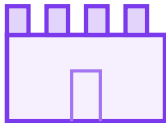


Conflict, Crisis, and Reaction in the Late 18th Century

AP European History ■ Unit 5

AP European History



How can equal-rights promises coexist with repression?

The teaching question

Track who claims authority, which rights are promised, who can exercise them and how war changes political choices.

Scope: CED 5.1–5.9. Practice is original; source paraphrases and hypothetical cases are labelled. No teaching model guarantees an exam score.

1

Contextualizing 18th-Century States

Context supplies conditions, not an inevitable outcome

Commerce and state power

Trade connected regions and supplied revenue, while fleets, colonies and wars demanded resources. Rivalry operated in Europe and overseas.

Ideas and institutions

Enlightenment arguments questioned privilege. **Political sovereignty** 政治主权 asks where legitimate authority comes from: a monarch, a nation or its representatives.

France's revolution followed interacting grievances, crises and choices. Trade plus ideas did not automatically cause revolution everywhere.

2

The Rise of Global Markets

Trace maritime competition across regions

Region	Connections and competition
Atlantic	Ports, colonies and plantation commodities linked commerce to naval competition and enslaved labour.
Asia	Portuguese, Dutch, French and British interests competed. British power became dominant in India; Dutch power centred on the East Indies.
Within Europe	Commercial rivalry shaped alliances and warfare alongside territorial and dynastic interests.

A worldwide network was neither equal exchange nor complete European control of all Asian commerce.

Your turn: connect commerce to state power

Original practice — attempt before the check

A fictional minister proposes warships to protect colonial trade. Explain one way commerce and state power can reinforce each other. Then explain why increased trade does not prove that the state treasury or every worker benefited.

Check: distinguish income, costs and coercion

A connection

Naval protection can defend trade routes and commercial income, helping a state compete with rivals.

A limit

Fleets and wars cost money; trade growth can coexist with state debt. Enslaved workers' coercion cannot be described as a shared commercial benefit.

A causal explanation identifies a mechanism and who is affected, rather than assuming every group gains.

3

Britain's Ascendancy

Britain and France competed in linked wars

Seven Years' War

Fighting in Europe and overseas strengthened Britain's naval and colonial position. Commercial rivalry mattered beyond European battlefields.

American Revolution

French support for Britain's opponents weakened Britain in North America but added to French war costs. Britain's ascendancy did not mean victory in every conflict.

War costs connect international competition to France's fiscal problems; tax privileges and resistance to reform also mattered.

Your turn: repair a one-cause explanation

Original practice — attempt before the check

A student writes: France lost commercial power, so it inevitably had a revolution.
Improve the explanation using war costs, tax reform and political grievances.
Identify what the original sentence fails to show.

Check: explain a link without claiming necessity

A defensible explanation

War expenditure increased debt and pressure for taxation changes. Resistance to reform among privileged groups made the financial problem political. Grievances about privilege and representation widened the challenge to royal authority.

Debt alone does not explain every demand, the timing or why events took this particular course.

4

The French Revolution

Selected periods: distinguish governments from a settlement

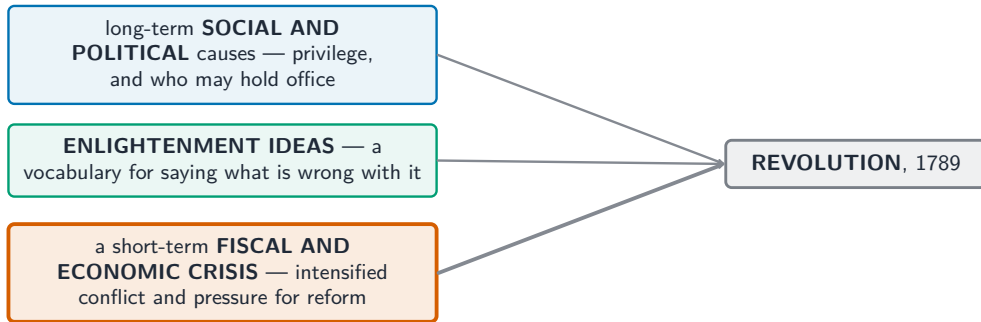
Selected periods: changes in rule and settlement

Liberal phase 1789-92	constitutional monarchy; wider participation church property nationalised; inherited privileges challenged
Jacobin republic 1793-94	Louis XVI executed; emergency Terror price and wage controls; de-Christianisation
Napoleon 1799-1815	civil law and administrative reforms rights curtailed; reforms spread by conquest
Congress of Vienna 1814-15	international balance of power sought revolutionary and nationalist upheaval to be contained

Reform, restriction and restoration coexisted; sovereignty remained contested.

Selected periods, not every government. Vienna was an international settlement.

Causes of 1789: explain interactions



Short-term crises are causes too. Debt, bread distress, privilege and arguments about authority interacted; no single factor made revolution inevitable.

Evidence pack: grievances, debt and distress

Evidence

Inherited privilege

Support for American independence

Bread shortages

What it can help explain

Unequal taxation and access to power created grievances and barriers to reform.

War costs added to the monarchy's debt and pressure for financial reform.

Economic distress widened popular anger beyond the state's finances.

These are teaching summaries of historical developments, not extracts from a single contemporary document.

Your turn: turn a list into causal reasoning

Original practice — attempt before the check

Using the evidence pack, explain how two factors interacted to intensify France's political crisis. Include a link between the factors and a limit on the conclusion. You may use all three if each helps your explanation.

Check: financial pressure met institutional resistance

Worked causal connection

Debt increased the need for taxation changes, but privileged groups' resistance made reform politically difficult. Bread distress widened popular anger while government authority was already under pressure.

This explains interacting pressures. It does not prove revolution was unavoidable or that every indebted state faced the same outcome.

The first, or liberal, phase changed the basis of rule

Constitutional monarchy 君主立宪

The Constitution of 1791 limited royal authority through a constitutional framework. The Declaration of 1789 proclaimed rights and challenged inherited distinctions.

Hereditary privileges 世袭特权

Inherited privileges were attacked. Church property was nationalised; the Civil Constitution of the Clergy reorganised relations between Church and state.

The first, or liberal, phase expanded participation but retained exclusions. Formal political rights were not equal for every person.

A promise is different from its implementation

Rights proclaimed

The Declaration used general principles of liberty and equality to challenge old-regime authority.

Access limited

Voting arrangements distinguished between men by tax or property qualifications. Women did not gain equal national political rights.

Abolishing hereditary privileges did not abolish every form of social inequality.

From monarchy to radical republic

Date	Development and context
1792	Monarchy fell and a republic was established amid war and political conflict.
January 1793	Louis XVI was executed.
1793–1794	Robespierre 罗伯斯庇尔, Jacobin leaders and emergency institutions faced foreign war and internal opposition.
1795–1799	The Directory followed the fall of Robespierre; Napoleon's coup ended it in 1799.

Use dates to distinguish developments. Do not transfer the Directory's institutions or Napoleon's policies into 1789.

War and internal opposition shaped radical policies

Reign of Terror 恐怖統治

Emergency coercion targeted suspected opponents. Claims to defend the republic coexisted with restrictions on liberty.

Economic and religious policy

Price and wage controls and **de-Christianisation** 去基督教化 were features of the radical period. The radical Jacobin republic differed from constitutional monarchy.

Explaining the pressures behind a policy is different from endorsing it or claiming that all revolutionary promises were fulfilled.

Mass conscription connected society and warfare

Mass conscription 大规模征兵

The levée en masse of 1793 mobilised people and resources for war. Revolutionary armies defended France and carried changes into other territories.

Conquest could spread reforms and provoke resistance. Military expansion did not automatically give conquered people self-government.

Women: political action and formal rights

Evidence

October march, 1789

De Gouges, 1791

Legal changes

Clubs closed, 1793

Significance and limit

Women's action over bread and royal authority demonstrates active political participation.

Her declaration demanded recognition of women's rights; the demand shows an exclusion.

Revolutionary divorce provisions briefly expanded some options; this was not equal political citizenship.

Women's political organisations faced repression; national political citizenship remained unequal.

Do not describe women as politically inactive before exclusion or as having first obtained equal voting rights.

Your turn: distinguish participation from citizenship

Original practice — attempt before the check

A student argues that women's march on Versailles proves women gained equal political rights in 1789. Use the march, de Gouges's demands and the 1793 club closures to assess the claim.

Check: an action is not a legal entitlement

Worked response

The march shows women acted politically and helped pressure royal authority. De Gouges's demands indicate that equality remained contested. Club closures show limits on women's organisation; the march alone cannot establish equal national political citizenship.

Identify the kind of evidence: participation, a demand for rights and a restriction prove different things.

5

The French Revolution's Effects

Haiti: ideas, agency and colonial conflict

Toussaint L'Ouverture 卢维杜尔

A revolt of enslaved people began in Saint-Domingue in 1791. Toussaint became a major leader in a struggle involving local groups and foreign powers.

Independence in 1804

Haiti emerged from sustained military resistance and political decisions. Revolutionary ideals mattered, but enslaved people's organisation and action were essential.

Do not attribute independence simply to French generosity or say Toussaint declared it in 1804.

Responses to revolutionary change differed

Support for reform

Equality and human rights inspired challenges to hereditary privilege and arbitrary authority.

Criticism and conservatism

Edmund Burke and other critics condemned violence and attacks on inherited institutions. Some people supported particular reforms while opposing other actions.

The Revolution strengthened conservative arguments; it did not invent every defence of tradition.

Source comparison: rights and exclusion

A: Declaration, 1789

Author-written paraphrase:
government should protect liberty
and equal rights; inherited social
distinctions require justification.

B: De Gouges, 1791

Author-written paraphrase: women
must receive rights that
revolutionary men have failed to
extend to them.

These are teaching paraphrases, not quotations. Compare the claims, then connect each emphasis to its historical situation.

Your turn: compare two rights claims

Original practice — attempt before the check

Using A and B, explain one shared principle and one difference. Explain how B qualifies a claim that the Revolution immediately achieved universal equality. Do not infer that an author's identity alone settles whether the claim is valid.

Check: a common standard, a contested application

Shared principle

Rights provide a standard for judging political authority. Neither position treats inherited authority as sufficient by itself.

Different emphasis

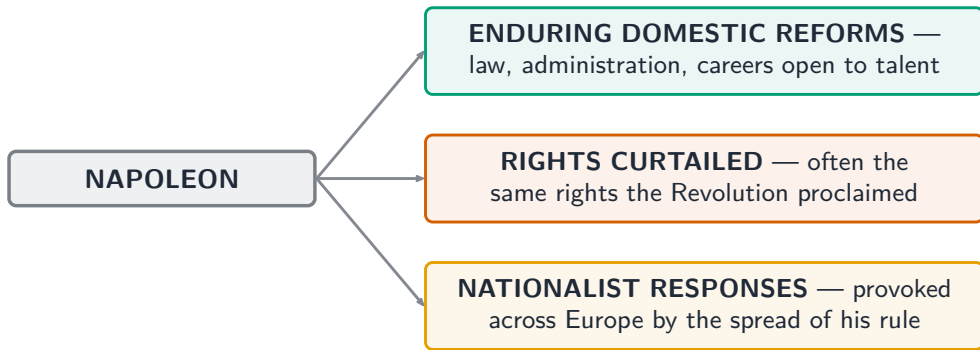
A sets general principles against the old order. B challenges women's exclusion from the revolutionary settlement.

A promise of equal rights is not evidence that every group enjoyed them. Perspective helps explain emphasis; evaluate claims with evidence.

6

Napoleon's Rise, Dominance, and Defeat

Separate reform, restriction and resistance



These effects could coexist. Nationalist resistance could oppose conquest and foreign domination, not legal reform alone.

Napoleon: evidence for evaluation

Development

Civil Code, 1804

Administration and education

Concordat, 1801

Censorship and secret police

What changed or remained limited

Unified civil law and protected property; married women's legal autonomy was restricted.

Central institutions and careers based on ability strengthened the state.

A settlement with the Catholic Church addressed religious conflict.

Political expression and opposition were restricted.

Enduring domestic reforms and curtailed rights require separate examples; legal uniformity does not mean equal liberty for everyone.

Your turn: assess “Napoleon simply ended the Revolution”

Original practice — attempt before the check

Use the evidence table and the spread of legal changes under French rule. Construct a judgement distinguishing legal and property changes from political liberty and women's position. Explain why one sweeping verdict is inadequate.

Check: evaluate different revolutionary aims

Worked judgement

Napoleon preserved and spread some legal and property changes while restricting political liberty and reinforcing unequal family authority. The claim is too broad because it treats revolutionary aims as a single, consistent policy.

Civil Code and property protection support continuity with some reforms; censorship and restrictions on women support limits or reversals. Explain both relationships.

Expansion brought reform and opposition

Military control

Organisation and tactics helped Napoleon control much of continental Europe directly or indirectly. French rule carried legal and administrative changes.

Resistance

Conquest and demands for resources could provoke opposition. Spanish resistance and movements in the German states had varied participants and aims.

The Russian campaign and coalition warfare weakened France. Napoleon was defeated in 1814 and finally in 1815; one battle or tactic is not a complete explanation.

Purpose depends on who commissioned a source

Original practice based on a documented situation

A Spanish commander commissions a print celebrating a woman defending Zaragoza against French forces in 1808. Given only this commission information, infer a likely purpose and explain a limit on what you can conclude.

This is a description-based task: no print is shown, so do not invent visual details. The 2025 SAQ source prompted this skill choice.

Check: explain the link between situation and purpose

Worked inference

A commander celebrating defence against French invasion could encourage support for resistance and commemorate local heroism. The commissioner's military role and the invasion explain why such a message would be useful.

The commission alone cannot establish how every viewer responded, or prove that every opponent of France supported the same national programme.

7

The Congress of Vienna

Distinguish the settlement's two aims

Balance of power 均勢

Arrange relations and territory so a single state cannot easily dominate the others. Cooperation and constraints on France addressed this international problem.

Contain upheaval

Restored dynasties defended traditional legitimacy and sought to contain revolutionary or nationalist challenges.

The Congress of Vienna (1814–1815) was an international settlement. These aims did not guarantee every population national self-government.

Your turn: interpret a hypothetical delegate's decisions

Original practice — attempt before the check

A delegate supports strengthening a neighbour of France but rejects a local demand for national self-government. Explain how the first decision can serve balance of power and the second can serve containment of upheaval.

Check: state security and legitimacy are distinct

Worked explanation

A stronger neighbour can restrain French expansion. Rejecting self-government can defend dynastic authority against nationalism. Both can serve the settlement's aims, although a nationalist critic may oppose the second.

Vienna did not erase all reforms or nationalist ideas. Later challenges do not show that every part of the settlement failed immediately.

8

Romanticism

Romanticism: contrasting emphases, not uniform camps

EMPHASIS ON REASON

reason can test authority
general principles can guide reform
institutions can be criticised

EMPHASIS ON FEELING

feeling and imagination matter
the particular — a nation,
a landscape — matters
Rousseau himself doubted reason alone

War and revolution showed the emotional power of mass politics.
Religious revival, including Methodism, also valued personal experience

Rousseau questioned exclusive reliance on reason. Romanticism also involved art, imagination and nature; it was not only a political doctrine.

Religious revival and emotional mobilisation

Methodism 循道宗

John Wesley's movement valued personal religious experience and communal devotion. **Religious revival** 宗教复兴 overlapped with Enlightenment thought.

Mass politics

Revolution, war and rebellion showed the force of emotions and national attachment in collective action. That context helps explain the interest in feeling.

Feeling can matter without proving every emotional judgement correct. Revival movements were not all caused by the French Revolution.

Compare two invented classroom positions

Position A

Institutions should be judged by general rational principles that apply across communities.

Position B

Moral judgement should also consider feeling and a community's history. General principles alone are insufficient.

Original practice: explain a difference, then explain why B does not necessarily reject every use of reasoning.

Check: insufficient does not mean worthless

Worked interpretation

A stresses general standards; B assigns more weight to emotion and particular historical experience. Saying reason alone is insufficient does not mean reason has no value. Rousseau and Romanticism help contextualise the difference.

These invented positions illustrate tendencies; neither represents every Enlightenment or Romantic thinker.

9

Continuity and Change in 18th-Century States

Evidence pack: old regime to Napoleon

Dimension	Evidence for comparison
Legal privilege	Inherited distinctions were challenged from 1789; Napoleon's Civil Code unified civil law.
State control	Strong central authority continued under a changed regime; censorship restricted political expression.
Participation	Constitutional and republican claims changed the basis of authority, but exclusions and restrictions remained.

Compare the same dimension across time. Change in law can coexist with continuity in central control.

Your turn: explain change and continuity

Original practice — attempt before the check

Using the evidence pack, explain one political or legal change and one continuity between the old regime and Napoleon's France. Specify the feature being compared and support each connection with evidence.

Check: compare features rather than labels

Change

Challenges to inherited privilege and the Civil Code changed the legal basis of authority and made civil law more uniform.

Continuity

Strong central control remained under a different regime, and censorship continued to limit political expression.

This does not imply identical governments or universal acceptance of national sovereignty by 1815. Follow the prompt's dates; change need not always outlast them.

10 Exam tips

Build a supported historical explanation

- 1 Read the task, dates and geographical scope. Select evidence that addresses them.
- 2 Make a claim, name specific evidence and explain the relationship. A list or a famous name alone is insufficient.
- 3 For sources, connect purpose or perspective to the actual historical situation; distinguish a promise from implementation.

Phase labels organise chronology when useful. They are not guaranteed scoring rules, and these short models are not complete DBQ responses.

Sources and demand grounding

Scope and evidence

Local CED topics 5.1–5.9, PDF pp.120–131. Local 2025 set 1 SAQ 2 and DBQ 1 plus official guidelines informed purpose, context, consequence and competing-rights practice.

Historical checks: Office of the Historian on Haiti; Fondation Napoléon on the Civil Code; Château de Versailles on October 1789. Full links in the handout. Original figures retained; historical papers and bank entries unchanged.

Check yourself

- 1 Explain how debt and privileges could interact in France's crisis.
- 2 Distinguish women's political participation from equal political rights.
- 3 Give evidence that qualifies "Napoleon simply ended the Revolution."
- 4 Explain the difference between balance of power and national self-government.
- 5 Use one example to explain continuity alongside change.