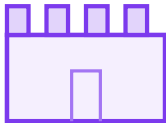


Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century

AP European History ■ Unit 5

AP European History



What we will cover

- 1 Contextualizing 18th-Century States
- 2 The Rise of Global Markets
- 3 Britain's Ascendancy
- 4 The French Revolution
- 5 The French Revolution's Effects
- 6 Napoleon's Rise, Dominance, and Defeat

Contextualizing 18th-Century States

Unit 5 covers the crisis of the old order: global commercial competition, the French Revolution, Napoleon, and the settlement that followed. Three of the course's key concepts converge here – models of political sovereignty, the expansion of European commerce into a worldwide network, and the spread of Enlightenment ideas.

The unit is best held as a single argument: commercial rivalry strained state finances, Enlightenment ideas supplied a language for challenging authority, and where the two met a revolution followed.

The Rise of Global Markets

The expansion of European commerce **accelerated the growth of a worldwide economic network** 全球经济网络.

Maritime competition among European states was no longer a side-show to European politics – overseas trade and colonies were now where European power was won and lost.

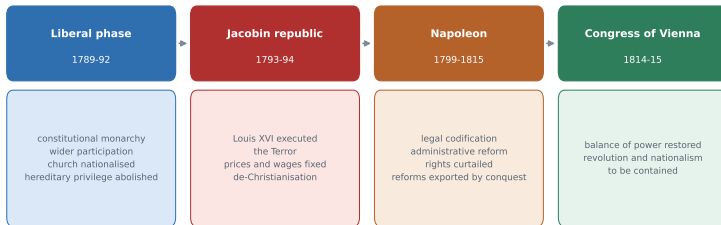
Britain's Ascendancy

Two consequences follow, and both are examinable. Britain gained commercial and naval dominance that shaped the next century.

And France, having spent enormously on those wars, entered the 1780s with a **fiscal crisis** 财政危机 – which is the direct link between this topic and the next.

The French Revolution

One revolution, four phases - and questions name the phase



What outlasts all four: sovereignty belongs to the nation, not the monarch.

the distinction this unit turns on

The French Revolution

- The **first, or liberal, phase** 自由派阶段 established a **constitutional monarchy** 君主立宪, increased popular participation, nationalised the Catholic Church, and abolished **hereditary privileges** 世袭特权.
- After the execution of **Louis XVI**, the **radical Jacobin republic** 雅各宾共和国 led by **Robespierre** 罗伯斯庇尔 responded to opposition at home and war abroad by instituting the **Reign of Terror** 恐怖统治, fixing prices and wages, and pursuing a policy of **de-Christianisation** 去基督教化.
- **Revolutionary armies**, raised by **mass conscription** 大规模征兵, sought to bring the changes begun in France to the rest of Europe.

The French Revolution, continued

Women's participation is examinable and specific: women participated enthusiastically in the early phases, and while there were brief improvements in their legal status, they were later excluded from political participation. Both halves of that sentence are needed.

The French Revolution's Effects

- Revolutionary ideals inspired a **revolt of enslaved people led by Toussaint L'Ouverture** 杜桑·卢维杜尔 in the French colony of Saint-Domingue, which became independent Haiti. This is the CED's demonstration that revolutionary principles, once stated universally, could not be confined to Europe.
- While many were inspired by the Revolution's emphasis on **equality and human rights**, **others condemned its violence** and its disregard for traditional authority – the origin of modern conservatism as a political position.

Napoleon's Rise, Dominance, and Defeat

As first consul and emperor, **Napoleon** 拿破仑 undertook **enduring domestic reforms** 持久的国内改革 – legal codification, administrative and financial reorganisation, a religious settlement – **while often curtailing rights** and manipulating popular opinion.

His **new military tactics** allowed him to exert direct or indirect control over much of the European continent, **spreading the reforms of the Revolution** to the territories he governed.

The Congress of Vienna

After Napoleon's defeat by a coalition of European powers, the **Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)** 维也纳会议 attempted to **restore the balance of power** 均势 and **contain the danger of revolutionary or nationalistic upheavals** in the future.

Unit 7 is largely the story of the second aim failing.

Romanticism

That last point is why Romanticism belongs in this unit rather than in an art chapter: the period had just proved that political movements run on feeling as much as on argument.

- Rousseau questioned the exclusive reliance on reason and emphasised the role of **emotions** 情感 in the moral improvement of self and society – so the challenge begins inside the Enlightenment itself.
- Consistent with Romanticism, **religious revival** 宗教复兴 occurred in Europe, including movements such as **Methodism** 循道宗.
- **Revolution, war, and rebellion demonstrated the emotional power of mass politics and nationalism** 群众政治与民族主义的情感力量.

Continuity and Change in 18th-Century States

The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**.

Exam tips

- Use the CED's causes formula: long-term causes + Enlightenment ideas + short-term fiscal crisis.
- Identify which phase a question is about. Liberal, radical, Napoleonic and the Vienna settlement did very different things.
- On women, give both halves – enthusiastic early participation, later exclusion.
- Haiti shows the Revolution's principles escaping Europe. It is high-value and frequently omitted.
- Napoleon is a both/and: enduring reforms *and* curtailed rights. Neither alone is the answer.
- Romanticism's challenge begins inside the Enlightenment, with Rousseau. That connection is more sophisticated than treating it as a simple reaction.