



# France

## TERMS & NAMES

Charles de Gaulle

French Resistance

Jean Monnet

socialism

European Community

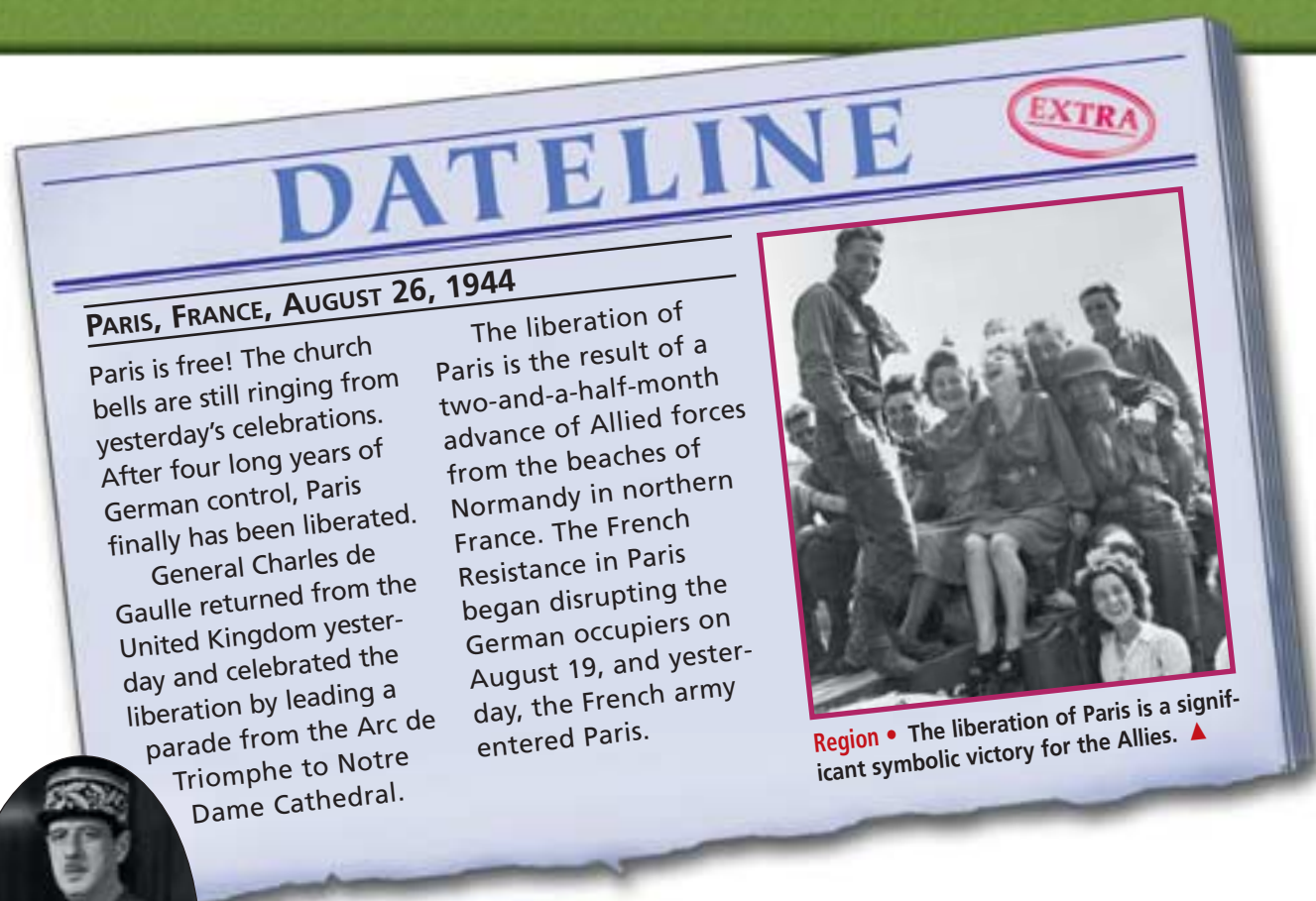
impressionism

## MAIN IDEA

France was ruined politically and economically by World War II but has since made a full recovery.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

France is an important member of the European Union and continues to influence the world's economy and cultures.



**Region •** Charles de Gaulle is a hero to the French. ▲

## The Fifth Republic

During World War II, **Charles de Gaulle** (1890–1970) was a general in the French army. After Germany conquered France in 1940, de Gaulle fled to the United Kingdom. There, he became the leader of the French in exile and stayed in contact with the French Resistance. The **French Resistance** established communications for the Allied war effort, spied on German activity, and sometimes assassinated high-ranking German officers.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

1. **Location** • Name three countries that border France.
2. **Location** • Which bodies of water does France have access to?

On December 21, 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected president of France. He reorganized the French constitution and instituted the Fifth Republic of France.

**The Government of the Fifth Republic** France is a parliamentary republic. Governmental power is split between the president and parliament. The president is elected by the public to a seven-year term; beginning in 2002, the president will serve a five-year term. The president's primary responsibilities are to act as guardian of the constitution and to ensure proper functioning of other authorities.

Parliament has two parts: the Senate and the National Assembly. The president chooses a prime minister, who heads parliament and is largely responsible for the internal workings of the government. The French government is very active in the country's economy.

## A Centralized Economy

World War II left France poor and in need of rebuilding. The National Planning Board, established by **Jean Monnet** (mow•NAY) in 1946, launched a series of five-year plans to modernize France and set economic goals for the country.

### Reading Social Studies

**A. Comparing**  
Compare the term and role of the president of France with the president of the United States.

### Connections to History

**Lascaux Cave Paintings** On September 12, 1940, while hiking in the hills of Lascaux (lah•SKOE) near the town of Montignac in southern France, four teenage boys discovered ancient cave paintings. They found the caves after their dog fell in a hole in the ground.

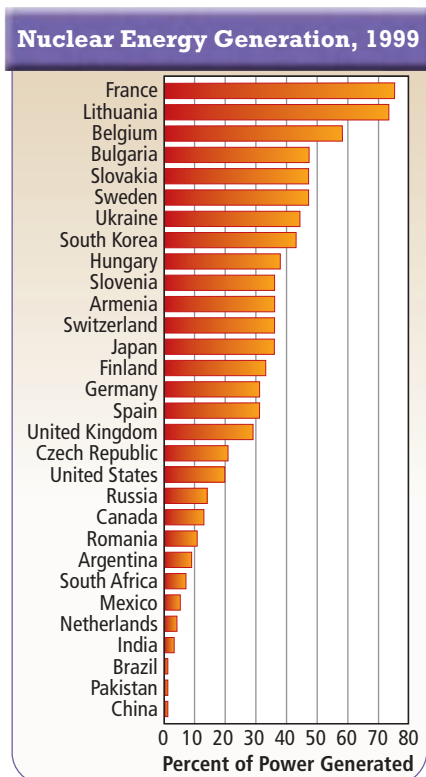
Henri Breuil (broy), one of the first archaeologists on the scene, counted more than 600 images of horses (shown here), deer, and bison. The cave paintings are about 17,000 years old, making them some of the oldest works of art yet discovered.





The result of these plans was a mixed economy, with both public and private sectors. The French government nationalized, or took over, major banks; insurance companies; the electric, coal, and steel industries; schools; universities; hospitals; railroads; airlines; and even an automobile company.

This nationalization of industry is a form of socialism. **Socialism** is an economic system in which some businesses and industries are controlled by the government. The government also provides many health and welfare benefits, such as health care, housing, and unemployment insurance. However, today the French government is slowly placing more of the economy under the control of private companies.



**Region** • Nuclear power plants are a common sight in the French countryside. ▼

**Energy** The French economy grew rapidly after 1946, and the country's industry was powered mainly by coal, oil, and gas. When worldwide oil prices rose in the 1970s, the French economy suffered. In the 1980s, France turned to nuclear power so that its economy would be less dependent on oil. Today France draws 75 percent of its power from nuclear energy, a higher percentage than any other nation in the world.

Most famous for its wines, France also exports grains, automobiles, electrical machinery, and chemicals. Although only about 7 percent of the labor force works on farms, France exports more agricultural products than any other nation in the European Community.

The **European Community** is an association developed after World War II to promote economic unity among the countries of Western Europe. Its success gave rise to greater unity, both politically and economically, in the European Union.

### Reading Social Studies

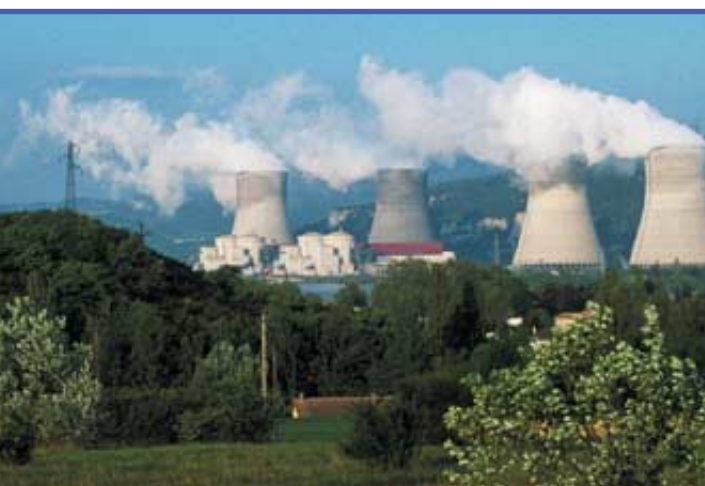
**B. Analyzing Motives** Why does France produce a large amount of nuclear energy?

### BACKGROUND

Tourism is a major industry in France. The country hosts more than 70 million visitors annually, making it the most visited country in the world.

## The Culture of Paris

Paris, the capital city of France, is famous for its contributions to world culture, most especially in the arts. Nicknamed "City of Light," Paris has long been an intellectual and artistic center.







Edouard Manet (mah•NAY) (1832–1883) helped influence one of the most important art movements of modern times, impressionism. **Impressionism** is an art style that uses light to create an impression of a scene rather than a strictly realistic picture. Manet inspired such artists as Claude Monet (mow•NAY), Pierre Renoir (wren•WAR), and Paul Cézanne (say•ZAHN). This group of artists worked together in Paris and shared their thoughts and opinions of art.



**Region** • Monet and his family often modeled for Manet, as in this 1874 painting *Monet Working on His Boat in Argenteuil*. ▲

Paris's Orsay Museum and the Louvre (loove) house two of the greatest collections of fine art in the world. The School of Fine Arts leads a tradition of education and art instruction that has produced artists such as Pierre Bonnard (bah•NAHR) (1867–1947) and Balthus (1908–2001).

**Literature** France has a rich tradition of literature as well. Marcel Proust, who wrote *Remembrance of Things Past*, was an influential writer in the early 20th century. Other significant writers include Albert Camus (kam•OO), who wrote *The Stranger*, and Simone de Beauvoir (bow•VWAR), author of *The Mandarins*.

## SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

- 1. Identify:** (a) Charles de Gaulle (b) French Resistance (c) Jean Monnet  
(d) socialism (e) European Community (f) impressionism

### Taking Notes

- 2.** Use a chart like this one to list the major aspects of French government, economy, and culture.

	Major Aspects
Government	
Economy	
Culture	

### Main Ideas

- 3. (a)** What role does the French government play in the country's economy?  
(b) What is France's primary source of power?  
(c) Name three contributions of French culture to the world.

### Critical Thinking

#### 4. Clarifying

How was the liberation of Paris a symbolic victory?

#### Think About

- the actions of the French Resistance
- the cultural life of Paris

### ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Reread the text on Manet. Draw an impressionist **portrait** of a classmate, friend, or family member.