The Simple AP® European History Unit 5 Cheat Sheet

5.1 & 5.9 Context, Continuity & Change

Big Picture (c. 1648–1815)

3 forces: trade rivalry → wars & debt; **Enlightenment** ideas → challenge to kings' power.
Balance of power: no state may dominate; alliances shift to stop the strongest one.
Old Regime (pre-1789 order): absolute kings, privileged clergy & nobles, peasants pay the taxes.
Rising powers: Prussia & Russia join Britain, France & Austria; Spain & the Dutch decline.
Enlightened absolutism: Frederick II & Catherine II reform from above but keep full power.

Key Wars Before 1789

War	Dates	Outcome
Spanish Succ.	1701–14	Br gets Gibraltar
Austrian Succ.	1740–48	Prussia gets Silesia
Seven Years'	1756–63	Br wins Canada, India
Am. Revolution	1775–83	Fr wins, but in debt

Partitions of Poland (1772–95): Russia, Prussia & Austria divide Poland until it disappears.

5.9 Continuity vs. Change by 1815

Changed: popular sovereignty, legal equality, feudal dues gone in France, citizen armies.
Continued: kings restored, nobles & Church keep land & status, women still shut out of politics.

✓ CCOT essays: name what changed AND what stayed, then explain WHY each happened.

⚠ Contextualization = the broader conditions BEFORE the event, not a retelling of the event.

5.2–5.3 Global Markets & Britain's Ascendancy

5.2 Rise of Global Markets

Mercantilism: wealth = gold & silver; colonies send raw goods & buy home goods; e.g., British **Navigation Acts** ban foreign ships.
Atlantic system: Euro goods → Africa; enslaved Africans → Americas; sugar → Europe.
Slave trade peaks in 18th c.; French **Saint-Domingue** (Haiti) = richest sugar colony.
Consumer goods: sugar, tea, coffee, cotton → new mass demand; trading cos. (**EIC**) fund trade.

5.3 Why Britain Beat Rivals

Factor	Britain	France
Finance	Bank of Eng.	No central bank
Taxes	Parl. approves	Nobles exempt
Credit	Low interest	High interest
Military	Royal Navy	Big army

National debt backed by Parliament → Britain borrows cheaply & can pay for long wars.
Seven Years' War (1756–63): 1st global war; Treaty of **Paris** (1763) → France loses Canada.
India: Clive's win at **Plassey** (1757) → British East India Co. rules rich Bengal; France keeps only a few small coastal trading posts like Pondicherry.

✓ Cause chain: trade rivalry → Seven Years' War → French debt → the French Revolution.

⚠ Britain's edge = FINANCE & NAVY, not more people (France had about 3× as many).

5.4 French Revolution I: Causes & Liberal Phase

Causes

Estate	Who	Status
1st	Clergy	No taxes
2nd	Nobles	No taxes
3rd	~97% of people	Pays taxes

Debt: wars (esp. the American Rev.) → ~½ of budget on interest; nobles block new taxes.
Enlightenment: Rousseau, Montesquieu & Locke → attack on privilege & divine right.
Bread crisis: bad 1788 harvest → bread prices soar → riots in Paris & the countryside.

1789: Year of Revolution

Estates-General (May): fight over voting by estate (2 privileged vs. 1) or by head (3rd wins).
Tennis Court Oath (June): new National Assembly vows to stay until it writes a constitution.
Bastille (July 14) → peasants burn manor records → **Aug. 4**: feudal privileges end.
Declaration of the Rights of Man (Aug.): liberty, property, equality before the law.
Women's March (Oct. 1789): Paris market women force the royal family to move to Paris.

1790–91 Reforms

Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790): state controls Church → Catholics split.

⚠ The liberal phase ended privilege, not property; most people still couldn't vote.

5.4 French Revolution II: Radical Phase to Directory

Turn to Radicalism

Flight to Varennes (1791): king caught fleeing France → trust in the monarchy collapses.
War (1792) w/ Austria & Prussia → Paris crowds overthrow king → **Republic** declared.

Phase	Dates	Key Trait
Nat'l Assembly	1789–91	Const. monarchy
Legislative	1791–92	War, king falls
Convention	1792–95	Republic, Terror
Directory	1795–99	Weak, corrupt
Consulate	1799–1804	Napoleon

Reign of Terror (1793–94)

Louis XVI executed (1793); radical **Jacobins** purge rivals & take control of the Convention.
Committee of Public Safety (led by Robespierre): rules by fear; ~17,000 official executions.
Levée en masse (mass draft, 1793) → the whole nation is mobilized to fight the war.
Sans-culottes (Paris workers) push for price caps on bread & harsh action vs. enemies.

Reaction (1794–99)

Thermidor (1794): Robespierre executed → **Directory** (1795–99) rules w/ a propertied vote.
Brumaire (1799): Napoleon's coup ends the weak Directory → Consulate (Napoleon in charge).

✓ Terror's causes: foreign war + civil war + food crisis → leaders justify emergency rule.

5.5 Effects of the French Revolution

Women & the Revolution

Olympe de Gouges, *Rights of Woman* (1791): demands equal rights; executed 1793.
Mary Wollstonecraft (1792): women need education to become rational, full citizens.
Limits: divorce legalized (1792), but women's political clubs banned (1793); no vote.

Haitian Revolution (1791–1804)

Saint-Domingue: enslaved people revolt, citing the Rights of Man; led by **Toussaint Louverture**.
Slavery abolished by France (1794); Napoleon fails to retake Haiti → independence (1804).

Spread & Reaction

Thinker	Work	View
Burke	Reflections	Slow change
Paine	Rights of Man	Natural rights

Burke = father of **conservatism**: sudden change → chaos (he predicted the violence).
Émigrés: nobles & clergy flee abroad & urge foreign kings to attack revolutionary France.
Nationalism: citizen armies & la patrie (fatherland) → loyalty to the nation, not to the king.
Export: French armies spread revolutionary ideas & end feudal dues in conquered lands.

✓ SAQ: name the effect, give a specific example (de Gouges, Haiti, Burke), tie it to ideals.

⚠ Rights were NOT for everyone: women, the poor & the enslaved had to fight for them.

5.6 Napoleon's Rise, Dominance & Defeat

Rise & Domestic Rule

Rise: war hero → coup (1799) → First Consul → crowns himself emperor (1804).
Napoleonic Code (1804): legal equality, property rights; BUT wives under husbands.
Concordat (1801): makes peace w/ the Catholic Church, but Church lands are NOT returned.
Merit & control: careers open to talent, lycées (schools); but censorship & secret police.

Empire at Its Height

Event	Year	Result
Trafalgar	1805	Br rules seas
Austerlitz	1805	Beats Austria
End of HRE	1806	Conf. of Rhine
Jena	1806	Beats Prussia
Tilsit	1807	Peace w/ Russia

Continental System (1806): ban on British trade → smuggling, hurts France's own allies.

Decline & Fall

Peninsular War (1808–14): Spanish guerrillas + British army slowly wear down France.
Russia (1812): most of ~600,000 men lost in the winter retreat → **Leipzig** (1813) → exile to Elba → **Waterloo** (1815) → remote St. Helena.

✓ Napoleon = continuity AND change: kept equality & merit, but ended liberty & elections.

⚠ His conquests spread nationalism that later turned AGAINST France (Spain, Prussia).

5.7 The Congress of Vienna (1814–15)

Who & Why

Leaders: Metternich (Austria, host), Castlereagh (Br), Alexander I (Russia), Talleyrand (Fr).
Goals: contain France, restore order & monarchs, stop future revolutions across Europe.

3 Principles

Legitimacy: restore old ruling families, e.g., Bourbon **Louis XVIII** back in France.
Balance of power: ring France w/ stronger buffer states so no single power dominates.
Compensation: winners gain land to make up for losses (Austria swaps Belgium for N. Italy).

Settlement

Power	Gains
Russia	Most of Poland
Prussia	Rhineland, part of Saxony
Austria	Northern Italy
Britain	Cape Colony, Ceylon, Malta
Netherlands	Belgium (buffer vs. Fr)

German Confederation: 39 states led by Austria; replaces the Holy Roman Empire.
Concert of Europe: great powers meet in congresses to crush revolts & keep peace.

✓ Success: no general European war until 1914, BUT it ignored nationalism & liberalism.

⚠ Vienna did NOT punish France harshly; it kept France as a great power in the balance.

5.8 Romanticism

Core Ideas

Romanticism (c. 1790s–1840s): reaction vs. Enlightenment reason; values emotion.
Themes: nature & the sublime (awe), the individual, the medieval & folk past, mystery.
Rousseau = forerunner: feeling over reason, natural education (*Émile*), simple rural life.

Enlightenment	Romanticism
Reason, science	Emotion, intuition
Universal laws	Unique individual
Classical order	Nature, the sublime
Cosmopolitan	Nation, folk culture

Key Figures

Writers: Goethe, Wordsworth, Byron; **Mary Shelley**'s *Frankenstein* (1818) warns vs. science.
Artists: Caspar David Friedrich (lone figures vs. nature), Turner, Delacroix (passion).
Beethoven: bold, emotional music; struck Napoleon's name from his *Eroica* symphony when Napoleon crowned himself (1804).

Links to Nation & Faith

Herder: each people has a national spirit (**Volksgeist**); Grimm folk tales → nationalism.
Religious revival: Methodism (John Wesley), Pietism → faith based on feeling, not reason.

✓ Link Romanticism to nationalism: language, folklore & history become national identity.

⚠ Romantics weren't all conservative: Byron died fighting for Greek independence.