the subsequent Italian campaigns against Austria registered remarkable success. For example, in 1859 this army helped to defeat Austria and as a result, Lombardy was liberated and annexed to Piedmont which was a major step in the process of the unification of Italy.

Victor Emmanuel II developed the economic power of Piedmont through his economic reforms

and this in turn facilitated the unification struggle. For example, he promoted industrialization by setting up a number of industries in Piedmont. He also improved agriculture which helped to generate enough revenue as well as food supplies to facilitate the unification process. He also signed commercial treaties with other European countries such as Britain which promoted trade and commerce. He also built railway and road networks which were used in the transportation of troops and supplies that were used to liberate the Italian states from the Austrian rule. The strong economy established by Victor Emmanuel II in Piedmont greatly boosted the Italian struggle for unity.

He promoted unity among the Italian nationalists which was vital in the Italian unification struggle. For example, as a **monarchist** he suppressed the republican ideology in Piedmont-Sardinia that had hindered the unification struggle through dividing the Italians. As a result, all the Italian nationalists rallied behind him which enabled them to attain unity by 1870.

He also reduced the political powers of the Catholic Church, rigidities and conservatism. For example, after the Pope Pius IX betraying the Italian revolutionaries in 1848 – 1849, Victor Emmanuel II pursued an anti-clerical policy. Thus in 1850, he passed a series of laws by which the church lost its special courts, its right to inherit property without the consent of the government, and its exclusive control over marriage ceremonies. In 1855, all religious orders were abolished, except those concerned with the preaching, teaching and helping the sick. By doing so, Victor Emmanuel II avoided a state within a state and therefore promoted the unification struggle with less obstruction from the Pope and the entire Catholic Church in Italy.

He gave refuge to all the Italian patriots in his kingdom. Before 1848, several Italian patriots had fled to exile as a result of the brutal Metternich system. When he rose to power in 1849, Victor Emmanuel II gave such people unconditional amnesty to return home and join the struggle for Italian unity. It was because of this amnesty that prominent Italian patriots like Mazzini and Garibaldi returned to Italy and spearheaded the Italian struggle for unity. This revived and accelerated the struggle for Italian unity.

He encouraged the press propaganda in Piedmont-Sardinia through publishing articles in the existing newspapers like the **“IL Risorgimento”** that had been set up by Camillo Cavour in 1847. This helped to sensitize the Italians about the need for Italian unity and independence, thus promoting the unification struggle.

He secured foreign assistance for the Italian unification. For example, in collaboration with Camillo Cavour, Victor Emmanuel II secured the French assistance to the Italian cause in 1859. This was done by involving Piedmont in the Crimean War of 1854 – 1856 in which Piedmont's troops joined the British and the French soldiers which ended in the allies' victory against Russia. Consequently, France offered military support to Piedmont in her war against Austria in 1859 in which Austria was defeated. This led to the liberation of Lombardy which was a major step in the Italian unification struggle.

More still, Victor Emmanuel II persuaded Cavour to resume his office as Prime Minister after his resignation in 1859. Cavour had resigned as Prime Minister following Napoleon III's disappointment of the Italians when he withdrew the French military support in a war against Austria which made the Italians unable to liberate Venetia from the Austrian rule. When Cavour finally resumed office in January 1860, the contributions he made to the Italian unification struggle were many, which credit goes to King Victor Emmanuel II.

Victor Emmanuel II supported Garibaldi's military adventures or campaigns to liberate the Italian states. For example, he supported Garibaldi's efforts to liberate the Italian states of Naples and Sicily in 1860. After their liberation, the two states were finally annexed to Piedmont-Sardinia which was also an important step in the unification of Italy.

He also supported the nationalist movement or uprisings of 1860 in the Central Duchies of Modena, Parma and Tuscany as well as the Papal state of Romagna. These states organized popular uprisings against their conservative Austrian rulers and demanded for a union with Piedmont-Sardinia. Consequently, Victor Emmanuel II annexed these states in 1860 through plebiscites or referenda.

He was vital in the formation of the Italian Kingdom in 1861. In March 1861, King Victor Emmanuel II declared the Kingdom of Italy with him as the king and Camillo Cavour as the Prime Minister. This was an important step in the unification of Italy because by this time it was only Venetia and Rome that had not been liberated so as to complete the Italian unification.

He spearheaded the struggle for Italian unification even after his strong man, Camillo Cavour had died in 1861. King Victor Emmanuel II therefore helped to complete the Italian unification struggle in 1870.

His charismatic or able leadership also won the British sympathy and moral support towards the Italian unification struggle. This support helped the Italian patriots like Garibaldi to liberate the Italian states from foreign rule which led to the unification of Italy by 1870.

Victor Emmanuel II entered into alliance with Prussia and this facilitated the unification of Italy. For example, he cooperated with Prussia during the Austro-Prussian War of 1866 and Austria was defeated. At the end of this war, Otto Von Bismarck of Prussia forced Austria to hand over Venetia to Italy which was another important step in the unification of Italy.

Victor Emmanuel II occupied Rome in 1870, after the withdrawal of the French troops. He attacked Rome on 20th September 1870 and on 2nd June 1871, he organized a referendum in which the people of Rome voted to be part of the united Italy and this completed the process of Italian unification. He later transferred his family and the parliament from Turin in Piedmont to Rome, hence making Rome the capital of Italy.

The emergence of Count Camillo Cavour was also vital in the unification of Italy. Count Camillo Cavour was born in 1810 in Turin, the capital of Piedmont. Born to a respectable aristocratic family, a son of a Piedmontese nobleman, Camillo Cavour trained as a soldier and served in Piedmont's army but later resigned after conflicting with the army authorities for having supported the French revolution of 1830 against Charles X. He was well read and travelled widely for example to Britain, France, Switzerland and other countries where he acquired a variety of political and constitutional experiences.

In 1848, he became a member of the Piedmont parliament. In 1850, King Victor Emmanuel II appointed him as Minister of Commerce and Agriculture. He was later made Minister of Navy and Finance. In 1852, he was made Prime Minister of Piedmont. He is perhaps the greatest maker of Italy and this is reflected in his numerous contributions to the struggle for Italian unification which included the following;

In 1847, he founded a newspaper in Piedmont known as "**IL RISORGIMENTO**" meaning a "resurrection" movement for the Italian unification. Its articles advocated for independence and unity from the Austrian rule and a constitutional government. This newspaper therefore sensitized and mobilized the Italians to love constitutional governance and independence. It was this same newspaper that inspired King Charles Albert of Piedmont to pick up arms against Austria in 1848-1849. The newspaper therefore strengthened the spirit of the Italian struggle for unification at a time when Mazzini's Young Italy Movement was collapsing.

Cavour provided a strong and determined leadership that was necessary leadership for the Italian unification. More than any Italian nationalist, it was Cavour as the Prime Minister of Piedmont who led the struggle convincing many Italians to rally behind him. It was his good leadership that

transformed the past attempts by the Italians into practical steps between 1859 and 1866.

He reduced the influence of the Pope and the Catholic Church in the affairs of Piedmont which had been a major obstacle to the unification of Italy. In 1850, Camillo Cavour together with King Victor Emmanuel II, passed laws that reduced the influence of the catholic church in the states affairs. These laws abolished the church privileges, established freedom of worship and state control over education, land and finance as well as marriage ceremonies. Such reforms therefore speeded up the unification process and earned Cavour support from the liberal and republicans which facilitated the unification of Italy after 1850.

Cavour improved the economy of Piedmont which sustained the unification struggle. As Minister of Commerce and Agriculture, Cavour developed the agricultural sector which generated revenue as well as enough food supplies to sustain the unification struggle against Austria. As a Minister of Industry and Finance, Cavour secured loans from developed European countries like Britain, Belgium and France. These loans were used to finance the establishment of a number of industries in Piedmont which encouraged Piedmont's trade and therefore generated more revenue such that by 1855, Piedmont had a balanced budget. With such a strong economy of Piedmont, the unification of Italy became easier since the economic backwardness that used to hinder the unification process was now eliminated by Piedmont under Camillo Cavour.

Cavour improved the transport and communication systems of Piedmont. He built several railway and road networks in Piedmont. By 1860, Piedmont possessed 800 kilometers of track (road and railway networks) which were used in the transportation of troops and supplies that were used to liberate the Italian states from the Austrian rule. For example, the **Monscenis Railway Tunnel** which linked Piedmont to France is what was used to transport the French troops across Piedmont to liberate Lombardy in 1859. Because of this therefore, Camillo Cavour deserves credit.

Cavour also signed free commercial or trade treaties with European countries like Britain, France and Belgium. These commercial treaties encouraged international trade which enabled Piedmont to get the industrial European goods which were very much needed especially ammunitions from developed countries like Britain. This therefore helped to facilitate the struggle for Italian unification.

He made political reforms in Piedmont which boosted the unification struggle. For example, in his capacity as Prime Minister, Cavour maintained the parliamentary system and constitutional government as upheld by King Victor Emmanuel II. In his government, all classes of people were represented and the King appointed ministers that were answerable to the parliament. This made the Italians more enthusiastic for complete independence from the Austrians. By showing respect for individual liberties, Cavour was able to attract the support of all parties in the national cause and to win the foreign sympathy. That is why France and Britain respectively assisted the Italian cause directly and indirectly.

Cavour undertook educational reforms which in turn facilitated the unification struggle. For example, by abolishing church control over education, Cavour was able to open up learning opportunities to all the Italians across the Peninsular. He also built schools and institutions of higher learning. This reduced illiteracy that used to hinder the Italian unification before 1850. The products of such schools also became strong critics of the Austrian domination and greatly helped in championing the unification process.

Cavour strengthened the Piedmont's army. Having realized that the Italian struggles of 1848 had failed largely due to military weakness, Cavour created a big and efficient army to prepare for war. He spent more money on the training of the soldiers as well as purchase of modern arms and ammunitions. It was this strong army of Piedmont that was used to fight and chase Austria out of Italy as the case was in 1859 when the joint Franco-Sardinian army defeated Austria, leading to

the liberation of Lombardy which was an important step in the unification of Italy.

Cavour worked closely with King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont-Sardinia. Cavour was an aristocrat by birth and therefore, he supported monarchical rule in Italy. This enabled him to have a close working relationship with King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont and this was vital in the struggle for Italian unification because it brought about harmony in policy and decision making in Piedmont as regards the Italian unification struggle. He was also supported by other Italians who wanted monarchical rule in Italy. This therefore facilitated the unification of Italy.

Cavour secured foreign military assistance or aid for the Italians unification. Of all the Italian nationalists, it was Cavour who realized the need for foreign assistance in the struggle for Italian unification since the Italian nationalists had for long tried it alone and had failed. He therefore connived with King Victor Emmanuel II and involved Piedmont-Sardinia in the Crimean War of 1854 -1856. At the close of the 1856 Paris Peace Conference that ended the war, Cavour secured the British and French military support to Piedmont in the struggle against Austria. Consequently, Lombardy was liberated in 1859 with the assistance of 20,000 French troops. These very powers programmed and supported a plebiscite vote or referendum through which other sates of Modena, Parma, Tuscany and Romagna got annexed to Piedmont in 1860.

Cavour provoked Austria to declare war on Piedmont in 1859. In 1859, Cavour mobilized Piedmont's soldiers and took them at the border with Lombardy. This provoked Austria which reacted to Cavour's action by declaring war on Piedmont. This helped Cavour to win sympathy from France against Austria which appeared to be the aggressor. As a result, Napoleon III entered the war on the side of Piedmont with a large French force of 200,000 soldiers which defeated Austria at the battles of **MAGENTA** and **SOLFERINO** of 1859. This led to the liberation of Lombardy from Austria which was annexed to Piedmont-Sardinia and this became a major step in the unification of Italy.

Cavour reconciled the conflicts among the Italian freedom fighters. For example in the past, the republicans led by Mazzini and Garibaldi, the monarchists and the middle class members had been conflicting with each other and this had contributed to the delay in Italian unification. Cavour however, constantly appealed to the monarchists under King Victor Emmanuel II, the republicans and the middle class members that the question of unifying Italy was a duty for all Italians and not just a particular class. This prompted unity which was vital for the Italian unification struggle.

Cavour also financed the formation of the **Italian National Society** in 1857 under the leadership of Doctor Manin, Giuseppe La Farina and Ferrante Pallavicino. This nationalistic movement or society sensitized and mobilized the Italians against the Austrians. This therefore popularized the Italian cause across the entire Peninsular, thus promoting the Italian unification.

Cavour's diplomacy also helped to liberate the Italian states from foreign rule. For instance, Cavour managed to table the Italian cause during the Paris Peace Conference of 1856 that was held in France at the end of the Crimean War of 1854-1856. This helped to win the British and French support towards the Italians in their struggle against Austria. Besides, it wasn't until he opened diplomatic ties with Otto Von Bismarck that Venetia was liberated from the Austrian rule in 1866 and joined to the Italian Kingdom after his death in 1861. Though the event took place after his death, his role in this regard was vital. Such diplomacy therefore played a big role in the completion of the Italian unification by 1870.

Cavour used trickery to liberate the Italian states. For example, Cavour's tricks assisted Garibaldi in the liberation of Naples and Sicily. Cavour realized that Garibaldi's careless attack on the above two states would attract other powers like France, Britain and Austria. Thus, he gave Garibaldi diplomatic cover by ordering his arrest while at the same time he secretly assisted him with weapons and other supplies to invade the sates of Naples and Sicily. This gave a false impression

that Cavour was checking Garibaldi's movements.

Similarly, Cavour secured the Papal states for Italy by restraining Garibaldi from attacking Rome. In 1860, he sent Piedmont's troops into the Papal states to prevent Garibaldi from attacking Rome which was the seat of the Pope. This was because such an attack would attract the attention of the Catholic European powers like France and Austria against the Italian struggle for unity. As he protected the Pope in Rome, Cavour secretly conducted a plebiscite vote or referendum in the Papal states and they all voted for a union with Piedmont which was an important step in the unification of Italy.

Cavour was influential in the formation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 which was another important step in the unification struggle. This kingdom was declared by King Victor Emmanuel II as the king with Cavour as the Prime Minister in March 1861 at Turin the capital of Piedmont. By this time, it was only Venetia and Rome that had not been liberated. This is why Cavour is regarded as the greatest statesman and architect or planner of the Italian unification.

The Orsini incident of 1858 contributed to the unification of Italy. This incident which occurred in **January 1858** involved an assassination attempt on Emperor Napoleon III of France. Napoleon III had accepted to assist Piedmont at the end of the Crimean War of 1854-1856 because of the assistance Piedmont had given to the allied powers to defeat Russia. He was however reluctant to fulfill his pledge because he was scared of the growing strength of Italy in the neighbourhood of France and also he did not want a war with Austria, a fellow Catholic state. This annoyed the Italians, including Felice Orsini, an Italian exile living in Paris who threw a bomb to assassinate Emperor Napoleon III and the Empress in 1858 while on their way to Opera. The two survived but many people were killed and others injured. Camillo Cavour used this incident to strengthen his negotiations with Napoleon III by assuring him that the incident would not happen again if the Emperor supported the Italians in their struggle for unification. This therefore led to the signing of the famous agreement at the French resort town of PLOMBIERES in 1858 known as the Pact of Plombieres.

| <u>Brief summary from the teacher's explanation</u> | <u>Brief summary from group discussions</u> | <u>Sample question(s)</u> |
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The annexation of the three Central Duchies in 1860 was another event that contributed to the unification of Italy. The states of Modena, Parma and Tuscany were under Austrian dukes or rulers. The people in these states were excited by the liberation of Lombardy in 1859. As a result, the people in these states and of the Papal states called Romagna staged a successful revolt and exiled their Austrian Princes. The rulers who took over all these territories demanded for union with Piedmont-Sardinia. When Cavour returned to as Prime Minister in January 1860, he struck a bargain with Napoleon III that if the Central Duchies were allowed to unite with Piedmont-Sardinia, France could have her

reward of Savoy and Nice as originally arranged (but foregone when she withdrew with the job half done). Napoleon III agreed to the union and he therefore conducted a plebiscite (referendum) in these states. The results from this plebiscite showed that the people in these states wanted to join Piedmont. Thus, the three Duchies, Lombardy and Romagna were renamed Emilia and accordingly joined to Piedmont-Sardinia. At the same time, Nice and Savoy were transferred to France. This was another step in consolidating the Italian unification process.

The liberation of Naples and Sicily in 1860 was another important step in the unification of Italy. Naples and Sicily were liberated by Garibaldi and his 1,000(one hundred) “Red Shirts Army” with the support of Camillo Cavour. During this stage, Cavour established friendship with Britain which eased Garibaldi’s movement across the Mediterranean Sea to Naples and Sicily. This was because the British Prime Minister – **Palmerstone** gave support when he ordered the British fleet to give cover to Garibaldi’s forces as they sailed to Sicily which they captured. Garibaldi then proceeded to the mainland and landed in Southern Italy by September 1860. The King fled his capital thus enabling Garibaldi to enter Naples without opposition. Garibaldi handed over Naples and Sicily to King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont and this was another important step in the process of Italian unification.

The annexation of Papal states in 1860 was another event that led to the unification of Italy. This was done by Cavour through political foresight. Although he had resigned in 1859, Britain put pressure on Napoleon III to resume supporting Piedmont and this encouraged Cavour to come back to office in early 1860 and continued with the struggle for unification. Cavour realized that having conquered Naples and Sicily in 1860, Garibaldi was likely to move northwards and attack Rome – the seat of the Pope. This would have brought in France and Austria to fight Piedmont so as to restore the Pope, hence causing problems to the Italian unification. Cavour therefore sent the troops of Piedmont into the Papal states to restrain or prevent Garibaldi from attacking Rome. This move was vital because while he protected the Pope in Rome, Cavour was able to conduct a plebiscite in the Papal states and all the people voted for a union with Piedmont but he was very careful not to annex Rome. This was another step in consolidating the process of Italian unification.

The formation or declaration of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 also contributed to the unification of Italy. Cavour declared the Kingdom of Italy in 1861 with Turin in Piedmont as its Capital. Victor Emmanuel II was declared as King and Cavour as the Prime Minister of this newly created Italian kingdom. By this time, it was only ROME and VENETIA that had not been annexed to Italy. Therefore, it was an important step in the process of the Italian unification. Unfortunately, Cavour died in 1861 before the annexation of Rome and Venetia.

The liberation of Venetia in 1866 was another event that contributed to the unification of Italy. In 1866, there broke out a war between Prussia and Austria and this was known as the Austro – Prussian war. Before the war, Otto Von Bismarck of Prussia entered into an agreement with King Victor Emmanuel II in which Italy was to assist Prussia in a war against Austria and that the Italian government was to be given Venetia if Austria was defeated. Garibaldi then led the French forces into the war and Austria was eventually defeated. At the end of the war, Bismarck forced Austria to hand over Venetia to Italy which was a major step in the unification of Italy. By this time, it was only Rome that was out of Italy.

The Franco – Prussian War of 1870 – 1871 (the annexation of Rome in 1870) led to the complete unification of Italy. Between 1870 and 1871, there was a war between France and Prussia known as the Franco – Prussian war. This war reminded France about

her troops in Rome which had remained an obstacle to the completion of the Italian unification. As a result, Napoleon III was forced to withdraw the French troops which he had deployed in Rome to protect the Pope so as to go and fight against Prussia. Earlier on, Victor Emmanuel II had feared to attack Rome because it would provoke France's anger as it did in 1848 and 1867 when Garibaldi attacked Rome and was driven by the French forces. Therefore, as soon as the French forces were withdrawn, the Italians entered Rome and Victor Emmanuel II therefore declared a united free state of Italy. However, Pope Pius IX did not accept the unification of the Italian Peninsula and therefore he refused to recognize the loss of his political control over Rome until **11th February 1929**, when the **Lateran Treaty** was signed by Mussolini and **Pope Pius XI** in which the conflict was settled by creating the Vatican City State or a section of Rome where the Popes have political and religious control.

Sample questions

1. **Examine the factors that favoured the unification of Italy between 1850 and 1871.**

Approach:

- The candidate is required to give a viable background about the Italian unification.
- Should give and explain factors that favoured the unification struggle.

Points to consider:

Efforts towards the unification of Italy failed before 1850. However, from 1850 - 1870 a number of factors and events favoured its unification which included:

- The role of the Carbonari
- The role of the Young Italy Movement
- The contribution of King Victor Emmanuel II of Piedmont
- The downfall of Metternich and collapse of his system in 1848
- The success of the 1848 revolution in France and the rise of Napoleon III e.g. he sent the French troops to fight alongside those of Piedmont in northern Italy against Austria in the battles of Magenta and Solferino which led to the liberation of Lombardy.
- The success of the Orsini incident
- The role of Garibaldi
- The role of Cavour in Piedmont
- The emergence of a liberal Pope Pius IX in 1846 resulted into political and religious reforms.
- The change in balance of power in Europe in favour of Britain and France from the 1850s left the Austrian empire weak to the advantage of the Italian states.
- The role of Bismarck of Prussia, e.g. he was vital in the liberation of Venetia in 1866 and in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871 which completed the unification.
- The British moral and military support e.g. the British government under Prime Minister Palmerston allowed her ships to give cover to Garibaldi's forces which captured Sicily in 1860. She also refused the request of Napoleon III of not allowing Garibaldi's forces to capture Naples. She also supported the annexation of the central states by Piedmont.
- The Russian neutrality during the Austro – Italian conflicts between 1850 and 1870 enabled the Italians to defeat Austria.
- The patriotism among the Italian revolutionaries after 1850 e.g. Garibaldi, Cavour etc.
- Cavour's successful plebiscite in the central duchies of Parma, Tuscany, Modena

and Romagna.

- The effects of the Crimean war of 1854 – 1856 i.e Austria remained without allies and above all, it changed the British and French attitude towards Italy.

2. Explain the weaknesses of Camillo Cavour in the process of Italian unification.

- Count Camillo Cavour had a number of weaknesses which undermined the Italian unification struggle and these included the following;
- His temporary withdrawal or resignation as a Prime Minister in 1859 after conflicting with King Victor Emmanuel II over the continuation of the war with Austria was a major weakness. He resigned because Napoleon III had withdrawn from the Austro-Italian War of 1859 prematurely before the liberation of Venetia from Austria. This retarded the progress of the Italians unification, although in early 1860 he returned to power.
- He gave away the city of Nice and the territory of Savoy to France in 1860 as a reward for her support to Piedmont against Austria in 1859. Cavour therefore disappointed other Italian nationalists for example Garibaldi who was coming from Nice and therefore they criticized him a lot because of that. This therefore undermined the struggle for Italian unification.
- He pursued different political ideologies that were contrary to those of other Italian nationalists. For example, as an aristocrat by birth, Cavour favoured monarchical rule as the best form of government in Italy. This created conflicts between Cavour and other Italian nationalists like Mazzini and Garibaldi who were republicans and therefore favoured a republican system of government in case Italy got united. Such conflicts undermined the progress of the Italian unification struggle.
- His policies resulted into the over taxation of the masses especially the peasants and the middle class. This therefore made such Italians to hate the Italian unification struggle as it was oppressing and exploiting them, thus undermining the struggle to unify Italy.
- Cavour's initial bias against the Southern Italian states was a major weakness. Given their economic backwardness, Cavour's initial dream and plan was to unite only the states in the Northern Italy which economically better off. This generated resentment from such states which partly undermined the unification struggle of Italy.
- He prevented Garibaldi from conquering Rome in 1860. He sent the Piedmont's troops into the Papal states to stop Garibaldi from attacking Rome which was a setback to the Italian struggle for unification.
- Cavour didn't live to witness the total unification of Italy. He died on 6th June 1861 before Venetia and Rome were liberated and therefore, he was unable to enjoy the fruits of his sweat. This was a major weakness that almost led to the failure of the Italian unification struggle, had it not been the presence King Victor Emmanuel II who spearheaded the struggle up to 1870 when it was completed.

3. To what extent were the foreign powers responsible for the unification of Italy?

Approach:

- The candidates are expected to identify and explain the role of the foreign powers in the unification of Italy.
- Other factors are also required.
- A stand point is required.
- Points to consider:
- A viable background about the Italian unification
- **Role of foreign powers:**
- Inspiration from the already united monarchies like Britain and France

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