ST. ANNE’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE KILLALOE.

5 D HISTORY. MR.O’ BRIEN.

CHP.6 THE THIRD FRENCH REPUBLIC, 1920 TO 1940.

TIMELINE + CHAPTER NOTES/ SUMMARY.

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| **DATE:** | **GOVERNMENT:** | **ACHIEVEMENTS/DEVELOMENTS:** |
| 1919 to 1924 | Bloc National  George Clemenceau  PM 1919-20.  Alexandre Millerand  PM Jan.1920 to Sept. 1920.  Georges Leygues  PM Sept.1920 to January 1921.  Aristide Briand  PM Jan.1921 to Jan. 1922.  Raymond Poincare  PM Jan.1922 to June 1924. | 1920 Clemenceau resigned as Prime Minister – period of instability followed.  Jan.1922 some stability returns when Poincare became PM – sought to protect small businessmen and shopkeepers.  Alarm at rise in inflation.  1923 Poincare lost support because of increased taxes. |
| 1924 TO 1926 | Cartel Des Gauches  Radical Party + Socialist Party.  Eduard Herriot PM. | Radicals - Supported by lower middle class of shopkeepers and farmers. Opposed state control of industry.  Socialists – Supported by industrial workers and peasants. State intervention in the economy.  Severe economic crisis.  Refused to consider higher taxes. Borrowed money and made the budget imbalance worse.  French Franc collapsed.  Parties couldn’t agree on a solution to the crisis.  10% tax on capital suggested by Herriot. Forced to resign in April 1926. |
| 1926 to 1932 | The Government of National Union.  Poincare  PM and Minister for Finance - July 1926. | Included 5 former PMs and members of all parties except the Socialists.  Poor economic situation – Poincare rules by decree.  Poincare increases taxes, secures foreign loans, stabilises the currency, French goods become more competitive.  Measures were harsh but accepted by the public.  80 billion francs spent on reconstruction in the North-East of France. Motor-car industry expands.  Social reform – National insurance scheme for old-age pensions and sick benefits in 1928.  19129 Wall Street Crash and Great Depression bring political instability to France again.  German reparation payments to France stop, Franc is devalued, France a dumping ground for cheap foreign goods, exports dropped 40% between 1929 and 1932. |
| 1932 | Radical Government.  Herriot as PM | Attempted to deal with economic crisis.  Introduced a budget based on cuts in spending plus tax increases.  Refused to stop French WW1 debts to the USA. |
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| 1905 to 1935  GROWTH OF  THE FASCIST LEAGUES. |  |  |
| 1905 | ACTION FRANCAISE (FRENCH ACTION)  Charles Mauras | A radical right-wing movement.  Anti-Communist and Anti-Semitic.  Supporters included the old gentry who disliked the republican system. Drew recruits from the professional classes, small businessmen, shopkeepers, artisans and right-wing journalists. |
| 1924 | JEUNESSES PATRIOTES  (PATRIOTIC YOUTH)  Pierre Taittinger | Modelled on Mussolini’s Fascist Movement.  Members wore blue raincoats and berets.  Support drawn from right-wing activists in the universities.  By 1933 had a membership of almost 100,000. |
| 1933 | CROIX DE FEU (CROSS OF FIRE)  Lieutenant Col. De La Roque. | Largest of the Fascist Leagues.  Mainly composed of ex-servicemen.  Not anti-Semitic.  Had wealthy backers. A mass movement by 1935. |
| 1935 | SOLIDARITE FRANCAISE  (FRENCH SOLIDARITY).  Francois Coty. | Coty was a perfume and cosmetics millionaire.  Used his wealth to promote anti-democratic and anti-Semitic views through the newspaper L’Ami du Peuple  (The Friend of the People). |

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| 1934 | THE STAVISKY AFFAIR | Provided the far right with an opportunity to attack the parliamentary democratic system.  Jan.1934 Stavisky arrested.  Stavisky shot himself/murdered.  Accusations of financial scandal involving key politicians.  February 1934 Right-wing leagues pour onto streets of Paris and prepare to attack Chamber of Deputies.  Communists attempt a coup. Call for a general strike.  Radical Party PM Chautemps resigns.  To appease the leagues Gaston Doumergue a right-wing politician appointed PM.  Full investigation into Stavisky Affair ordered. |
|  | The Popular Front Government.  Leon Blum(a Socialist) PM. | To stem growth of Fascist Leagues.  Left-wing parties pool resources.  Swing to the left- Popular Front win 380 seats.  Slogan ‘Bread, Peace and Liberty’.  French Communists support Blum’s government but refused to be ministers in it.  Serious economic problems in France. Strikes and Sit-ins.  Slow economic recovery. Lack of laws about social and industrial matters.  May and June 1936 Trade Unions brought economic activity to a standstill.  June 1936 Matignon Agreement between government and trade unions and employers. |
| 1936 | THE MATIGNON AGREEMENT | Wages for civil servants and industrial workers raised by 12%.  Annual paid holidays and a 40-hour working week made compulsory.  Munitions factories nationalised.  Closer state supervision of the Bank of France.  All workers to go back to work.  Agreement did not have stimulating effect on economy that was desired.  Bitterly opposed by the employers.  Production dropped because of 40 hour week.  Prices rose.  Government borrowing increased. |
| 1937 | FALL OF THE POPULAR FRONT. | Weakening economy.  Reforms halted.  Blum attacked by left and right.  Strikes recur – no industrial peace.  A popular slogan ‘Better Hitler Than Blum’ began to go around.  June 1937 Blum asks for emergency powers to allow government repay its debts. He was unable to and forced to resign. |
| 1938 to 1939 | Government of National Defence.  Edouard Daladier – PM. | April 1938 after several changes of government Daladier formed a government.  Worsening international situation – Daladier managed to keep enough support until WW1 broke out in 1939. |

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| 1919 to 1939 | FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY. | TWO MAIN OBJECTIVES.  Make Germany pay reparations for war damage.  Protect French security for the future. |
|  | Poincare | Policy of Coercion.  1923 Germany fails to pay reparations instalment.  Poincare sent French troops into the industrial Ruhr region in Germany.  French troops shoot number of protestors in the Krupp’s steel-workers in Essen.  German workers begin policy of passive resistance/strikes etc.  France forced into an international agreement – The Dawes Plan.  Restructuring of Germany’s reparations.  France to withdraw troops from the Ruhr.  France security weakened by failure of the USA to give supports promised to France in the Versailles Treaty.  France seeks agreements with Central and Eastern European powers. |
| 1924 | Briand and Conciliation. | Policy of Coercion abandoned.  More conciliatory/peace-making approach to foreign policy.  Based on improved Franco-German relations.  Briand was French Foreign Minister 1924 to 1929.  Briand and Gustav Stresemann improve Franco-German relations.  1925 Treaty of Locarno between France and Germany.  Germany accepted as permanent its existing borders with France and Belgium.  France agrees to allow Germany join the League of Nations in 1926.  1928 Kellogg-Briand Pact – rejected war as a way of solving disputes. |
| 1930’s | Appeasement | Pierre Laval Foreign Minister.  Believes France should negotiate with Germany because France was weaker power.  French diplomats leave British to negotiate with Nazi Germany.  British were committed to a policy of appeasement.  French would not act against Nazis without British support. |
|  | The Maginot Line. | Immense unchanging line of fortifications along the Franco-German border.  Huge guns, concrete bunkers, underground railways.  Ignored modern warfare was changing.  De Gaulle tries to persuade France to change military tactics to use soldiers and tanks but he is ignored. |
| 1935 | The Stresa Front. | 1935 Stresa Conference to agree that Italy, France and Britain should unite to protest against Hitler’s plans to rearm Germany.  Agreement fell apart when Mussolini invaded Abyssinia.  Hoare-Laval Pact to let Mussolini have two-thirds of Abyssinia.  Pact falls apart and Italy moves closer in relations to Germany.  1935 Franco-Soviet Pact but fell apart in 1938 over Czechoslovakia. |
| 1940 | World War 1 Outbreak. | May 1940 Germans invade France by by-passing the Maginot Line.  France surrendered to Germany on June 22nd, 1940.  Third French republic comes to an end. |