

108. LIBERTY LEADING  
THE PEOPLE. EUGÈNE  
DELACROIX. 1830 C.E. OIL  
ON CANVAS.

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DELACROIX





## FORM

- ▶ Romanticism
- ▶ Realistic, but with dramatic, theatrical lighting
- ▶ Soft, rounded lines that embody the figures depicted more so than the sharpness of their objects
- ▶ Depth and foreground but little to no background; shrouded in a cloud of fog (theatrical effect?)
- ▶ Loose brush strokes = energy





## FUNCTION

- ▶ Glorification of everyday people who were involved in the war and the role of France's citizens in that war
- ▶ Acknowledgment of the sacrifices civilians made for the sake of revolution against a corrupt governmental regime
- ▶ Takes on a poignant tone as the revolution would be thought by some to have been in vain; pre-Napoleonic rule





### CONTEXT

- ▶ Delacroix is breaking away from the Neoclassicism seen in David's "Oath of the Horatii". Neoclassicism only show ancient history, while this new style (called Romanticism) deals with contemporary events. Romanticism deals not with the rational but with the emotional.
- ▶ Trois Glorieuses (Three Glorious Days) July Revolution of 1830 = Charles X introduced press censorship and restricted voting, which led to immediate reaction against him. 3 days of fighting forced Charles X to leave. CX replaced by Louis Philippe who also ended up being authoritarian.





## CONTENT

- ▶ Liberty Allegory:
- ▶ Dress = classical drapery
- ▶ realism of nudity, like Winged Victory or statues of Venus
- ▶ Smoke and light create a Halo around her head
- ▶ hat = Phrygian cap = sign of freedom





## CONTENT

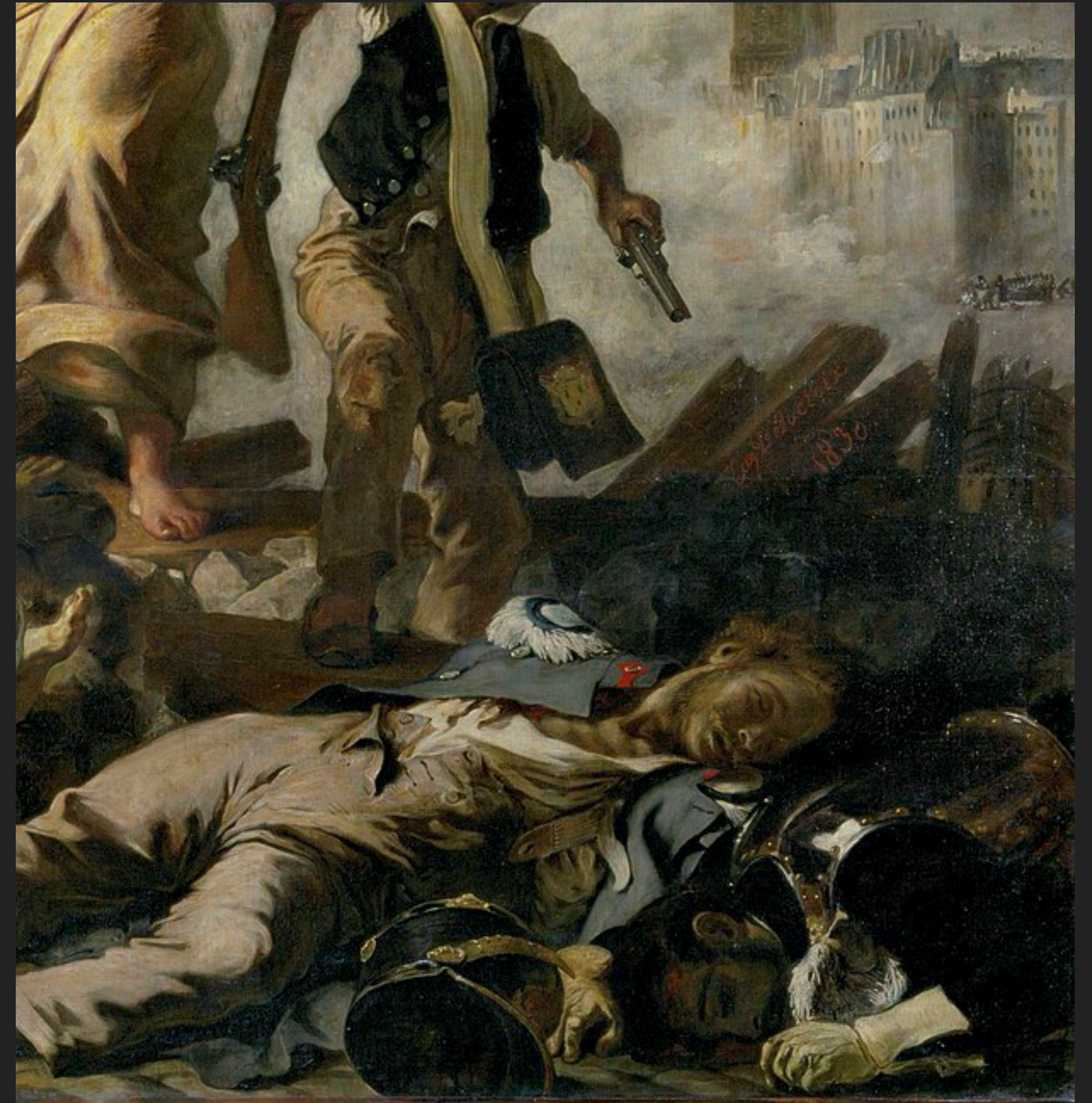
- ▶ Child (possible student due to his beret and satchel/bag) with 2 pistols
- ▶ Notre Dame in the background = symbol of the oppressive monarchy





## CONTENT

- ▶ Dead soldiers
  - ▶ Placed in the foreground right in the eye-line of the viewers





## CONTENT

- ▶ Factory worker with apron, pistol, and sword next to a wealthy man with fine dress and hunter rifle. Shows that all classes were united in revolution

