French Revolution Option 4
Create an Empire

I. Underlying Assumptions
   A. France has been involved in a struggle with Great Britain since the reign of Louis XIV
   B. The Key to France’s prosperity and economic strength is in its overseas empire
   C. Great Britain has had the upper hand in this Struggle since the 1740s
   D. This struggle has brought about the financial crises in France
   E. France needs exceptional & decisive leadership now, in order to win this struggle

II. Form of Government
   A. Monarchy is the most efficient form since it can make decisions quickly
   B. According to Hobbes, the sovereign will prevent internal conflicts and protect the citizens
      from outside invasion/aggression
   C. The sovereign should represent the general will of the people
   D. The Sovereign should be the most capable individual, not one chosen by birth
   E. A plebiscite (election) by all property-owning male citizens will select the sovereign, who will
      rule for life

III. Social Classes
   A. All social distinctions will made entirely upon the basis of merit
   B. Special privileges of the nobility and the clergy will be abolished
   C. Individuals will be honored based upon their service to France

IV. Religion
   A. While France is a Catholic nation, neither the clergy nor the pope will have a role in secular
      government
   B. There will be complete separation of Church and State
   C. There will be religious tolerance for minorities provided they do not upset the social stability
      of the nation
      1 i.e. people may quietly practice other religious beliefs

V. Slavery
   A. The Slaves in our colonies are not citizens and thus do not fall under the Declaration of Rights
      of Man and the Citizen
   B. As slaves are property, it is the responsibility of the government to protect the property
      rights of its French citizens
   C. The Slave system is vital to France’s colonial economic interests, which provide a positive
      balance of trade for France and ensure its economic prosperity
VI. Veto Power
   A. The Sovereign represents the will of the people and thus has supreme veto power
   B. Judges are appointed and serve at the pleasure of the sovereign

VII. National Assembly
   A. The National Assembly will be bicameral, half appointed by the sovereign through a civil service examination, half elected by the people
   B. The National Assembly will serve as an advisory body to the sovereign
   C. The National Assembly will pass laws at the request of the sovereign

VIII. Keys to Economic Prosperity
   A. An equal taxation system for all citizens
   B. A unified legal system for all citizens
   C. Colonial Expansion in the Americas, bringing in raw materials and providing a market for Exports
   D. A national education system in order to identify talented individuals to serve in government
   E. Government subsidies to agriculture in order to provide low cost grain to the poor while giving farmers good profits

IX. Women’s Rights
   A. While women will not participate directly in government, they should be afforded equal education in order to assist their husbands and to raise their children with civic virtue.