Modern European History

Unit 6 - Revolutions

The French Revolution

***Use the information in pp. 642-650 of Chapter 18 and any other resources at your disposal to define/identify the historical importance of each term below. Write this all in a Google Doc and share it with me.***

Estates-General

cahiers des doléances

the National Assembly

Tennis Court Oath

sans-culottes

the Bastille

the Great Fear

the October Days

“Passive citizen”/“Active citizens”

the Civil Constitution of the Clergy

“La Marseillaise”

*Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, a French captain of the engineers, composed this rousing patriotic song during the French Revolution. Because of its revolutionary associations, “La Marseillaise” was banned by Napoleon Bonaparte and by Louis XVIII. It was later adopted as the national anthem of France.*

Allons, enfants de la Patrie,

Le jour de gloire est arrivé!

Contre nous de la tyrannie

L’étendard sanglant est levé!

L’étendard sanglant est levé.

Entendez-vous dans les campagnes

Mugir ces féroces soldats?

Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras

Egorger nos fils et nos compagnes:

Aux armes, citoyens!

Formez vos bataillons!

Marchons! Marchons!

Qu’un sang impur abreuve nos sillons!

Come, children of the Fatherland

Our day of glory has come!

Against us the bloody flag of tyranny is raised!

The bloody flag is raised.

Can you hear in the country

The shrieks of those ferocious soldiers?

They come to our very arms

To slaughter our sons and our wives:

To arms, citizens!

Form your battalions!

March forth! March forth!

Let their impure blood water our fields!

*from Olivier Bernier, Words of Fire, Deeds of Blood: The Mob, the Monarchy, and the French Revolution*

Here is a link to a video that plays the song with vocals and the lyrics on the screen:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0cI7HWFC2A

*Questions on the next page →*

1. What mood does the song reflect? How do the lyrics and music capture the spirit of the French Revolution?

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2. Do you think “La Marseillaise” should or should not be banned? Why?

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3. How do the lyrics of “La Marseillaise” compare to the lyrics of the American national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner?” (how are they similar/different)

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

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