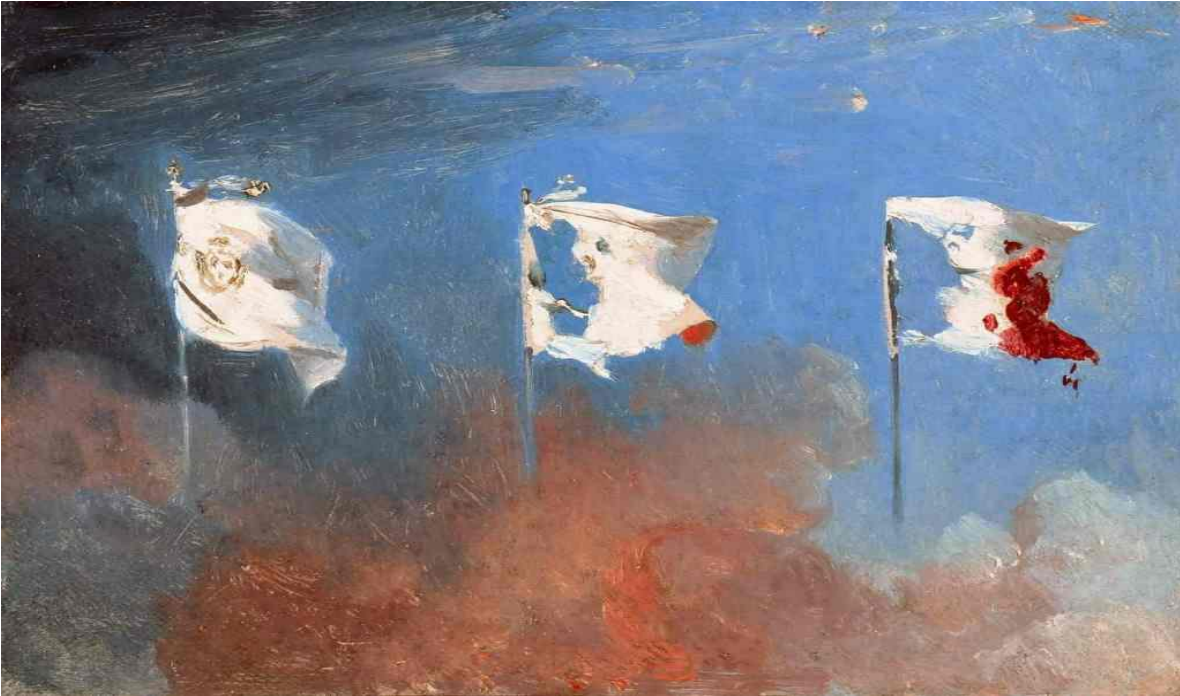


July Revolution of 1830



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Introduction-

In 1830 the discontent caused by Charles X's conservative policies and his nomination of the Ultra prince de Polignac as minister culminated in an uprising in the streets of Paris, known as the July Revolution, which brought about an end to the Bourbon Restoration.

Napoleon's defeat on June 18th, 1815, at the battle of Waterloo, imposed on France the terms of the Treaty of Vienna. This brought back France's borders back to their 1791 position and restored the house of Bourbon on the throne in the person of Louis XVIII. Louis XVIII picked the white flag as the new flag of France which remained as such until the July Revolution. His reign was marked by relative peace and stability. This paved the way for the beginnings of a French industrial revolution that would unavoidably lead to a slow yet guaranteed mass unemployment, due to mechanization. This is a contributing factor both to the July Revolution, and the revolutions that followed.

A couple of controversial decisions triggered the cause of the French Revolution of 1830. The fact that both Louis and Charles ruled by hereditary right rather than popular consent was the first of two triggers for the July Revolution. Before his death, Louis XVIII knew that ideas of nationalism and democracy still lingered in his country; thus, he created and signed the French Constitution known as La Charte. The document, which was both liberal and monarchical, was the second trigger of the July Revolution.

The blessing of liberty, once enjoyed, could not so easily be taken away. The spirit of revolution was in the air, and any attempt to rob the people of the degree

of liberty which they enjoyed was very likely to precipitate a revolt against the tyranny of courts and kings. It came at length in France, that country being the ripest among the nations for revolution. Louis XVIII, an easy, good-natured old soul, of kindly disposition towards the people, passed from life in 1824, and was succeeded by his brother, Count of Artois, as Charles X.

Charles X (1824–1830)

Compared to his brother Louis XVIII, Charles X of France took a far more conservative line. He attempted to rule as an absolute monarch and reassert the power of the Catholic Church in France. His coronation in 1824 also coincided with the height of the power of the Ultra-royalist party, who also wanted a return of the aristocracy and absolutist politics.



On May 29, 1825, King Charles was anointed at the cathedral of Reims, the traditional site of consecration of French kings; it had been unused since 1775, as Louis XVIII had forgone the ceremony to avoid controversy. It was in the venerable cathedral of Notre-Dame at Paris that Napoleon consecrated his revolutionary empire, but in ascending the throne of his ancestors, Charles reverted to the old place of coronation used by the kings of France from the early ages of the monarchy.

While his brother had been sober enough to realize that France would never accept an attempt to resurrect the Ancient Régime, Charles had never been willing to accept the changes of the past four decades. Under Charles reaction set in. Acts of sacrilege in churches became punishable by death, and freedom of the press was severely restricted. Finally, he tried to compensate the families of the nobles who had had their property destroyed during the Revolution. A few years into his rule, unrest among the people of France began to develop, caused by an economic downturn, resistance to the return to conservative politics, and the rise of a liberal press.

That Charles was not a popular ruler became apparent in April 1827, when chaos ensued during the king's review of the National Guard in Paris. In retaliation, the National Guard was disbanded but as its members were not disarmed, it remained a potential threat.

While the French economy faltered, a series of elections brought a relatively powerful liberal bloc into the Chamber of Deputies. Also, the growth of the liberal bloc within the Chamber of Deputies corresponded roughly with the rise of a liberal press within France. It grew increasingly important in conveying political opinions and the political situation to the Parisian public and can thus be seen as a

crucial link between the rise of the liberals and the increasingly agitated and economically suffering French masses.

These liberals were actually royalists too, called “Les doctrinaires” that favored a constitutional monarchy and were led by Lafayette. This was a fight on the appropriate degree of royal power. To deal with the situation, the king wanted to introduce new laws of censorship against the press in order to curb growing violent criticism against the government and the church.



In January 1828, a strict imposition of a high stamp duty on printed material leads to the fall of the prime minister, Villèle. It failed, as the deputies objected so violently that the humiliated government had no choice but to withdraw the

proposal. Joseph de Villèle gave his resignation, and the king replaced with him a more moderate minister, Martignac. Martignac was quickly dismissed as both left and right extremists were against him. Even the king did not like his policies. He was replaced by the “Prince de Polignac”.

When the Chamber reconvenes on March 2, 1830, many deputies react negatively to Charles’ reign. Some introduced a bill requiring the King's minister to obtain the support of the Chambers. On March 18, a majority of 221 deputies votes in favor of this bill. In response, Charles suspends the Chamber on March 19. The general elections held in June do not elect a majority hoped for by the king’s government. Despite the growing opposition, Charles invokes Article 14 of the 1814 Charter, which allows him exceptional power in emergencies, and suspends the constitution.

At the outset, few of the king’s critics imagined it possible to overthrow the regime; they hoped merely to get rid of Polignac. As for the king, he naively ignored the possibility of serious trouble. He did not know the spirit of the French. The infatuated old king was amusing himself in his palace of St. Cloud, and did not discover that the crown was tottering upon his head. He knew that the people of Paris had risen, but looked upon it as a passing ebullition of French temper.

News of the recent capture of Algiers bolstered the king’s confidence and in order to further strengthen his power, he decided to release the infamous Saint-Cloud Ordinances on the 25th of July. These ordinances suppress freedom of the press, dissolve the two-house parliament, restrict the size of the electorate, and fix a date for new elections, thus concentrating power in the crown.

On the same night of the 25th of July, the ordinances were sent at the printer of Le Moniteur, which was the official newspaper of the government and it was to be published the following day. Everything was done in secrecy, not even the military forces were informed of it, thus making them unable to strengthen security within the capital.

July Revolution



Protest against the absolute monarchy was in the air. In response, he tried repression but that only aggravated the crisis as suppressed deputies, gagged journalists, students from the University, and many working men of Paris poured into the streets and erected barricades during the “three glorious days” of July 26-29 1830.

Three Glorious Days-



Tuesday, 27 July 1830: Day one

The Revolution broke out on July 27, 1830. Over 50 newspapers refuse to submit to the new ordinances and start to publish inflammatory material against the king. The police attempted to seize the presses; but they were attacked by a vicious mob. Barricades were already being established and soon after the first altercations between rioters and soldiers began. Surprisingly, the Parisians were the aggressors as they threw paving stones, roof tiles, and flower pots from the upper windows of buildings. At first, soldiers fired warning shots into the air. But before the night was over, 21 civilians were killed. One of the bodies was dragged around the city to incite further outrage. The revolution started. Fighting in Paris continued throughout the night.



Wednesday, 28 July 1830: Day two

In an attempt to quell the rebellion, the king sends General Auguste de Marmont to Paris. Marmont is severely outnumbered as most of his soldiers were sent for the conquest of Algiers. The French troops are hopeless, as revolutionaries' fire upon them and then quickly disappear. They raise the tricolor flag and ring the bell of Paris. Despite this, the king and his Prime Minister Polignac refuse to see anybody. In Paris, a group of liberals wrote up a petition asking for the ordinances to be withdrawn. The king replied that he will negotiate once the rebels put down their weapons; however, the king knew that he would not withdraw the ordinances. He did not awake to the true significance of the movement by that time.

Thursday, 29 July 1830: Day three

On day three, the revolutionaries were well-organized and very well-armed. In only a day and a night, over 4,000 barricades had been thrown up throughout the city. Marmont receives neither orders nor reinforcements. The tricolore flag of the revolutionaries – the “people’s flag” – flew over buildings, an increasing number of them important buildings. By 1:30 pm, the Tuileries Palace had been sacked. By mid-afternoon the greatest prize, the Hôtel de Ville, had been captured. The liberals impose a provisional government and Lafayette is sent to calm the mobs before the whole affair degenerates like in 1792. There was a fear that the revolutionaries would succeed in creating another republic.



The king, on July 30, consented at last to dismiss Polignac and to annul the July Ordinances; but the gesture came too late. Paris was in the hands of the rebels, and plans for a new regime were crystallizing rapidly. A meeting of prominent

citizens was called, and after deliberating on the situation, they decided that Charles X should be deposed and his heirs declared ineligible to the throne, but that another king should be selected to replace him, the crown being offered to Louis Philippe, Duke of Orleans.

Consequences-

On August 2, Charles X and his son the Dauphin abdicated their rights to the throne and departed for Great Britain. Although Charles had intended that his grandson, the Duke of Bordeaux, would take the throne as Henry V, the politicians who composed the provisional government instead placed on 9th August on the throne a distant cousin, Louis Philippe of the House of Orléans, who agreed to rule as a constitutional monarch. This period became known as the July Monarchy. Philippe was well received and to bolster his popularity, renames himself as King of the French and not King of France thus implying he was the people's king. It was made clear that his right to rule came from the people and was not divinely granted. He also revived the tricolour as the flag of France in place of the white Bourbon flag that had been used since 1815, an important distinction because the tricolour was the symbol of the revolution.

The July Revolution marked the shift from one constitutional monarchy, the Bourbon Restoration, to another, the July Monarchy; the transition of power from the House of Bourbon to its cadet branch, the House of Orléans; and the replacement of the principle of hereditary right by popular sovereignty. The abdication of Charles marks the end of the Bourbon dynasty in France. A dynasty which excluding the revolution and Bonaparte, had reigned since Henry IV, almost 250 years.

As the effect of the Revolution of 1789 was to stir up all Europe and make itself felt over half the world, the revolutionary upheaval in Paris in July 1830 also served as a signal for further revolutionary movements in other countries, which shook the European states to their foundations up to the spring of 1831. These rebellions were brought about, influenced and accompanied by an intensive transfer of news and ideas, by the reactivation of a system of revolutionary symbols and by numerous declarations of international solidarity.

The July Revolution inspired and sparked the November rising in Poland against the rule of Russia, though it was a failure and Russia annexed the whole of Poland. More successful, however, was the August revolution that occurred in Brussels and would end up creating a little country known as Belgium. This revolution directly sparked an August uprising in Brussels, leading to its separation and the establishment of the Kingdom of Belgium. In this way, revolution of 1830 played a great role in the European revolutions of coming years.

Suggested Readings-

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| David H. Pinkney | : The French Revolution of 1830 |
| Pamela M. Pilbeam | : The 1830 Revolution in France |
| Eric Hobsbawm | : The Age of Revolution: Europe 1789-1848 |
| Jain and Mathur | : A History of the Modern World (1500-2000) |