

# The Age of Revolutions

## Key people

### Enlightenment thinkers

#### John Locke

Argues that governments should have limits and people are born with certain liberties (life, health, possessions) that cannot be taken away.

#### Voltaire

Respect individual liberty and ensure people are given the freedom of speech.

#### George Washington

Leader of American forces in the War of Independence and first President of the United States.

#### King George III

Third king of the Georgian dynasty who tried desperately to hold onto the American colonies.

#### Thomas Paine

Influential writer who wrote 'Common Sense' and 'Rights of Man' arguing for freedom and liberty.

#### King Louis XVI

French king who ruled an absolute monarchy. He was seen as a weak leader who was indecisive.

### French Revolution

#### Queen Marie Antoinette

Queen consort of France, Marie Antoinette was criticised for her luxurious and frivolous lifestyle. She was, however, a skilled politician.

### Haitian Revolution

#### Toussaint L'Ouverture

Former enslaved person on the island of Haiti. Leader of the Haitian Revolution who fought against French control of the island.

## Key terms

### Absolute monarchy

The king or queen rules with absolute power

### Age of Enlightenment

During this period, there was a growth in new ideas and new facts were discovered.

### Aristocracy

The upper classes of society who are both wealthy and own land

### Bourgeoisie

A wealthy and intellectual 'middle-class'

### Colony

An overseas area controlled by a foreign power

### Constitution

A set of rules and laws that govern how a society is run

### Constitutional monarchy

A state where a king rules alongside a parliament

### Liberty

A person's right that they observe as a member of a society

### Plantation

Slave colony that relies on the work of enslaved workers

### Reason

Thinking critically about information before forming a belief

### Republic

A country without a monarch

### Revolution

Upheaval of the traditional system, generally through violent protest

## Key events

### The Age of Enlightenment

An increase in new ideas spread amongst the intellectual classes, based around the ideas and notions of science  
Using the theory of **reason** to answer real life questions, mostly around liberty and the rights of people  
Ideas of fair government become common during this period

### The American Revolution

The 13 American Colonies were part of the British Empire. The British could govern the American colonies however they saw fit, whereas the colonies began wanting a say in their running.  
The Colonies were particularly angry at the huge taxes that the British charged on things like paper and tea. They began to refuse to pay taxes, chanting "**No taxation without representation**"  
On 4<sup>th</sup> July 1776 the 13 American Colonies signed the Declaration of Independence and began fighting the British crown for their freedom.

### The French Revolution

Inspired by the American Revolution, the people of France began demanding reform and change.  
France was governed by an **Autocratic** ruler, Louis XVI who was seen by many to be a weak leader. His wife, Marie Antoinette, lived a luxurious and expensive lifestyle.  
The people of France were angry at increased taxes, which was made worse by poor harvests.  
Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General but failed to make any real changes and lost much of his support.

### The Haitian Revolution

The Third Estate Deputies (the peasants and workers) met, making the **Tennis Court Oath** where they demanded change.  
The people of Paris stormed the Bastille and revolution spread through France.  
Successful revolution by self-liberated enslaved people and led by former enslaved person **Toussaint L'Ouverture**.  
Ending in 1804 with the colony's independence, it is a vital moment in world history; it is the only slave revolution to end with the creation of a state.  
Influenced by the French Revolution, the people of Haiti wanted freedom slavery

## Timeline

