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The French Revolution

The French Revolution: A Fight for Liberty and Equality

DEFINITION

> The French Revolution was a period of radical social and political change in France from 1789 to 1799. It aimed to overthrow the monarchy and establish a republic based on Enlightenment ideals.

KEY CONCEPTS

Causes of Revolution

Key factors included social inequality, financial crisis, and Enlightenment ideas challenging monarchy.

Estates-General

A legislative assembly representing the three estates: clergy, nobility, and commoners, convened in 1789.

Declaration of the Rights of Man

A fundamental document that proclaimed individual and collective rights, emphasizing liberty and equality.

Reign of Terror

A period of extreme violence led by Robespierre, targeting perceived enemies of the revolution.

Rise of Napoleon

Napoleon Bonaparte emerged as a leader post-revolution, eventually becoming Emperor of France.

EXAMPLES

→ The storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789.

→ The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.

→ The establishment of the First French Republic.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity' as the revolution's motto.

★ Use 'B.E.R.T.' to recall key events: Bastille, Estates-General, Rights Declaration, Terror.

★ Visualize the guillotine to remember the Reign of Terror.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the causes of the revolution with its outcomes.

✗ Overlooking the role of women in the revolution.

✗ Misunderstanding the timeline of key events.

QUICK RECAP

The French Revolution transformed France by abolishing the monarchy and establishing rights for citizens. Key events include the storming of the Bastille and the Reign of Terror, leading to Napoleon's rise.