

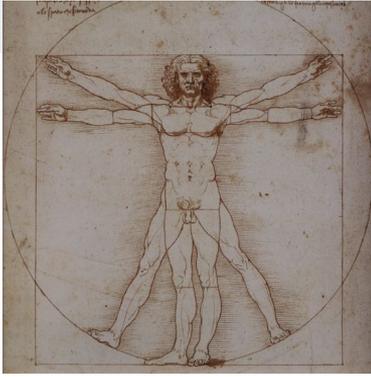


A comparison of the causes of the American and French revolution

The American and French Revolution

- The revolutions took place right after each other
- This leads to the connection between them being very strong, they affected each other back and forth
- The causes, however, differ from each other
- Some of these causes are older than just a couple of decades, so one has to look further back to really understand them





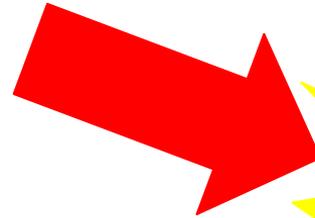
The Renaissance was a rebirth of learning, started in Italy due to wealth

The reformation split the church, and it split Europe. Also led to a richer middle class, money economy



The middle class wanted more money, trade to Asia was expensive, so they looked for new trade routes

With new ship technology, they sailed east, but instead of Asia, a new continent was found



The Scientific revolution and the Enlightenment

Main causes of the American revolution

The colonists started a new life, with new systems, less pre-existing ways of thinking

The 7 years war increased Great Britain's debt, causing them to put more taxes on the colonies

A lot of the Americans had no connection to Great Britain, making it hard to understand why they should pay taxes

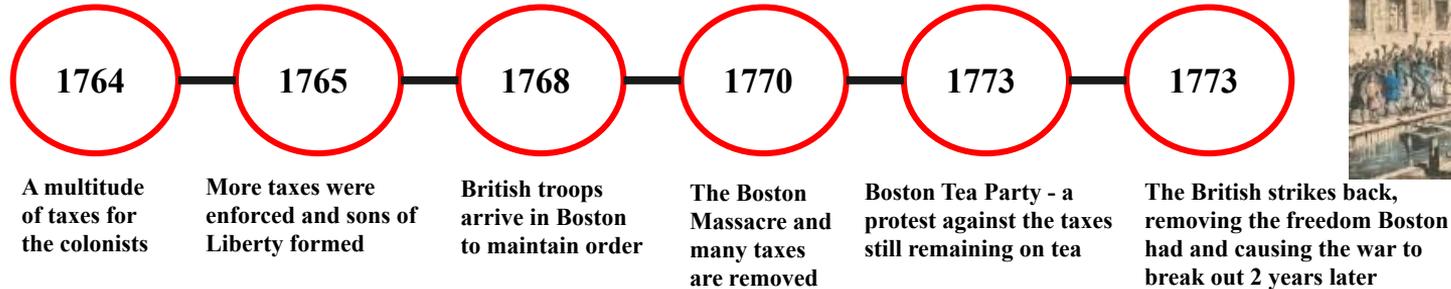
Even though they paid a lot of taxes, they had no representation in the British Parliament

Democratic ideals were spread through the Enlightenment that originated in France



The increased English presence made the colonists worried for their self-governing

Short-term causes of the American Revolution



- More and more taxes were enforced on the colonists
- When they decided to protest they were met with violence, the Boston massacre
- The British decided to remove the taxes, but they kept them on tea
- The colonists protested the taxes on tea by throwing tea in the water in Boston, the Boston Tea Party
- This led the British to punish Boston by removing their self-governing and enforcing taxes that previously had been removed
- This angers the colonists and leads to the start of the revolution

What happened to the women in the American revolution?

Even though women had little political power they still had an influence, their husbands



Abigail Adams, the wife of John Adams, reminded her husband that when making laws he should remember the women

These women were later able to fight in the war, and they were vital in heightening the patriotic spirit

Main causes of the French revolution

The Enlightenment, the ideas came from France, but the people had little political power

The loss in the 7-years war made the crown even poorer, and giving it less prestige

Justice was only possible for the rich, and you often had to pay for public positions

The monarchy was poor and weak, the nobles and clergy paid no taxes, only the third estate, angering them



It was a country with extreme inequalities, the third estate had almost no power, despite being a majority

Short-term causes of the French Revolution



France had a lot of money, but the money belonged to the people paying no taxes, making the crown deep in debt

In hope to ease the tension, the king started holding congress with the three estates, but the power was unevenly split

The third estate didn't receive as much power in the congress, causing them to protest inside a tennis court, inspiring others to join them

The debt increased when France aided the colonists in the American revolution, which also inspired the French people

In the 1780s there was a big famine in France. In hope for work people moved into the cities, leading to overcrowding with hungry people

What happened to the women in the French revolution?

France was extremely unequal, and women had almost no rights, leading to them protesting

In the beginning of the revolution there were rumors of the palace guards striking back

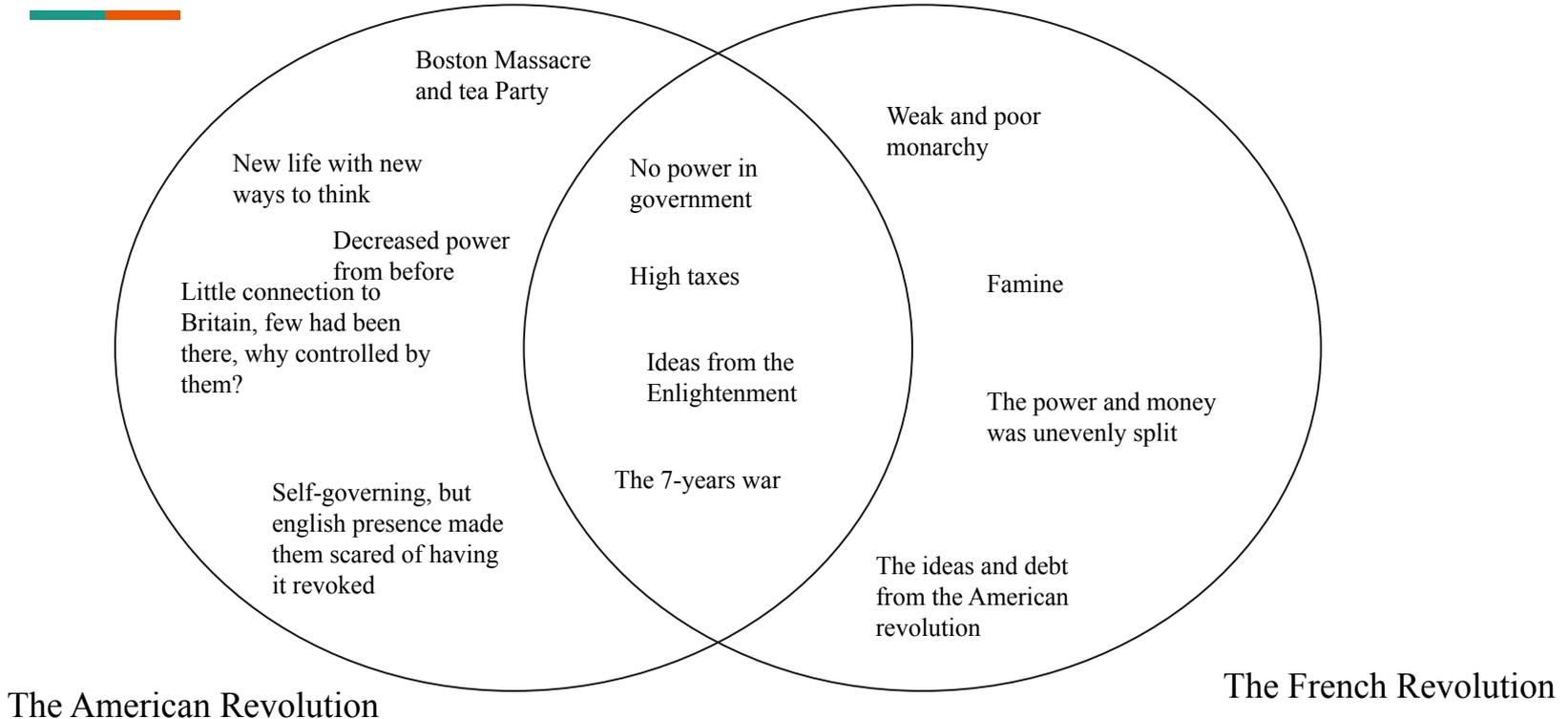
During the night outside the palace they met thousands of men, and they made the king come to Paris

They did not want to vote, they wanted education and protection of property rights

This led to the Women's march, thousands of women marching from Paris to the palace in Versailles



The key similarities and differences



The key similarities



Both of the revolutions started due to ideas of democracy from the Enlightenment

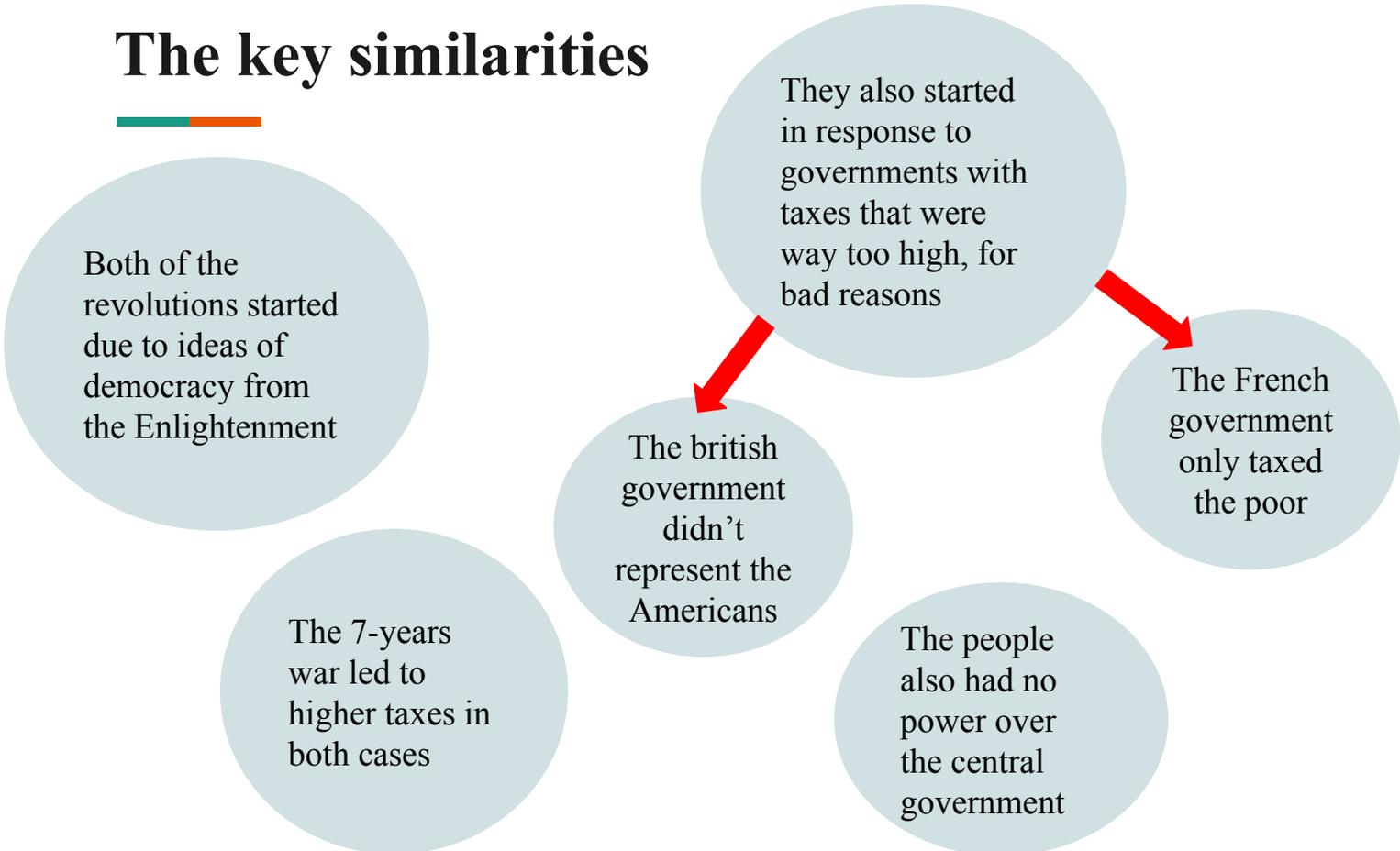
The 7-years war led to higher taxes in both cases

The british government didn't represent the Americans

They also started in response to governments with taxes that were way too high, for bad reasons

The people also had no power over the central government

The French government only taxed the poor



The key differences



A main cause to the French revolution was Famine, which is not the case in the American

The violence the Americans were met with while protesting is also another big cause

They were both influenced by the Enlightenment, but the American Revolution inspired the French and increased the taxes

The Americans had little connection to the government, they were from far away, but the French fought their neighbours

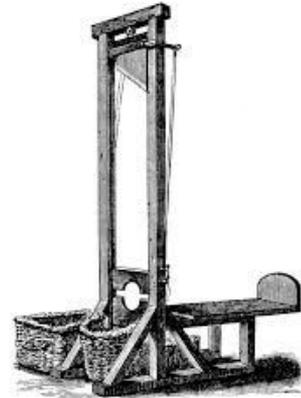
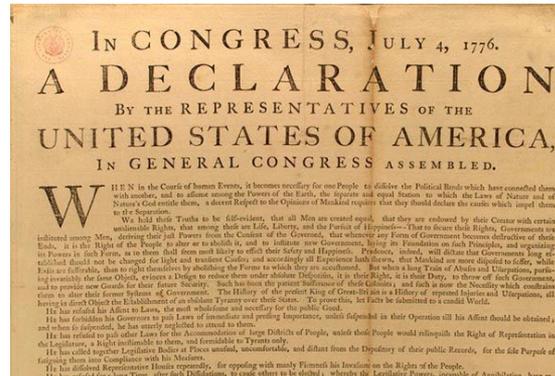
The Americans had relative control over themselves, self-governing, but the French people had none

The Americans were rich, but the French were poor, the French revolution was a lower class revolt, and the American was a middle class revolt

The Americans were desperate to keep the power and money, and the French wanted to gain money and power

Conclusion

- Both of the revolutions share causes
- The climate in the world affected them strongly and the people paid too many taxes
- They have differences however, famine, weak monarchy and self-governing
- These causes have a big effect on the fallout of the revolutions, but that is for another time.





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