

CHAPTER
7

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

The French Revolution Under Siege

Section 2

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

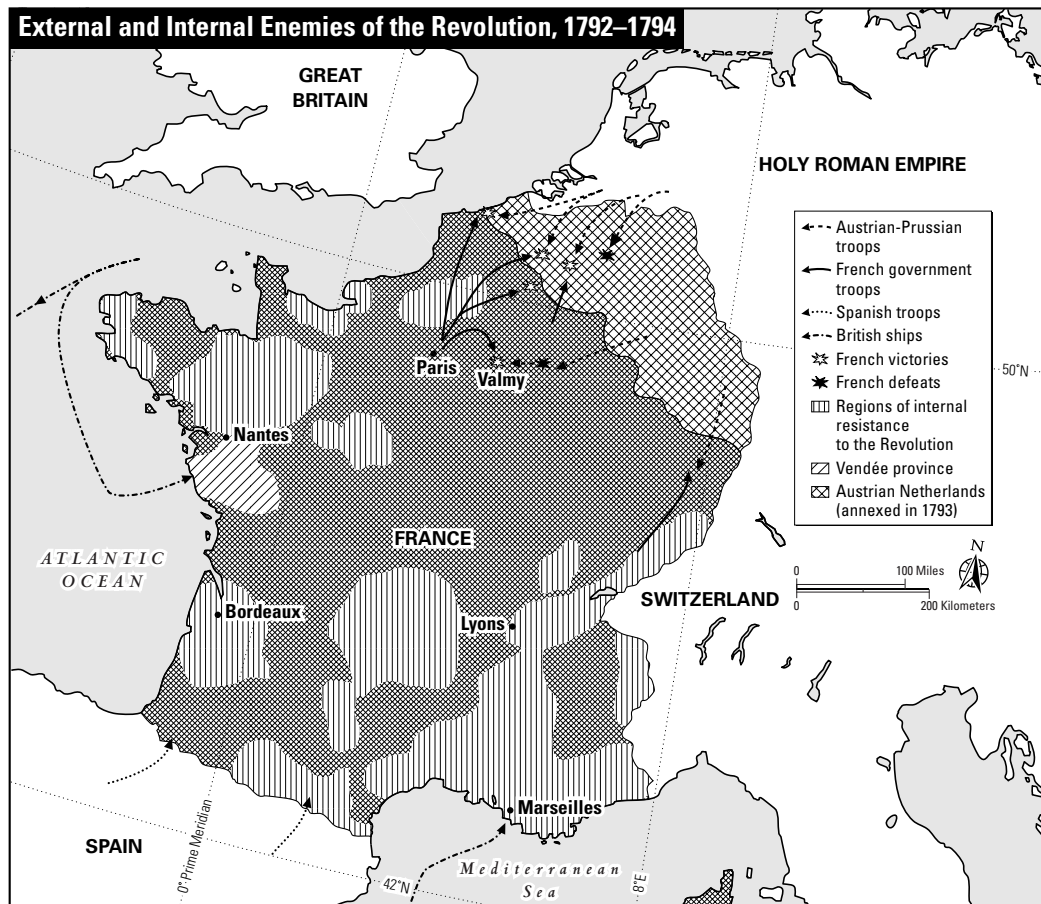
During the French Revolution, in early 1792, the new constitutional government was under attack by neighboring countries and by opponents within France itself.

Émigrés—former noblemen who had fled France—were plotting on foreign soil to destroy the revolution. They had warned monarchs of neighboring countries that the revolutionary ideas of France were a danger to their own reigns. As a result, Austria and Prussia wanted Louis XVI, the French king, restored. France reacted by declaring war on Austria, which quickly gained the support of Spain, Prussia, and Great Britain. At first, an invading army of Austrians and Prussians moved successfully toward Paris. However, at Valmy the French

government's troops defeated the outsiders, and the tide turned. After that, France invaded the Austrian Netherlands, where fighting was fierce through 1794.

Internally, royalists—local supporters of the king—and conservative French peasants worked against the Revolution in several regions. In August of 1792, the French province of Vendée was the scene of violent uprisings, which spread to other regions. Great Britain even shipped émigré troops to the region to support the royalists and the peasants.

Nevertheless, the government succeeded in crushing most revolts by 1793. The French revolutionary leaders were then able to raise the larger army needed for the external battles ahead.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What country or countries attacked revolutionary France on land from the south? _____
from the northeast? _____
2. In what part of France were most battles with foreign troops fought? _____
3. How many French defeats does the map show? _____
Describe the location of each. _____

4. Based on the map, what do the French cities of Nantes, Bordeaux, Lyons, and Marseilles have in common? _____

5. What was Britain's role in the French Revolution? _____

6. Describe the events leading up to the battle at Valmy, the outcome of the battle, and the battle's importance. _____

