

COURSE TITLE: History**Transition Activity**

1. Learn the key events from the overview timelines of Britain between 1625-1701 and France 1774-1799 (attached at end).
2. Read at least one of these books:

BritainGarland of Straw – Stella Riley

Historical Fiction, set at the end of the English Civil War. Marks the beginning of a new conflict between Parliament and the Army - in which King Charles becomes a valuable but devious pawn.

In distant Yorkshire, staunchly Royalist Venetia Clifford struggles to keep Ford Edge solvent while assisting fugitive Cavaliers to evade capture and awaiting the return of her exiled fiance, Ellis Brandon. Then the last will and testament of Ellis' father - to whom Ford Edge has been temporarily assigned - confronts her with a choice between either losing her home or marrying Ellis' illegitimate elder brother. Gabriel Brandon is a total stranger and a Colonel in the New Model Army.

The World Turned Upside Down – Christopher Hill

Within the English revolution of the mid-17th century which resulted in the triumph of the protestant ethic--the ideology of the propertied class--there threatened another, quite different, revolution.

In *The World Turned Upside Down*, Christopher Hill studies the beliefs of such radical groups as the Diggers, the Ranters, the Levellers and others, and the social and emotional impulses that gave rise to them.

English Society, 1580 – 1680 – Keith Wrightson

English Society, 1580-1680 paints a fascinating picture of society and rural change in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Keith Wrightson discusses both the enduring characteristics of society as well as the course of social change, and emphasizes the wide variation in experience between different social groups and local communities. This is an excellent interpretation of English society, its continuity and its change.

God's Englishman: Oliver Cromwell and the English Revolution – Christopher Hill

A nuanced biography of Oliver Cromwell, breaking down Cromwell's life into different parts: fenland farmer and humble backbencher; stalwart of the good old cause and the New Model Army; key figure of the Commonwealth; and finally Lord Protector. Hill leads the reader unsentimentally through Cromwell's life from his beginnings in Huntingdonshire to his brutal end. Hill brings all his considerable knowledge of the period to bear on the relationships God's Englishman had with God and England. Such a detailed understanding of the workings of providence is vital to understanding Cromwell.

William's Wife - Jean Plaidy

Historical fiction. Lady Mary, elder daughter of the Duke of York, is in line for England's throne at age fifteen, but is however thrust into a loveless political marriage with her Protestant cousin, William of Orange.

Lady Mary recounts her strange and haunting story: a happy childhood in merry England under King Charles II, her dark and lonely years in Holland, and the upheavals that brought her home once more as England's honoured queen. Hers is a richly royal story, with kings and queens, princesses and princes, playing their noble or shameful roles upon Europe's stage. Among these towering figures Lady Mary's lot had been cast, among them she would grow strong or perish.

France

A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens

An 1859 historical novel set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution. The novel tells the story of the French Doctor Manette, his 18-year-long imprisonment in the Bastille in Paris and his release to live in London with his daughter Lucie, whom he had never met. The story is set against the conditions that led up to the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror.

Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution – Simon Schama

Published in 1989, the bicentenary of the French Revolution.

"The terror," declared Schama in the book, "was merely 1789 with a higher body count; violence ... was not just an unfortunate side effect ... it was the Revolution's source of collective energy. It was what made the Revolution revolutionary." In short, "From the very beginning [...] violence was the motor of revolution." Schama considers that the French Revolutionary Wars were the logical corollary of the universalistic language of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and of the universalistic principles of the Revolution which led to inevitable conflict with old-regime Europe.

The French Revolution: A Very Short Introduction - William Doyle

Beginning with a discussion of familiar images of the French Revolution, garnered from Dickens, Baroness Orczy, and Tolstoy, as well as the legends of let them eat cake, and tricolours, Doyle leads the reader to the realization that we are still living with developments and consequences of the French Revolution such as decimalization, and the whole ideology of human rights.

Continuing with a brief survey of the old regime and how it collapsed, Doyle continues to elucidate how the revolution happened: why did the revolutionaries quarrel with the king, the church and the rest of Europe, why this produced Terror, and finally how it accomplished rule by a general. The revolution destroyed the age-old cultural, institutional and social structures in France and beyond.

This book looks at how the ancien regime became ancien as well as examining cases in which achievement failed to match ambition. Doyle explores the legacy of the revolution in the form of rationality in public affairs and responsible government, and finishes his examination of the revolution with a discussion as to why it has been so controversial.

Marie Antoinette's Darkest Days – Will Bashor

This book begins on the 2nd of August 1793, the day Marie Antoinette was torn from her family's arms and escorted from the Temple to the Conciergerie, a thick-walled fortress turned-prison. It was also known as the waiting room for the guillotine because prisoners only spent a day or two here before their conviction and subsequent execution. The ex-queen surely knew her days were numbered, but she could never have known that two and a half months would pass before she would finally stand trial and be convicted of the most ungodly charges. Will Bashor traces the final days of the prisoner registered only as Widow Capet, No. 280, a time that was a cruel mixture of grandeur, humiliation, and terror.

The Scarlet Pimpernel - Emmuska Orczy

Armed with only his wits and his cunning, one man recklessly defies the French revolutionaries and rescues scores of innocent men, women, and children from the deadly guillotine. His friends and foes know him only as the Scarlet Pimpernel. But the ruthless French agent Chauvelin is sworn to discover his identity and to hunt him down.

None of these will be the subject of particular study on your course. They will all give insight into parts of British or French history in the period that we study.

FRENCH REVOLUTION –TIMELINE OVERVIEW

1774

- Louis XVI ascends to the throne.



1789

- National Assembly founded
- Storming of the Bastille.



1791

- Louis attempts to flee France.
- Constitutional monarchy comes into effect.



1793

- Louis XVI executed
- France becomes a Republic.



1795

- Period of the Directory begins.



1778

- France enters the American revolutionary war



1790

- Development of the Jacobins and Cordeliers



1792

- The revolutionary wars begin.



1794

- The Great Terror.
- Coup of Thermidor.



1799

- Napoleon Bonaparte seizes power in the Coup of Brumaire.



BRITISH REVOLUTION –TIMELINE OVERVIEW

1603

- Death of Queen Elizabeth I.
- James I ascends to the throne.



1629-40

- Charles' personal rule



1649

- Execution of Charles I.



1660

- The Restoration of the monarchy – Charles II assumes the throne.



1685

- James II ascends to the throne.



1625

- Charles I ascends to the throne.



1642

- Outbreak of Civil War



1649-60

- The Commonwealth - Britain is a republic.



1679-1681

- The exclusion crisis



1688

- The glorious revolution

