

Name _____

The French Revolution and Its Impact on Religion and the Catholic Church

Short Answer Key

1. The key objectives of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy were to reform the Catholic Church in France, nationalize church property, and require clergy to take an oath of loyalty to the state.
2. The Reign of Terror had a significant impact on religious practices and institutions in France. It led to the de-Christianization of society, the closure of churches, and the promotion of secular alternatives. Many clergy were persecuted, and traditional religious celebrations were replaced with new ceremonies.
3. The Concordat signed by Napoleon Bonaparte reestablished relations between the state and the Catholic Church in France. It recognized Catholicism as the majority religion, allowed the Church to regain some of its properties, and created a framework for the Church's role in the post-revolutionary French state.
4. The French Revolution left a lasting legacy of secularization in France. It established a separation of church and state that endures to this day, with the state having no official religion. The Revolution significantly reduced the influence and power of the Catholic Church in French society.
5. Before the Revolution, the revolutionaries viewed the Catholic Church as a symbol of the old regime's authority and inequality. During the Revolution, they saw it as an obstacle to their goals of creating a secular state and achieving equality. As a result, they pursued anti-clerical policies and sought to reform or replace the Church's role in French society.

