

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION OF 1789

MEANING OF THE REVOLUTION.

It refers to the fundamental change that can either be political, social, or economic in a society. Revolutions are either gradual which are often peaceful / rapid where changes that are realized with violence. In a revolutionary situation, two things are always visible;

[i] The old features of society are changed either positively or negatively i.e. upside down.

[ii] New things / changes appear in a society either for better or worse.

Thus, French Revolution refers to the social, political, and economic changes that France experienced from 1789 up to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799. It began as a peaceful political reform movement on the 5th May 1789 but later took a violent dimension and involved the social, and economic structures as well. The revolution was staged by the peasants and the middle class against the privileged peasants and the bourgeoisie [middle class] against the privileged nobles and the clergy.

The French Revolution of 1789 can be categorized into three main phases. The first stage was from May 1789 to 1791 [up to the death of Mirabeau] which was generally peaceful. The second stage was from 1792 to 1794 which was characterized by violence i.e. the reign of terror and the third stage was from 1795 to 1799 led by the Directory Government. These phases were marked by a number of events which aimed at solving political, social and economic problems that had sparked off revolution in 1789.

CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The revolution was a product of many forces or forces or factors, which had different but important magnitudes/ weights in causing the revolution. It was caused by both long term factors which can be traced down to the 17th century and the immediate factors that went up to the late 18th century. By 1789, the socio, political and economic conditions in France had outlived its usefulness and the revolution was inevitable. As peacock puts it; **condition in society must be very bad before men in large numbers under take its overthrow by violence.**

Although the revolution was caused by a number of factors, it is worth observing that the contribution of these factors varied in degree and magnitude. In other words no single factor however great it appears to be can adequately explain the occurrence of the revolution.

The causes of this most important event in European History can generally be grouped under political social and economic problems that France faced by 1789. However, this grouping is only for the purpose of simplifying them so that students as well as teachers find it easy to understand them. This is because it is very hard to differentiate between something that is political, social as well as economic. What the author of the book did was to group them according to where each has more meaning.

CAUSES

1 UNFAIR POLITICAL SYSTEM [THE NATURE OF THE ANCIENT REGIME]

[i] Despotism

By 1789, France was ruled by the Bourbon Monarchy whose administration was characterized by corruption, sectarianism nepotism, human right abuses, lack of democracy and above all, despotism. Power was absolutely in the hands of the king who was looked at as the demi god. He was the law and the law was himself and that's why Louis xvi boasted that; **The thing is legal because I wish it so. Even the kings ministers had limited powers that could not be checked. For instance through the letress de cachet [arrest warrant] the king and his ministers could arrest and imprison anybordy at any time . This inflicted a lot of sufferings to the French men most of whom were innocent whoresponded through the 1789 revolution.**

NB. The ancient regime was the hereditary Bourbon monarchy that existed in France prior to 1789. From 1610-1643 it was under Louis xvi. It should be noted that despotism that was practiced by Louis xvi was inherited from Louis xiii.

[ii] lack of fundamental parliament

There was no functional parliament upon which peoples problems could be articulated. The estate general had not sat fo aperiod of 175 years since 1614. The provincial and district assemblies were replaced by royal assemblies knowns intendants under the king. Therefore the Frenchmen had nowhere to forward and settle the social evils, political discontents, and the economic

and the middle class. The nobles and clergy were dominant in key positions in the army and public offices yet they were incompetent and corrupt which created hardships since there was no fundamental parliament. The only way had to be a revolution.

It is of paramount importance to stress that it was the calling of estates general meeting on the 5th May 1789 and the hectic disagreement over the seating arrangement that sparked off the revolution. Louis XVI insisted on the undemocratic and archaic ancient system of voting by houses against the third estate interest of voting by individual show of hands. This forced the 3rd estate representatives to turn themselves into the national assembly and this was the beginning of the revolution.

[iii] Unfair judicial system, The French legal system made no small contribution to the 1789 revolution. There were no uniform codes of law and one could be tried as much as 50 times for a single offence he or she committed. By 1789 there existed up to 360 different feudal codes of law in different parts of France, which created judicial confusion and chaos within the judiciary. Besides, there were two different modes of appeal i.e. the Roman law in the south and the common law in the North. Worst of all there was no trial by jury and in most cases the nobles were the accusers as well as judges against the nobles and the clergy which conditioned them to revolt.

[iv] Lack of Constitution

Apart from the chaotic judicial system, there was no constitution that could have guaranteed people's rights and provide equality of opportunity. This also meant that there were no checks and balances to the king's excessive powers and unfair policies. The freedom therefore restarted a revolution in a bid to have a constitution safeguard their rights and properties against the king's excessive powers.

[v] The Grievances of the army

Political unfairness in France was also characterized by unfair administrative structure, which favoured the nobles and clergy at the expense of the peasants lot of inefficiency. The middle class because of their high levels of qualification

and wealth felt it was an insult to exclude them from administrative positions. This made them to mobilise the peasants and spearheaded the revolution.

Nevertheless one should take extra care because whereas such political unfairness was unfashionable in the 16th and 17th centuries, it was out of fashion in the 18th century since no society is static. In this respect Louis XVI should have reformed the French political system to suit the dynamic and revolutionary 18th century Frenchman. All the same whatever the arguments against political unfairness, it still remains significant long-term factor that contributed to the 1789 French revolution.

2 THE ROLE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS, ENCYCLOPAEDISTS AND OTHER WRITERS

Philosophers are great thinkers who are highly educated about world affairs. They are intellectual giants who had put their ideas into writing. In their writings, they condemned the social, political and economic situations in France and created more awareness of the grievances/problems of France. This sharpened the minds of the Frenchmen and created in them a revolutionary spirit. The four most outstanding philosophers who made significant contributions to the French revolution were; Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau and John Lock.

A] FRANCOIS-MARK AROVET-VOLTARE, 1694

Voltaire was a historian and a poet who attacked and exposed the traditions, beliefs and abuses of the ancient regime. i.e. its shortcomings. For 25 years he flooded France with plays, poems, philosophical tales, histories, essays, drama, pamphlets and won for himself the reputation of the intellectual ruler of his age. He was most particular against the Catholic Church, its corrupt clergy and nobles, heavy taxation, the tithe and the system of letters –de-cachet. He denounced religious intolerance and advocated for freedom of worship. He projected the British-political system with religious freedom as the best for France. In the 'letters on the English', he wrote; **An Englishman goes to heaven by the way he pleases. There are no arbitrary taxes, a noble or priest is not exempted from paying taxes.** In other words, these incited the peasants and middle class to revolt by 1789.

Although Voltaire attacked the church and critically undermined the throne on which it rested (government), he was neither a democrat nor a republican. He only wanted reforms within the monarchy and not its destruction. This is why he remarked that ;**The spirit of laws, 1748**, he criticized the divine rights of kings and compared despotism to cutting down tree in order to get the fruits. He praised the British political system of equally as the best for France. To limit absolutism of the ancient regime, he advocated for a constitutional monarchy with an independent judiciary, executive and legislature. Each of these was to check the powers of the other and this would bring justice and liberty to the people.

Montesquieu's political philosophy became more pronounced in France after the successful American war of independence of 1776-1783. From 1783, America adopted an elected government with a legislative assembly, an executive, a constitution and independent judiciary. The success of Montesquieu's ideas in America provoked the Frenchmen to revolt against the Bourbon monarchy. That is why they demanded for the reduction of the king's despotic powers and equal political representation in the estates-general meeting [according to Montesquieu's ideas] on the eve of revolution in the cahiers [list of grievance]. In short, Montesquieu contributed revolutionary ideas that made the Frenchmen more revolutionary than ever before.

C] JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU, 1712-1778.

THE ORLEAN'S MONARCHY AND THE REIGN OF LOUISE PHILLIPE 1830-1840

Who was he? Louise Philip was a son of Egalite the of Orleans house - a branch of the bourbon monarchy/ family in France. He became a King in 1830 after the Ultra royalists under Charles X. Unlike the old aristocrats, Louis Philippe was the first ever elected king in the history of France when revolutionaries passed his name by 219 of 439 votes. He ruled up to 1848 when he and for that matter the Orleans were overthrown by February 1848 revolution in France.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF LOUIS PHILLIPE/ WHY THE FRENCHMEN WELCOMED HIM?

He was welcomed by French men and given the title of The Citizen King or The King of France by the grace of God and the nation.

1. **Liberal demands of 1830 and unpopularity of the bourbon paved way for his rise.** The July revolution over threw Charles X and His absolute monarchy and the Liberals rejected Charles' grandson Comte de-chambode as King of France. Their fear was that Chambode (by his birth and by choice befell Prince Louis Philippe from another seemingly liberal monarchy –the Orleans hence rising in power in 1830.
2. **Louis' double heritage/ background also became was one of the major considerations.** He combined both revolutionary and aristocratic background. First, he a son an Egalite of the Duke of Orleans which was a branch of bourbon monarchy and his father voted for the death of his cousin during revolutionary reign. The and possibly more important was that Philippe was a member of the Jacobins club and actively at revolutionary wars against Austria at Jemapees in 1792 and which ended him into exile in Switzerland and later to England. Thus to many French men France needed a man of Philippe's background who could protect and up hold France's revolutionary achievements. Hence his rise to power.
3. **His moderate character also aided him to rise power.** He was a simple clever, sensible and good intentioned man. On his return to Paris after the downfall of Napoleon, he adopted the manners

and dress code of the middleclass men rather than finery of the aristocracy. He mixed freely with the ordinary populace and lived a simple e.g. as a middle class gentleman he took his children to middleclass schools. He was usually seen walking on streets of Paris without body guards, carried his own middle class green umbrella, while dressed in his middle class frock coat. Even after becoming king, Louis Philippe undertook small tasks like lighting his own study fire, shaved his beard and fed principally on a soup. This made him very popular among the middle class, workers and peasants who fed up of luxuries of the previous regimes. He was referred to as the citizen's king and the King of the French. Thus his rise to power.

4. **The role played by the middle class was outstanding.** Louis Philippe's ascendance to power was largely aided by the middle class who included journalists, lawyers, teachers, deputies and business men E.g. they overthrew the restored Bourbons hence paving way for the Orleans. They embraced him at the hotel de Ville where won the republican support and most importantly all elected him (though by a bare majority of 219 out of 430) with a new and more sounding title of king of the French.
5. **Besides, the fear of the republicanism facilitated his rise to power.** The 1830 revolutionaries led by the veteran soldier Lafayette feared the blunt chaos caused by the first French republic of 1792. Thus despite the strong support republicanism had in Paris, the leading republicans advocated for a much reformed constitutional monarchy speculating that a republican government would encourage socialism, confiscation of their private property and resulted into intervention by the allied powers because it linked to because it was linked to extreme violence. It was therefore on his account that they voted Louis Philippe as the king of France in 1830.
6. **Louis Philippe's friendship with Adolph Thiers.** Thiers was a writer and revolutionary with influence. On 30th July 1830, he posted placards on many walls of Paris buildings urging French men to accept Louis Philippe as their new king of France. These partly won him fame and support of many French men hence his rise to power.
7. **Louis' acceptance of constitution and hence his rule as constitutional king enabled him to rise to power.** He accepted to pay allegiance to the 1830 amended constitution which apparently reduced his powers and increased those of the senate. This portrayed Louis Philippe as a man determined to preserve the liberties of man as guaranteed by the constitution. He recognized the tri-color flag instead of the white flag of the ancient regime. Besides, he also accepted to revive the National Guard hitherto disbanded by Charles X. in general his regime was expected to reconcile conflicting groups in France due to his moderate personality, little wonder, he rose to power.
8. **Besides his visit to hotel de Ville was also remarkable to his rise to power.** At a time confusion flared in the minds of liberals and republicans over the next government, Philippe paid a courtesy visit to Hotel De Ville.
9. **The negative effect of industrial and revenue support of workers contributed to Philippe's rise to power.** He came with socio-economic evils like unemployment, exploitation of workers, poor sanitation and child labor. The working class in France was living a horrible life compared to colleagues in other countries. Louis Philippe promised to improve their housing and working conditions which made him popular among workers.
10. **Weaknesses of the restored Bourbon.** He had outlived his usefulness by 1830. From 1815 when it was restored it was too unpopular and survived on the support of external powers. They pursued very unrealistic policies that French men never wished. The French men wanted a

democratically elected King be answerable to people. This made the restored mainly unpopular and triggered the outbreak of the 1830 revolution and paved way for the rise of Philippe in 1830.

11. **Favors to middle class.** Philippe's democratic policy relied much on middle class and deprived other classes their rights. He signed many treaties that benefited majorly the middle class especially the industrialists and paid little attention to the problems of a common man in France e.g. He took no serious efforts to address the inflation of 1840 when potato prices increased by 40 percent and that of bread by 20 percent which was the staple food of common man. This led to growth of socialism because one of the key issues in the outbreak of the 1848 revolution in France. According to Karl Max "Louis Philippe's was like a joint stock company which was using national wealth and its profit was distributed amongst ministers, members of national assembly and limited voters".
12. **Philippe returned Napoleon's remains from St. Hellena and accorded it state burial.** As the opposition increased against his regime, Philippe thought of adventurous activity that could revive his fast down scaling popularity. The one such activity was the return on return of the great emperor "Napoleon 1's" remains in 1841 and were given a high pomp state funeral at Invalids, the most significant burial grounds in France. However this was a boomerang (weakness) to his reign because it reminded many French of the glorious days of Napoleon I which Philippe had failed to revive. It increased opposition against him and favored Napoleon's cousin, Louis Napoleon to take over power in 1848.
13. **Louis' character also become subject of criticism** E.g. He was accused of living too simplistic and ordinary life. For instance over associated himself with the local, feeding principally on soup with them, shaking hands and carrying his umbrella while dressing like a middle class French men. Although the acts pleased many French men, they later become an area of attack by the monarchists (members of his family) and other disgruntled members of the French society.
14. **More so agriculture reminded largely subsistence unable produce that would cater for the 1847 calamity.** In fact historians refer to his last 11 years, as having been of subsistence trouble.
15. **Rise of socialism.** During his reign socialism though gradually, came to effect. Before 1830 socialism had taken dimensions of having a society organized by few intellectuals who would have well of every one at heart and would ensure fair and proper distribution of wealth to people. However with the growing industrialization in the mid-1830s, conditions of workers increasingly changed focusing more on the need for workers fair pay and fair productive work. Thus socialist thinkers led by Louis Blane (the most famous of socialist agitators during Louis' reign) began to preach socialist doctrines. For example in his book 1 organization du Travail argued that every man had the right to be given productive work and it was the duty of the state to see that he got it. He further stated that he also had to establish its own workshops where people would work and the profits from their labor were to be shared among themselves. His recommendations could with the reasonable accuracy be described as full-scale nationalization with workers control substituting what are apparently appeared as private ownership of capital. As events fell apart, the king passed the factory act 1841 by which he hoped to improve the young workers conditions but even then nothing was done.
16. **Pursuit of repressive policies.** His domestic Policy was also characterized by pursuit of repressive policies/measures. For example in response to the socialist agitations and those of

parliamentary reforms, he passed the law of association by which heavy penalties were imposed for reforming societies and associations aimed at overthrow of the government. By the same law, newspapers were subjected to heavy censorship. In 1835, the government passed a law which forbade even the discussion of any other form of government than existing one and prohibiting any one declaring himself the supporter of the former ruling family in France a law that was obviously seen to have been aimed at legitimist and Bonapartists. This cost him the great support from the French intellectuals, academicians and generally the middle class which had brought him into power.

17. **Endless uprisings, revolts and assassination attempts.** From the very commencement of his reign, Louis Philippe was the object of hatred by many political groups. This hatred took violently active forms e.g. between 1830 and 35 there were 6 outbreaks of serious revolts at Lavandee, the western district of France and where old royalists had resisted for years the revolution of 1789, the legitimists attempted a rising which was suppressed then came the attempt in Paris the conspirator Fiesch to assassinate Louis Philippe by firing at the royal session with 24 barreled gun concealed in house along the route. There were two risings of the workers of Lyons in 1831 over their demands for increased wages again in 1834 when they controlled the town for three days before giving in to the government troops in Paris there occurred a republican rising in 1832 which resulted in two days of desperate fighting. It was at this very time that Blane also attempted socialist arising against the government. Napoleon Bonaparte attempted unsuccessful conspiracies against Louis in 1836 and 1840.
18. **Reform banquets.** His domestic policy was also punctuated with banquets for reforms. At the height of the increased in demand for reforms, the socialists and republicans united for a joint call for change through agitative and reformist dinners they organized which came to be known as the banquets E.g. in June, 1843 they organized banquet in which they jointly demanded the lowering of tax qualification further to francs and also the abolition of property qualification for becoming a member of the chamber of deputies. When the king and Guizzot refused to honor the demands, the agitators of the reform began to systematically hold a series of other banquets in Paris and centers throughout France. On February 22nd 1848 a reform banquet was planned in Paris at which 87 sympathizers from the chamber of deputies were to be principal guests. The government prohibited the banquet and organizers canceled it. Never the less, a huge crowd, assembled for the match to the banqueting hall. There were some disorder but nothing serious occurred. On the night of 23rd February, barricades were thrown up in the working class quarters of the city. Louis called for the National Guard but which instead joined the demonstrators. Guizzot resigned but the demonstrators went on and attacked his apartments on the foreign office. Severe fighting occurred between the demonstrators and the few loyal guards. Some of the corpses were paraded on the cuts and moved through the streets as demonstrators singing heroic rhythms. Philippe left with no option, abdicated and fled to England on 24th of 1848.

FEATURES OF LOUIS PHILIPPE'S FOREIGN POLICY

He adopted a non-adventurous policy hoping it preserve peace at home and favor prosperous trade that would please the middle class. Therefore, the adopted uneventful, a non-ambitious, non-adventurous foreign policy which partly prepared the end of his reign.

The features:

1. **The Belgian revolution (war of independence) 1830.** In 1830 the Belgians revolted against the Dutch over lordship. During the course of their revolt, they appealed for help from Louis Philippe but the latter declined to offer assistance. He feared to clash with the big powers since Belgians' act contradicted the arrangements of 1814 of the Vienna settlement. After their defeat of the Dutch, the Belgian nationalists their throne to Louis Philippe's son, Duc-de-Nemours, but again Philippe rejected the offer in favor of a British candidate Leopold of Saxe -Coburg who was an uncle to the queen Victoria of England. Louis' refusals were a disappointment to the French voted him into the office.

NB. In 1831 however, on the authorization of the powers, France invaded Dutch troops which had entered Belgium, defeated and drove them out of the country. This was seen as one of the few foreign active commitments of King Louis Philippe.

2. **The 1830 Italian revolts. In 1830, the Italian nationalists declared a series of revolts against Austrian dictatorship.** Once again many French men were anxious to see Philippe intervene one part of Italian nationalist. The Bonapartists demanded his intervention as a means to revive Napoleon's conquest of Italy in 1796-1815. The French liberals who were in close contact with the Carbonari also wanted the King to intervene so as to liberate the Italians from Austrian domination. However, the king refused to intervene for fear of a joint armed action against him, and secondly because the Italian action was against the protocol restored at the Vienna in 1815. This was interpreted as a national humiliation to the French glory and prestige.
3. **The 1830 Polish revolt.** Poland was made the center of balance of power between Russia, Prussia and Austria during the 1815 Vienna settlement. Thus as the revolution broke out in Poland, the French liberals expected Louis Philippe to intervene and help to Polish since it was a liberal and nationalist struggle. The Bonapartists demanded his intervention with the desire to destroy the established status quo at Vienna. Aware of the stake of the three powers; Russia, Prussia, and Austria had in Poland coupled with their military strength, Louis decided to abandon the Poland liberals. This again made very unpopular at home.
4. **The Syrian question/ Louis' policy towards the Ottoman Empire/ Eastern question.** In his pursuit of the Greek war lords 1821-29, the Sultan of Turkey engaged Mehmet Ali of Egypt on a condition of promised territories of Damascus, Syria among others. At the end of the war however, the Sultan refused to honor fully his promise prompting Mehmet Ali to invade and over run Syria in 1832. By the treaty of London 1832, the powers of Britain and Austria advised the sultan Mahmood of Turkey to establish peace with Mehmet Ali and to hand over to him the promised territories of Syria, Damascus and Palestine. The Sultan was compelled to relinquish the territories to Mehmet Ali. In 1839, however, he (the Sultan) invaded Ali in Syria. This time, Ali sought French assistance. Louis Philippe on the advice of his chief minister Adolf Thiers and anxious to please those who wanted revival of French/Napoleonic influence in the country (Egypt) dispatched French troops which fought alongside Mehmet's, drove the Turks out of Syria and advanced towards the Ottoman capital (Constantinople). As they neared Constantinople, Russia, Prussia, Austria and Britain in support of Sultan ordered Ali to restore Syria to Turkey and to drop the war with his ally-France Louis Philippe withdrew his troops, fearing a possible war with the allied powers. In the London conference which Palmerstone called in 1839, France was not invited. Thiers among other French men urged the king to launch full scale war against the

powers but which Louis Philippe rejected. This was a great disappointment to many radical Frenchmen thus undermining the king's popularity. As a consequence, his chief minister Adolph Thiers resigned and was replaced with arrogant Guizzot.

5. **The Spanish double marriages of 1846.** In 1846, the question of the Spanish marriage arose and which brought about tension between France and Britain. Queen Isabella, and her sister Infanta were not yet married. So there was naturally competition among the European powers to provide husbands so as to produce the heir and therefore secure the Spanish throne. Both France and Britain were too anxious to offer candidates. The contesting powers eventually settled at marrying Isabella to a British-backed German Prince, Francis Duc-de-montpensier, and Louis Philippe's youngest son. But there was a stringent condition that the Infanta's marriage would only occur if Isabella married first, bore a child (to succeed the Spanish Throne). Philippe and Guizzot breached the agreement and arranged a secret marriage for both sisters on the same day 18th October 1846, Infanta to his son-Montpensier and Isabella to an old noble man rumored to be impotent. This implied Infanta's offspring (child) would automatically become the Spanish crown in the event that Isabella would certainly bear no child, if the Duc of Cadiz was actually impotent. Britain became so enraged and reacted by stopping all her trade and diplomatic links with France. This affected the Frenchmen especially the middleclass merchants whose business flourished with Britain. They began to accuse Philippe of ruining their trade and hence to them Philippe's reign were 18 years or disappointment.
6. **The 1848 Swiss revolt.** In 1846, a civil war broke in Switzerland between the conservative Catholics and liberal Protestants about the kind of government to follow. The protectants were secretly assisted by the British and Catholics appealed for French assistance. The British foreign secretary the out maneuvered Philippe by blind folding that the Swiss affair was to be diplomatically resolved and to which he was organizing a peace conference. As Philippe relaxed, the British aided the Protestants to defeat the Catholics right before the day of the conference. This left many French Catholics disillusioned and lost confidence in Louis Philippe's government.
7. **Louis Philippe and Tahiti Island.** In 1840, Louis Philippe conquered one of the south Pacific Islands called the Tahiti. This occupation threatened the British in the area as the Island was so close to the British commercial center in South America. Thus in 1843, the British in an attempt to protect their interests (in the area) sent an expedition to the Island which was arrested and imprisoned by the French. The arrest was soon followed by an outcry in England calling for the immediate release of the British contingent. Due to much pressure, Louis Philippe succumbed and released the Garrison henceforth in the compensation for the assault caused on the British glory. This was taken as great humiliation caused to France by the non-adventurous Louis Philippe.
8. **Louis Philippe and Algeria colony.** Louis Philippe came to power when Algeria had just been conquered by Charles X. he consolidated the French control by encouraging large scale migration of French into the colony. This is why it became a French settler colony. This pleased the glory seekers. However the immigrants met stiff resistance from the Algerians and as a result many lost their lives and a lot of French resources were destroyed during his reign. All the blame went to Philippe.

FACTORS FOR LOIUS PHILLIPPE'S DOWNFALL

1. **The corrupt nature of his government led to his downfall.** Philippe's government was extremely corrupt and had a lot of scandals committed by his ministers. It was a dictatorial government characterized by bribery and nepotism against the French masses. The king and his chief minister Guizot overshadowed and frustrated the chamber of deputies by rejecting the bills proposed to condemn corruption and embezzlement presented to them for endorsement. Besides, several government officials swindled huge sums of money for their private developments. This was unacceptable by the Frenchmen and seriously undermined the credibility of the government collapsing in 1848.
2. **Political agitations.** Louis Philippe's government was bound to collapse partly due to the endless political agitations by the various political groups. Each party had its own interests which they demanded and uncompromisingly e.g. the Bonapartists wanted a vigorous foreign policy and to restore the Napoleonic glory while the liberals needed a democratic rule in France. The republicans agitated for more voting rights while ultra-royalists wanted a return to the old order of conservatism and despotism. The Orleanists were not fully satisfied with the due privileges they hoped to enjoy during the reign of Louis Philippe. Attempting to please one group inevitably brought in hatred by other groups. This broke down Philippe's government.
3. **Lack of support from majority Frenchmen.** Louis attacked the support of the common man in France and only relied largely on the will of the majority middleclass who had brought him to power. According to Eric Wilmot (the great powers 1814-1914), throughout his reign, Louis Philippe was dogged by almost constant political opposition, as a price to pay for acquiring the throne at the invitation of a narrow social elite. He was not a king by virtue of hereditary right, nor did he rule by the popular mandate. His promotion to royal power was just a carefully engineered compromise designed to restrain the republicans and to protect property owners from ambitions of the Bourbons. Eric adds...few Frenchmen regarded Louis Philippe as their natural leader but most had accepted him resignedly (unenthusiastically). This is why by 1847, his free trade policy and the impact of the Spanish double marriages had also stripped him of the little support of rich middleclass men as the two ruined their industrial power. In 1848, therefore, Louis abdicated and fled to England.
4. **His refusal to grant parliamentary reforms also costed him his fortune.** He deliberately maintained a narrow Franchise (right to vote) as amended in the 1830 charter. When the chamber of deputies proposed a further reduction of the tax qualification from 200 francs to 100 francs to expand the Franchise, Philippe refused and insisted through Guizot urged the French men to work hard and become rich so they could qualify to vote. Thus through his reign only 200000 out of 35,000,000 French men qualified to vote. This cost him the popularity and slowly people became disillusioned thus overthrew him in 1848.
5. **Social distress led his downfall.** With the 19th century industrial boom, many French men suffered socio-economic distress. E.g. industrial workers suffered low payments for long working hours, poor accommodation and sanitary conditions, accompanied by lack of safety insurance amidst frequent accidents in mines and other delicate industrial plants. Besides, the introduction of machines in the industrial development displaced many crafts men rendering them jobless. The situation was complicated by Louis' free trade policy which affected the industrialization in France. All this precipitated the rise of socialism which became the principle cause of the Philippe's downfall in 1848.

6. **The role of political propagandists led to his downfall.** Political propagandists like Louis Blanc, Rimbaud, Downer, and Gramdville spread the sentiments of dissatisfaction against the Orleans government through public criticisms and anti-government slogans which ruined Philippe's political career, respect and credibility. It was partly the work of such propagandists that instigated the French men into the 1848 revolution which occasioned Philippe's downfall.
7. **Louis Philippe's ruthless approach towards the opposition led to his downfall.** He was too brutal against them as he persecuted, imprisoned and exiled his political opponents. He passed laws against them e.g. in 1841 he passed a law which banned demonstrations, assemblies and trade unions. He censored the press through press laws between 1832 and 1835. This caused hostility against and resulted into a revolution of 1848.
8. **Louis Philippe's inglorious/boring foreign policy.** Philippe unlike his predecessors pursued a non-adventurous policy as a means to maintain a peaceful policy with the big powers. This was however was detested by many Frenchmen who saw the glory of their country as lying in aggressive foreign campaigns. The Bonapartists, republicans, clericals and liberals were all disappointed at Philippe's failure to become vigorously involved in the European affairs of the time. His reluctance to the Swiss, Polish, and Italians, Belgians etc. as well as his compliances to Palmerstone's maneuvers cost him the support of many Frenchmen and no wonder he was overthrown in 1848.
9. **Lack of foreign alliances.** He was isolated by fellow monarchies in Europe since he was a constitutional monarch. Britain, a fellow constitutional monarchy that would have assisted Louis Philippe had been enraged at Philippe's secret Spanish double marriages. This gave chance to revolutionaries to pursue Philippe without external intervention, hence his downfall.
10. **The economic crisis of 1846-1848 led to Philippe's downfall.** The bad harvest of 1846 gave way to serious famine, inflation and starvation. Besides, epidemic diseases like typhoid and gonorrhoea had psycho-social effects on the Frenchmen. As the king looked down upon the deteriorating conditions of the masses, many people decided to flock towns and became desperate mobs that spearheaded the February 1848 revolution which overthrew Louis Philippe.
11. **Overwhelming opposition.** The opposition to Louis Philippe's government was overwhelming e.g. the ultra-royalists, the Orleans, noble and clergy (legitimists), the republicans, liberal, the Bonapartists, the middleclass, working class, the peasants, the industrialists were some of the various groups opposed to Louis' policies. The fact that they each wanted a fulfillment of parochial interests and not national developments put Philippe to a position of compromise which earned him nothing but unpopularity and hatred among his own people, little wonder his government collapsed.
12. **Censorship of the press.** Louis Philippe censored the press and became dictatorial towards the end of his reign. He started his governments with a positive reform where the masses were given freedom of expression but were when he set up suppressive measures as a means to control the growing opposition against him e.g. he rigidly censored the press from 1835 and by 1840 he passed the law of discussion which restricted Frenchmen from discussing anything against his government. This was followed by the law of association which banned any Frenchmen to affiliate themselves to any past regimes. This hatched gradual opposition which finally exploded in a revolution in February 1848.

13. **Inadequate parliamentary reform.** Though the constitutional amendment increased the franchise from 100000-200000, these were still by far inadequate to France's 35 million people. In spite of the pressure from the republicans to lower the tax qualification further to 100 francs so as to enable franchise expansion, Louis Philippe refused and through his chief minister Guizzot simply urged people to work hard, earn, become rich and raise the taxes required of them to vote "enrichissez vous". This was worsened by the fact that often than not, the parliament was manipulated to maintain the aristocracy interests. It was estimated that; nearly half of the chamber of deputies were either government pensions or had private businesses directly under the support of the government (Dennis Richards's p.107). It is not surprising that such a parliament had little to offer to problems of common man in France. This angered several Frenchmen and hence dragged them into a revolution in 1848.
14. **Favors to middle class.** Philippe's democratic policy relied much on middle class and deprived other classes their rights. He signed many treaties that benefited majorly the middle class especially the industrialists and paid little attention to the problems of a common man in France e.g. He took no serious efforts to address the inflation of 1840 when potato prices increased by 40 percent and that of bread by 20 percent which was the staple food of common man. This led to growth of socialism because one of the key issues in the outbreak of the 1848 revolution in France. According to Karl Max "Louis Philippe's was like a joint stock company which was using national wealth and its profit was distributed amongst ministers, members of national assembly and limited voters".
15. **Philippe returned Napoleon's remains from St. Hellena and accorded it state burial.** As the opposition increased against his regime, Philippe thought of adventurous activity that could revive his fast down scaling popularity. The one such activity was the return on return of the great emperor "Napoleon 1's" remains in 1841 and were given a high pomp state funeral at Invalids, the most significant burial grounds in France. However this was a boomerang (weakness) to his reign because it reminded many French of the glorious days of Napoleon. It increased opposition against him and favored Napoleon's cousin – Louis Napoleon Bonaparte to take over power in 1848.
16. **Louis' character also become subject of criticism** E.g. He was accused of living too simplistic and ordinary life. For instance over associated himself with the local, feeding principally on soup with them, shaking hands and carrying his umbrella while dressing like a middle class French men. Although the acts pleased many French men, they later become an area of attack by the monarchists (members of his family) and other disgruntled members of the French society.
17. **Rise of socialism.** During his reign socialism though gradually, came to effect. Before 1830 socialism had taken dimensions of having a society organized by few intellectuals who would have well of every one at heart and would ensure fair and proper distribution of wealth to people. However with the growing industrialization in the mid-1830s, conditions of workers increasingly changed focusing more on the need for workers fair pay and fair productive work. Thus socialist thinkers led by Louis Blanc (the most famous of socialist agitators during Louis' reign) began to preach socialist doctrines. For example in his book 1 organization du Travail argued that every man had the right to be given productive work and it was the duty of the state to see that he got it. He further stated that he also had to establish its own workshops where people would work and the profits from their labor were to be shared among themselves. His recommendations could with the reasonable accuracy be described as full-scale nationalization

with workers control substituting what are apparently appeared as private ownership of capital. As events fell apart, the king passed the factory act 1841 by which he hoped to improve the young workers conditions but even then nothing was done.

18. **Pursuit of repressive policies.** His domestic Policy was also characterized by pursuit of repressive policies/measures. For example in response to the socialist agitations and those of parliamentary reforms, he passed the law of association by which heavy penalties were imposed for reforming societies and associations aimed at overthrow of the government. By the same law, newspapers were subjected to heavy censorship. In 1835, the government passed a law which forbade even the discussion of any other form of government than existing one and prohibiting any one declaring himself the supporter of the former ruling family in France a law that was obviously seen to have been aimed at legitimist and Bonapartists. This cost him the great support from the French intellectuals, academicians and generally the middle class which had brought him into power.
19. **Endless uprisings, revolts and assassination attempts.** From the very commencement of his reign, Louis Philippe was the object of hatred by many political groups. This hatred took violently active forms e.g. between 1830 and 35 there were 6 outbreaks of serious revolts at Lavandee, the western district of France and where old royalists had resisted for years the revolution of 1789, the legitimists attempted a rising which was suppressed then came the attempt in Paris the conspirator Fiesch to assassinate Louis Philippe by firing at the royal session with 24 barreled gun concealed in house along the route. There were two risings of the workers of Lyons in 1831 over their demands for increased wages again in 1834 when they controlled the town for three days before giving in to the government troops in Paris there occurred a republican rising in 1832 which resulted in two days of desperate fighting. It was at this very time that Blane also attempted socialist arising against the government. Napoleon Bonaparte attempted unsuccessful conspiracies against Louis in 1836 and 1840. These rebellions weakened Louis Philippe's government hence its collapse.
20. **The character of Guizzot as the chief minister also caused troubles to the king.** Appointed in 1840, Guizzot was arrogant and too intensive to the demands the different sections of the French society. He infuriated the workers by arrogantly repulsing their demands for lowering the tax collection as prerequisite for expanding the Franchise (right to vote) in France. He did this by urging to work hard and become rich so they could qualify to vote otherwise the tax and property qualification remained. This drove the people into the February 1848 revolution.
21. **The role the reform banquets.** His downfall was occasioned by the reform of banquets. At the height of the "reforms" agitations, Philippe had under taken repressive measures in order to contain the situation. Among others e.g., he declared political meetings illegal, imposed a rigid censorship on the press as well as detaining opposition supporters. In response, the socialists and republicans began to organize a joint dinners (banquets) in the country where upon, political speakers called for reform. The dinners were later known as reform banquets. E.g. in June 1843, they organized a banquet where they jointly demanded for parliamentary reform. Through their influential newspaper called reform, they demanded the lowering of tax qualification further to 100 francs and also the abolition of property qualification for becoming a member of the chamber of deputies. When the King and Guizzot refused to honor the demands, the agitators of reform began to systematically hold a series of such banquets in Paris and other parts of the country.

22. **The last and most remarkable came on February 22nd 1848.** The socialists planned a banquet in Paris at which 87 sympathizers from the chamber of deputies were to be principal guests. The government prohibited the banquet and the organizers cancelled it. Never the less, radical reformists called for country wide demonstrations which prompted a huge crowd to assemble for the match at banqueting hall. Disorder ensued which deteriorated into the February 1848 revolution and marked the end of Louis' government.
23. **The events of night 23rd February 1848 were the most acute in Philippe's downfall when the protestors lay barricades in the working class quarters of the city, Louis first deployed police which dispersed an agitated crowd in the place called La Mandeleine.** However, as the civil disorder swept across Paris, he called out the National Guard but which instead joined the demonstrators. The king dismissed Guizzot and replaced him with a more liberal mole, but the move came too late because, the demonstrators went on and attacked even the foreign office. Severe fighting occurred between the demonstrators and few royal guards. Over 40 protestors were killed within hours, Paris was in open revolt. Gun smiths and barracks were looted for weapon as civil disorder dripped the country. Some of the corpses were paraded on the carts and moved through the streets as demonstrators were singing heroic rhythms. Philippe left with no option, abdicated and fled to England on 24th 1848. This marked the end of the of the Orleans monarchy in France.

NB: YOU can also bring in features of his foreign policy here. Because, almost all of them undermined his rule.

24. **Louis Philippe lacked support from the French army.**
25. **The Swiss revolt**
26. **The Polish revolt**
27. **The Italian revolt**
28. **The Belgium revolution**
29. **The Syrian question**
30. **The Tahiti Island question**
31. **The Spanish double marriage affair.**

THE FACTORS THAT ENABLED LOUIS TO RULE FOR 18 YEARS

1. **Massive support from French men made him rule for 18 years.** Louis Philippe started his reign on a positive note when he was overwhelmingly supported because of his background i.e. revolutionary aristocratic in his administration Louis stood according to some expectations of the revolutionaries e.g. he observed Napoleonic codes, retained the national guard, he restored the tricolor cap and above all preserved the amended charter of 1830. All these made him popular among Frenchmen despite of some discontent.
2. **Philippe had support of the army-the National Guard.** In the years before 1840, Louis Philippe enjoyed great support of the National Guard. He used this army to suppress internal strikes and uprisings which attempted to shake his reign as early as 1830s. E.g. between 1830 and 1835, there were six outbreaks of serious revolts at Lavandee which the army successfully suppressed. There were two uprisings of workers of Lyons in 1831 over their demands for increased wages and again in 1834 when they controlled the town for three days before giving in to the government troops. In Paris, there occurred a

republican rising in 1832 which resulted into two days of desperate fighting but was also crushed. All these and many more were crushed by the army thereby consolidating Philippe into power up to 1848.

3. **The support of the middle class.** From the start, the middle class gave Philippe overwhelming support and voted him into power. It was not until 1846 when they lost confidence in him after the Spanish marriages question, which tore the relationship apart because it disrupted their trade with Britain.
4. **Absence of a united opposition front enabled them to rule for 18 years.** During Philippe's reign the different political groups namely socialists, liberal, republicans, Bonapartists, etc. were too parochial that they couldn't bury their ideological differences for the sake of defeating Louis Philippe's government. Besides, apart from leaning towards the middle class, Philippe played the opposition as well. He was non-of the all conflicting groupings at the time. (Neither Bonapartists, Bourbons/ legitimists nor republicans) this was the very gap Louis Philippe exploited to rule France for 18 years.
5. **Louis Philippe demonstrated a peaceful environment in France, which won the hearts of many French men.** Several French men were tired of the revolutionary blood shade and unrest that characterized the previous regimes i.e. XVI's the reign of terror, directorate government, Napoleon's I's, Louis XVIII and Charles X's government. The wars had affected the French economy and their business. Thus the relative peace witnessed in 18 years of Louis Philippe pleased many and this party enabled him to reign for long.
6. **He also used force to eliminate the opposition.** This was in form of censoring press, imprisoning and prosecution of his opponents. He enforced this through his secret police and spy network that detected all the anti-government movements. E.g. he crushed the republicans' riots and Louis Napoleon's attempts to take over power before 1848.
7. **He appointed the trusted Friends who tightened his grip on the French throne.** E.g. after the resignation of Thiers in 1840, he appointed his long time conservative friend Guizot who affectively controlled the liberals and even manipulated the parliament to consolidate Philippe in power. He rejected the call for an expanded Franchise a move that was bound to undermine Louis' position had succeeded.
8. **Louis Philippe's peaceful foreign policy enabled him to rule for 18 years.** He forewent the French glory in order to save France from any direct confrontation from the big powers an event that would have possibly have ended his reign little earlier. He took a cautious diplomatic approach over the Tahiti affair, Polish, Italian, Syrian and Belgian question as a way to avoid the conflict with the big powers. Although this annoyed many groups in France and became a source of grievance, he won the support of the middleclass and remained at peace with foreign power that was suspicious of French aggression. In fact, some historians argued that if Philippe had not annoyed Britain over Spanish marriage, possibly his downfall would have come at much later day than it was.
9. **The role of the Metternich system in Austrian empire enable Philippe to reign for 18 years.** Metternich used a strict spy network, oppressed, persecuted and suppress all liberal movements in Europe that would have influenced the course of political agitations in France. The effectiveness of Metternich system kept Europe out of

revolution which might have inspired the French to revolt against Philippe's government much earlier than they did in 1848. This is why Louis' crown was shaken and eventually overthrown following the collapse of the hitherto ruthless Metternich system.

10. **The role of his espionage.** Besides, Philippe also had a very effective spy network against his opponents in state organs. It was very effective in unearthing subversive element and conspiracies against his government. E.g. the assassination attempt against his life and Louis Bonaparte's attempts to overthrow his government in 1836 and 1840 were exposed by the state intelligence and contained henceforth.
11. **The 1830 constitutional charter.** It acted as checks and balances to Louis Philippe's despotic tendencies that could have triggered an early revolution. E.g. restricted him from declaring emergency decrees which would have inevitably have brought the government into troubles with the chamber of deputies and the French people. Besides, it also deprived the king of the powers to dismiss the parliament and it empowered the chamber to introduce laws. All these helped to alleviate possible revolutions that could have overthrown Philippe much earlier than he was in 1848.
12. **The role of Thiers and Guizot can't be underrated.** These were two states men of high repute talent, integrity and political acumen. Thiers while chief Minister 1836-40 effectively controlled the liberals attacks in the chamber of deputies that were targeting the king. Guizot who succeeded Thiers (1840-1848) maintained a strong hold over the chamber through bribery, corruption and nepotism. He also rejected the expansion of the voting right so that his master could remain in power by the will of the minority rich middleclass who after all brought him to power.
13. **Besides his reign was punctuated by wonderful development which won him support from the Frenchmen.** Many industries were built, canals, bridges, roads and railway systems were put to promote industrial development. Such developments at times overshadowed weaknesses in the eyes of several of French men, hence his prolonged reign.

