

Amela Fili

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### Final Essay

The French Revolution; a period of time in which a country took back its pride.

The French Revolution is an era that took place from 1789 to 1799, consisting of three stages; the Moderate Phase, the Radical Stage, and the Conservative Reaction. The beginning of the revolution, the Moderate Phase, began as a demand for change. This endured from 1789-1791. During this time, the King is not being threatened, but his policies are. The King noticed the hostility in the nation, and tried to make himself untouchable. This provokes his flight to Varennes, which is botched. The King and his family had made themselves recognizable, ruining the plan. Soon after, the Radical Stage takes place, where the King's attempts to protect himself have failed. The Reign of Terror began to take place soon after, where France became a Republic and the King has been executed. Reforms had been implemented, and the people of the mountains took main control of the political problems. From 1794 to 1799, the Conservative Reaction took place leading to a conservative retaliation from the acts taken place during the beginning of the Revolution, as this makes up the second half of the Revolution.

In the Manifesto of the Communism, Marx mentioned the separation of man and his natural superiors. "It [the bourgeoisie], has pitilessly torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his "natural superiors", and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man." (15, Marx) This can be compared to the French Revolution and the setting in France before it took it place. Before the French Revolution the citizens of France had one superior, the monarchy. There was no free will, and this forced the citizens to also fear this false superior. The

result of this, is that the citizens are looked at as tools rather than citizens. Marx also mentions, “The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production.” (16, Marx) What can be taken from this is that this false “higher power”, can’t operate without its “tools”. Before the French Revolution, there were no citizens; just production.

Throughout the revolution, while citizens were looked at as miniscule figures, the important members of the country, had no real reason to be so important. “It is not enough to have shown that the privileged, far from being useful to the nation, can only weaken and injure it; we must prove further that the nobility is not part of our society at all; it may be a burden for the nation, but it cannot be part of it.” (51, Sieyes) The French Revolution’s main cause was the inequality being shown to its citizens. Sieyes talks about how the most important representatives for France are actually the most useless, but are somehow praised.

“Society suddenly finds itself put back into a state of momentary barbarism; it appears as if a famine, a universal war of devastation, had cut off the supply of every means of subsistence; industry and seem to be destroyed; and why? Because there is too much civilization.” (17, Marx) After the citizens of France gain back their power, there’s no concrete plan on what to do with it. There was too much of this new-found power to know what to do with it, which led to the confusion afterwards. The period after this could be known as the Reign of Terror.

The main goal was to establish a balance of power between the people and the leaders of the nation. Establishing a government afterwards was difficult, and often portrayed values showed before the Revolution. “We seek an order of things in which all the base and cruel passions are enchained, all the beneficent and generous passions are awakened by the laws.” (116, Robespierre) Robespierre mentions here the idea that everyone had for the nation, but had

no knowledge on how to implement these thoughts. Now it was the nation's turn to take care of itself, and take back the power from the false superiors.