

French Revolution Notes 12/5/12

Four Phases of the Revolution

I: 1789-1791

The moderate phase; National Assembly turns France into a constitutional monarchy

2: 1792-1794

The radical phase; escalating violence led to Reign of Terror

3. 1795-1799

Reaction phase; Directory

4. 1799-1815

The age of Napoleon; consolidation of the many changes brought on by the Revolution

Causes of the Revolution

1. Huge government debt
2. Poor harvest; rising bread prices; famine
3. Failure of King to accept financial reforms; poor management; corrupt and insensitive leadership
4. Unequal distribution of power among the Three Estates
5. Heavy taxes on the poor
6. Spread of Enlightenment Ideas
7. Formation of the National Assembly
8. Storming of the Bastille