***Unit III: Political Revolutions***

As reason and logic flourished during the Enlightenment by the 18th Century, monarchs who ruled across the world were confronted with tremendous pressure to reform their political systems and limit their absolute power. Not surprisingly, these kings often resisted sharing power and their stubbornness eventually led to sometimes violent revolutions and new forms of government in Europe and the Americas. These political revolutions set important precedents for the foundations of modern governments.

During this unit, we will start by trying to understand the mindsets of absolute monarchs and some challenges to their way of thinking. We’ll examine how Europe’s longest lasting monarchy, France, would completely abandon its absolute monarchy, only to fall into a bloody “Reign of Terror” that led in the end to a new absolute ruler--Napoleon. We will then examine how Napoleon unleashed **nationalism**, which led to the eventual destruction of several multi-ethnic empires and continues to unite some countries, while tearing others apart in today’s world.

**Essential Questions:**

***How do absolute rulers maintain psychological control over their subjects?***

***What factors led to the French Revolution?***

***Overall, was the French Revolution a net positive or a net negative for the people of France?***

1. *Answer questions in* ***original*** *paragraphs. Incorporate* ***all relevant details****.* ***Aim for ½ a page per question.***
2. *Briefly* ***justify*** *your answer (“So what?”).* ***Why was/is this information important? OR What connections can I draw between this event and other events in history or today’s world?***
3. ***PROOFREAD.***

**Homework #1: Read Pages 222-227. Due Block Day 10/23-10/24**

1. How did Louis XVI go from being a constitutional monarch to a headless corpse?

2. How did the Revolution, which aimed for a free republic without a king, instead lead to the even worse rule of Robespierre?

**Declaration of Rights of Man, constitutional monarchy, Jacobins, Robespierre, Reign of Terror.**

**OPTION B: “Robespierre and the Terror” Choose only if you fully understand the lecture and want to go deeper than the textbook.**

**Assessments: Unexcused absences on the day of a quiz or test = a grade penalty.**

**Quizzes:** 10/18, 10/25. 11/1.