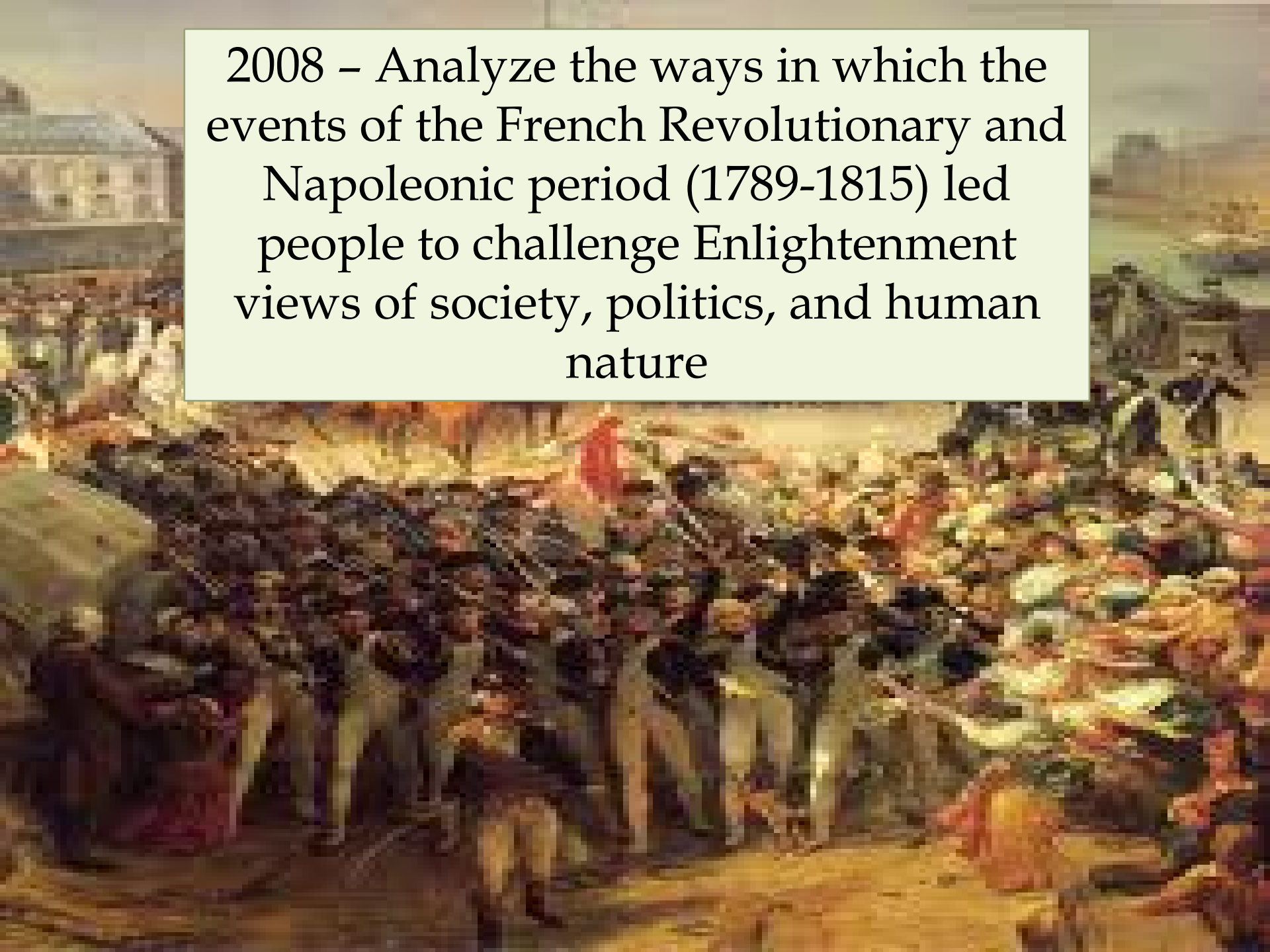


Unit 5
Chapter 21
French Revolutionary and
Napoleonic Period



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Period 5

2008 - Analyze the ways in which the events of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic period (1789-1815) led people to challenge Enlightenment views of society, politics, and human nature



Thesis



The age of enlightenment established many new ideas that people sought correct, such philosophe's like Rousseau, Locke and Montesquieu and much more were contributors to major enlightenment principles. Some enlightenment ideas like liberty, equality, and optimistic views of humans which could reform society led to the French Revolutionary and later the rule of Napoleon Bonaparte. However some events of the French revolutionary and the Napoleonic period changed the minds of many of enlightenment views of society, politics, and the concerns of human nature.

French Revolutionary



Society:

- Storming of Bastille – July 14, 1789
 - Causes: economic distress
 - Governor of prison was hacked to death – head stuck on pikes and paraded through the streets



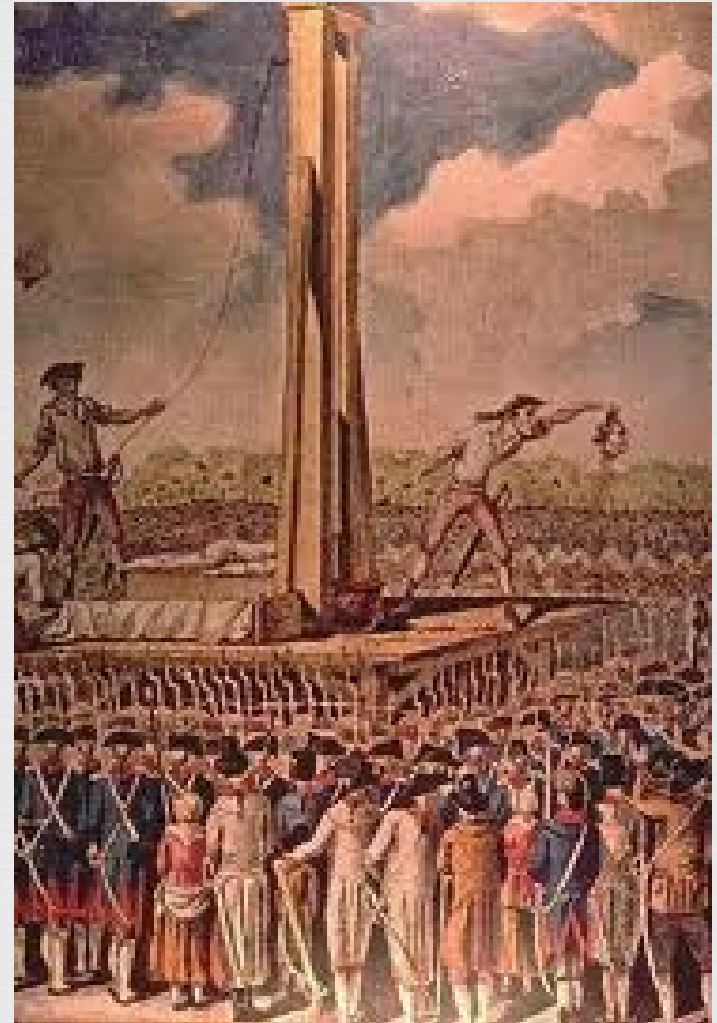
Human Nature:

- Great Fear August 20 – July 5, 1789
 - Peasants and outlaws seized countryside

French Revolutionary (2)

Politics:

- ❧ Committee of Public Safety
 - created by the National Assembly in 1793
- ❧ Robespierre's Reign of Terror
 - ❧ Political weapon against people opposing revolutionary government
 - ❧ Ended monarchy with the execution of Louis XVI
 - ❧ Thermidorian Reaction
 - ❧ The Directory



Napoleonic Period



Politics:

❧ Overthrew the Directory

❧ Strong dictatorship

❧ Efforts to establish stable representative government failed

❧ Family Monarchy- power of husband and father was an as absolute over the wife and children as that of Napoleon was over his subjects

Napoleonic Period (2)



Society:

☞ Napoleon's Authoritarian Rule

- ☞ Free speech and freedom of press were continually violated
- ☞ 4 newspapers left-used for government propaganda
- ☞ Police state in France
 - ☞ Joseph Fouché – minister of police
 - ☞ Organized efficient spy system keeping citizens under surveillance



Napoleonic Period(3)



Human Nature:

- ❧ Crowning himself emperor
- ❧ Napoleon's power hunger
 - ❧ Prussia lost half of it's population
 - ❧ Retreat of Moscow
 - ❧ Left troops to their fate



Conclusion



Events of the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic period lead many people to stray away and challenge Enlightenment thought. In the French Revolutionary the peasants suffering due to economic issues and inequality led to much violence. An event such as the Great Fear led many to challenge ideas that humans we're naturally good by philosophes such as Locke in the French Revolutionary. Robespierre's Reign of Terror proved to substitute a monarchy later resulting in a weak dictatorship through the Directory. In the Napoleonic Period, Napoleon basically had absolute rule and was mostly a dictator, the enlightenment thought of an established representative government failed due to him. Napoleon didn't give his subjects "liberty" and violated freedom of press and speech which were important enlightenment aspects. Napoleons power hunger led people to challenge Enlightenment thought as well. All of these factors from events in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Period contributed to people challenging Enlightenment thought.