
The French Revolution

Chapter Seven

The French Revolution

■ Introduction

- ❑ How would you define an unjust government?
 - ❑ What, if anything, would lead you to take part in a violent revolution?
 - ❑ Why do most people dislike taxes?
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Causes of the French Revolution

- Influence of the Enlightenment and American Revolution
 - Encourage overthrow of monarchy
 - Financial Problems
 - Deep debt caused bankruptcy
 - Unfair tax system
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Causes of the French Revolution

- Class Inequality
 - Special privileges of the 1st and 2nd Estates
 - Social Discontent
 - Corrupt and inefficient government
 - Poor harvests caused food shortages
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Causes of the French Revolution

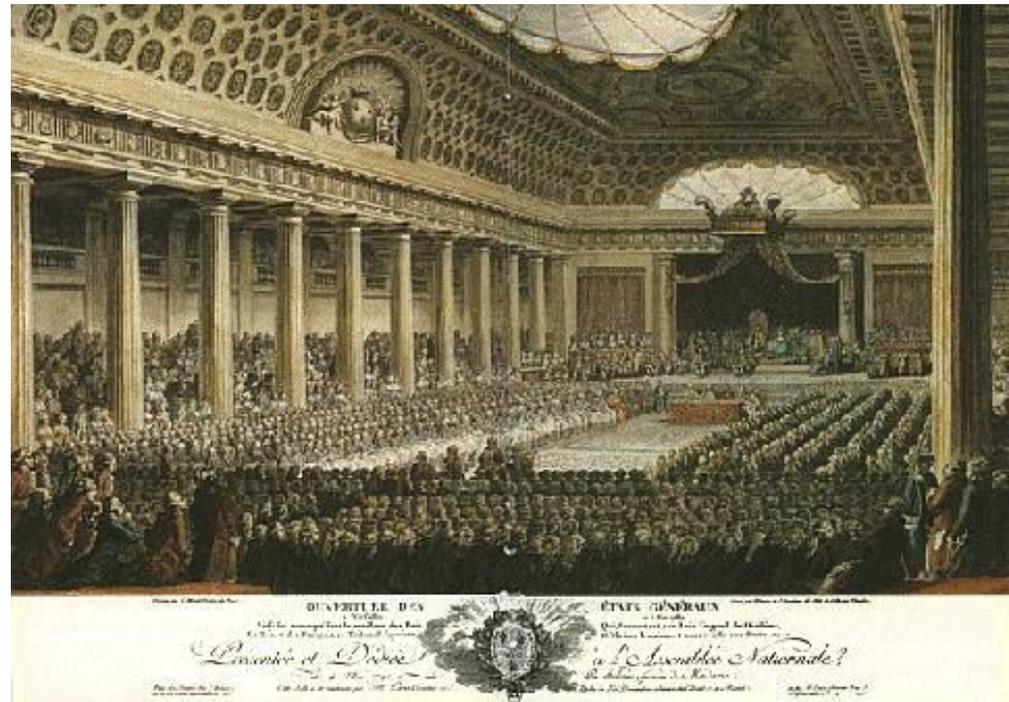
■ The Old Regime

- The French people were divided into three estates (classes)
 - 1st Estate-Clergy (1% of pop)
 - paid few taxes
 - Owned 10% of land
 - 2nd Estate-Nobles (2% of pop)
 - Paid no taxes
 - Owned 20% of land
 - 3rd Estate-Peasants (97%)
 - 50% income tax
 - Urban workers, middle class, etc.



How the Revolution started

- King Louis XVI was a weak leader – Called a meeting of the Estates General
 - Representatives from all three estates
 - To change unfair tax system
 - Fight over voting system



King Louis XVI and the Queen Marie Antoinette



How the Revolution started

- Third Estate has little power in the Estates General – always outvoted
 - Want a change in the government
 - More political power for the 3rd Estates
 - Third Estates delegates are locked out of the meeting
 - Decide to meet across the street
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How the Revolution started

- Tennis Court Oath-set up a constitution
 - Members of the Third Estate formed the National Assembly



How the Revolution started

- Fall of the Bastille (July 14th, 1789)
 - Freeing of political prisoners
 - Jail seen by many as a symbol of tyranny



How the Revolution started

■ The Great Fear

- Peasants begin to attack members of the 1st and 2nd Estates

■ October 1789 women of Paris revolt over the rising cost of bread

- Force King Louis XVI to leave Versailles and return to Paris



Course of the Revolution

National Assembly

- Establishes the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
 - Liberty, equality, and fraternity
 - All people created and treated equally
- Seizes control of church lands
 - Sold church lands in order to pay off national debt



Course of the Revolution

- King Louis XVI Tries to Escape
- Fearing for his life, the king tries to escape
 - Fails to leave France
 - He and the royal family are jailed (June 1791)



Course of the Revolution (cont)

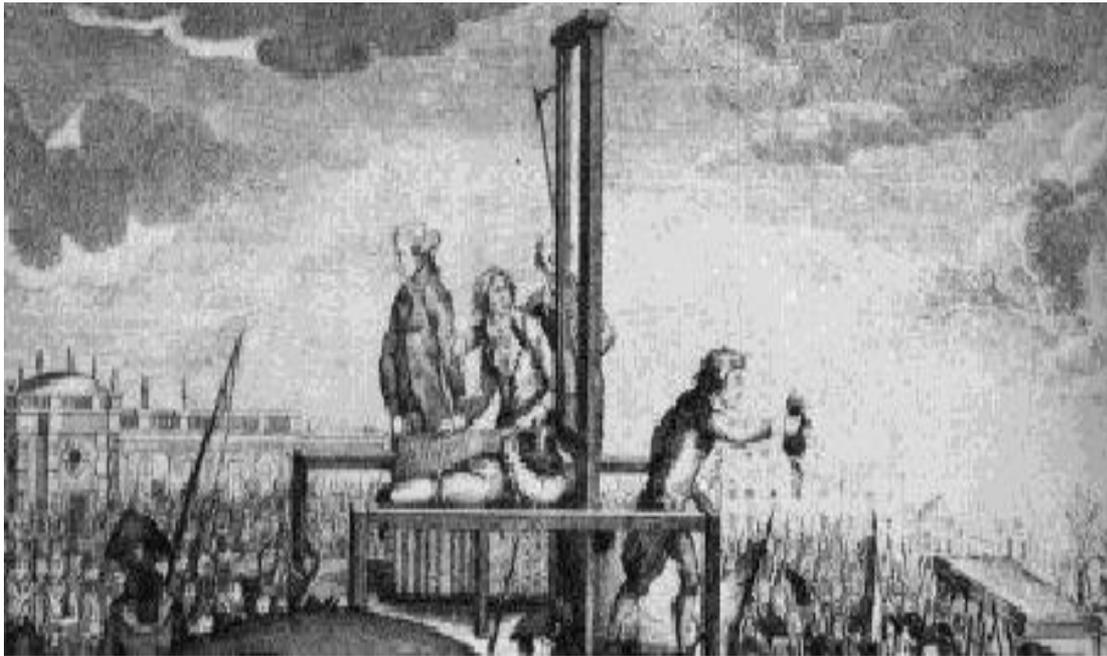
- The Legislative Assembly (Sept. 1791)
 - Legislative Assembly replaced the National Assembly
 - King still held some executive power
 - The National Convention (1792)
 - Legislative Assembly came under the control of the Jacobins
 - Radical faction that abolished the monarchy
 - Replaced the Legislative Assembly with the National Convention
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Course of the Revolution (cont.)

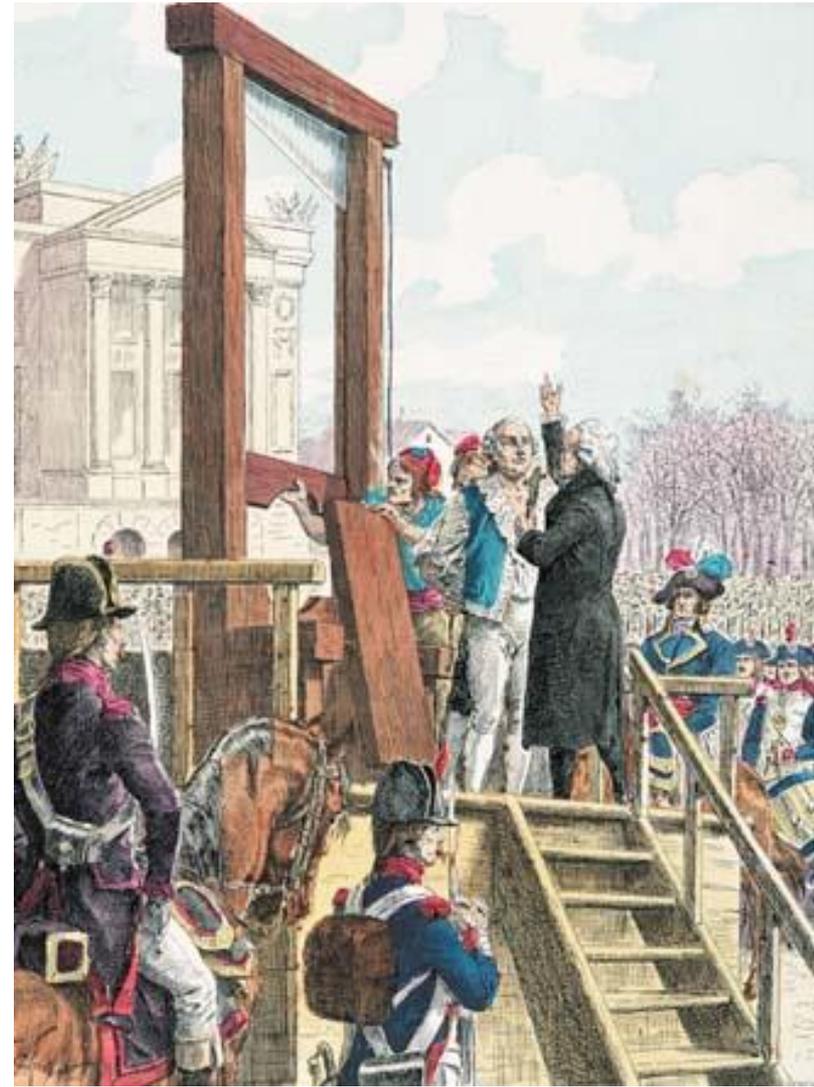
- The National Convention (1792)
 - Reign of Terror (July 1793-1794)
 - Led by the Committee of Public Safety
 - Chairman Maximilien Robespierre
 - In charge of suppressing ANY opposition
 - The King, Queen, and other “enemies” were executed
 - Over 40,000 people in total



the Guillotine



Execution of King Louis XVI



The Rise of Napoleon

- The Directory (1795-1799)
 - Extremely weak government
 - Controlled by five elected leaders
 - 1799-The “*coup d'etat*”
 - Napoleon was named first consul of the Directory
 - A three-man Consulate replaced the Directory
 - 1802-Named consul for life
 - France was under Napoleon’s control
 - Still pretended to be a constitutionally controlled gov’t
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The Rise of Napoleon

- 1804-Napoleon named emperor
 - As Emperor –
 - Centralized the government
 - Created the Bank of France
 - Reinstated of Roman Catholicism as the state religion
 - Established the Napoleonic Code



The Governments of France during the Revolution

- Old Regime (?-1789)
 - National Assembly (1789-1791)
 - Legislative Assembly (1791-1792)
 - Convention (1792-1795)
 - Directory (1795-1799)
 - Consulate (1799-1800)
 - Emperor Napoleon (1800-1815)
 - Monarchy (1815-)
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Napoleon



The Reign of Napoleon Bonaparte

- Emperor Napoleon's Successes
 - Defeated of Austrians at Marengo (1800)
 - Established French power on the continent
 - Napoleon's defeat of various European countries (1805-10)
 - He installed relatives and loyalists as leaders
 - Holland
 - Several German Provinces
 - Italy
 - Naples
 - Spain
 - Sweden
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The Reign of Napoleon Bonaparte

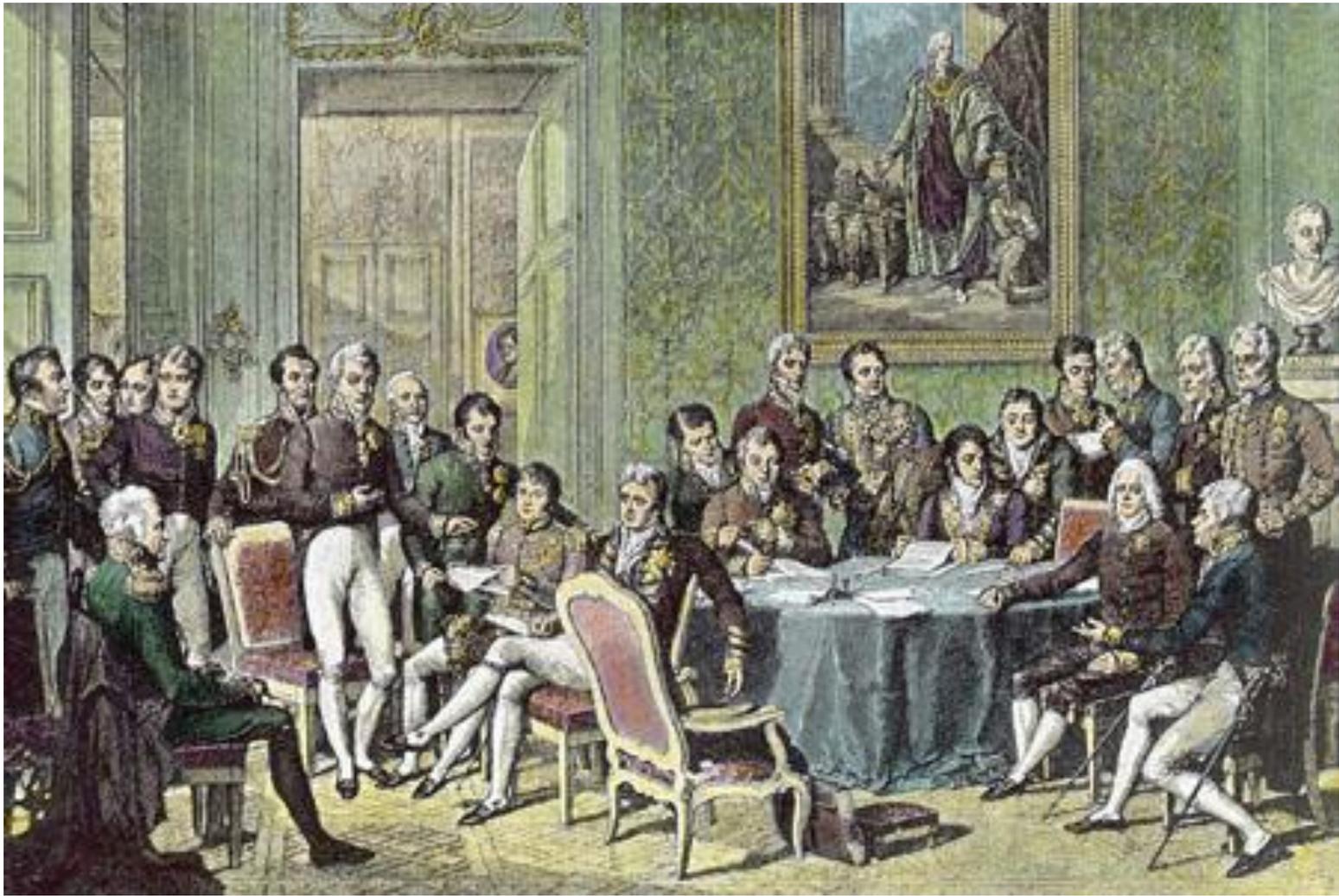
■ Emperor Napoleon's Mistakes

- The invasion of England
 - Battle at Trafalgar (1805)
 - Major defeat of Napoleon
 - Ended Napoleon's plan to invade England
 - Instead, he tried the Continental System (blockade)
 - Also not successful
 - The Peninsular War (1808)
 - Fought against the Spanish (for five years)
 - Drained French military resources.
 - The invasion of Russia (1812)
 - Thousands of French troops died due to winter conditions
 - The tide started to turn in favor of the allies
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The Reign of Napoleon Bonaparte

- The End of Napoleon
 - By 1813 – All of the major European powers were allied against France
 - 1814 – In March Paris fell to Russia and Prussia
 - Napoleon went into exile on the Mediterranean island of Elba.
 - 1815 – He escaped and marched on the French capital and took control of France for 100 days
 - The Battle of Waterloo
 - Ended his brief second reign
 - The British imprisoned him
 - Island of St Helena, where he died on 5/5/1821
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The Congress of Vienna



The Congress of Vienna 1814-1815

- What was it?
 - International conference that was called to remake Europe after the downfall of Napoleon
 - Who were the important players?
 - Austria, Russia, Prussia, and Great Britain
 - Austria – Prince Klemens von Metternich
 - Russia – Emperor Alexander I
 - Prussia – Prince Karl August von Hardenberg
 - Great Britain – Lord Castlereagh & Duke Wellesley
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Klemens von Metternich



Duke Wellesley



Alexander I



Karl August von Hardenberg

The Congress of Vienna

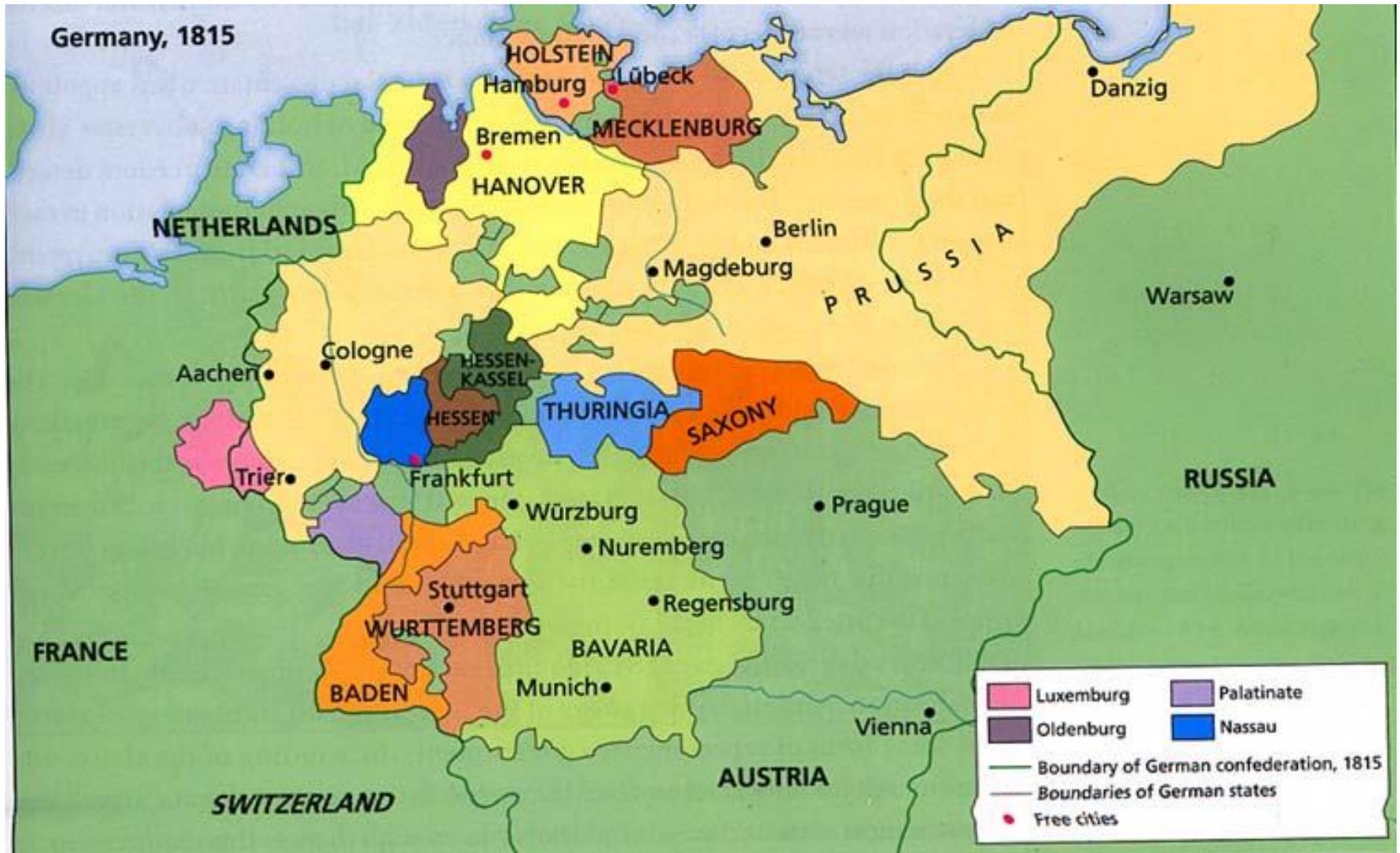
- Prince Klemens von Metternich of Austria developed a plan that was followed
 - Containment of France
 - France lost power
 - Other nations (especially those around France) gained tremendous power
 - Balance of Power
 - France still strong, but no country could easily overpower another
 - Legitimacy
 - Returning leaders who Napoleon ousted
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The Congress of Vienna

- What was the goal of the Congress?
 - Reestablish a balance of power in Europe
 - Establish peace between nations
 - Was it successful?
 - Highly successful - peace lasted almost 40 years
 - Established a German Empire
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Germany in 1815



Formation of Alliances

- Rulers were worried about other nations
 - Formed alliances
 - The Holy Alliance
 - Russia, Austria, and Prussia
 - The Concert of Europe
 - Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Great Britain
 - Set up to protect the status quo
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Legacy of Chapter Seven

- The French Revolution
 - Democracy in Europe
 - Seen as the best way to ensure equality and justice
 - The Napoleonic Age
 - Nationalism spread throughout Europe
 - Particularly in Italy and Germany
 - Colonies began to fight for independence
 - The Congress of Vienna
 - Time of Peace
 - No major international wars for decades
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THE END
