

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION NOTES

Mrs. Majask

Global History

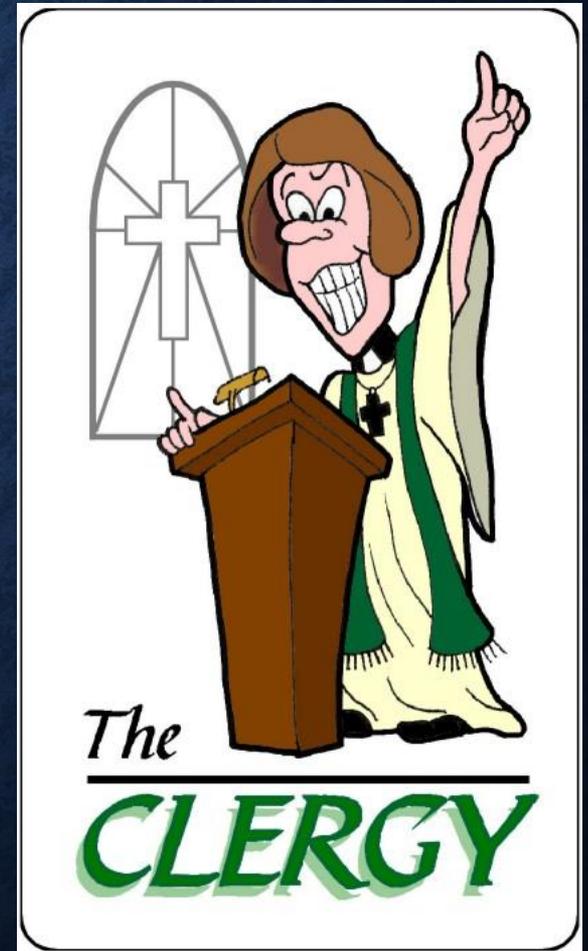
FRENCH SOCIETY

- France was divided into three social classes called estates:
 - First Estate: The Clergy
 - Second Estate: Nobility
 - Third Estate: Everyone else

THE FIRST ESTATE

Generally very wealthy

- Favored social programs such as hospitals, schools, and orphanages
- Did not pay taxes



THE SECOND ESTATE

Consisted of France's nobility

- Those who wanted to work for the king
- And/or those who owned large portions of land
- Did not pay taxes



THE THIRD ESTATE

- Consisted of the bourgeoisie (the top portion of the Third Estate)
 - This included bankers, merchants, manufacturers, doctors, and lawyers



And EVERYONE else!

THE THIRD ESTATE (CONTINUED)

- Overall, 95% of France made up the Third Estate
 - Included skilled artisans, shopkeepers, and peasants
- They resented the nobility and their lack of input in the government
- Paid most of France's taxes

THE THREE ESTATES

Estate	Population	Privileges	Exemptions	Burdens
First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 130,000 •High-ranking clergy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collected the tithe •Censorship of the press •Control of education •Kept records of births, deaths, marriages, etc. •Catholic faith held honored position of being the state religion (practiced by monarch and nobility) •Owned 20% of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid no taxes •Subject to Church law rather than civil law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moral obligation (rather than legal obligation) to assist the poor and needy •Support the monarchy and Old Regime
Second	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 110,000 •Nobles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collected taxes in the form of feudal dues •Monopolized military and state appointments •Owned 20% of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid no taxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support the monarchy and Old Regime
Third	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 25,000,000 •Everyone else: artisans, bourgeoisie, city workers, merchants, peasants, etc., along with many parish priests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid all taxes •Tithe (Church tax) •Octrot (tax on goods brought into cities) •Corvée (forced road work) •Capitation (poll tax) •Vingtième (income tax) •Gabelle (salt tax) •Taille (land tax) •Feudal dues for use of local manor's winepress, oven, etc.

**First
Estate =
1 Vote or
130,000
Votes**

**Third Estate = 1
Vote or
25,000,000 Votes**

**Second Estate =
1 Vote or
110,000 Votes**

THE THIRD ESTATE (CONTINUED)

1. What is the Third Estate?

Everything.

2. What has it been until now in the political order?

Nothing.

3. What does it want to be?

Something.

--Abbe Emmanuel Sieyes

January 1789

What does this mean?

What does this contemporary political cartoon say about conditions in France under the Old Regime?



THE THREE ESTATES



2nd Estate

1st Estate

The Law

3rd Estate

MARIE ANTOINETTE

- **The last queen of France**



**SO THE PEASANTS HAVE TAKEN TO THE
STREETS ALL ACROSS THE LAND IN
PROTEST BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO BREAD?**



**LET THEM EAT
CAKE!**

did you know?

There is no evidence that Marie Antoinette ever said 'Let them eat cake.' The phrase is attributed to an unknown 'great princess' in a 1767 work by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, which was written before Antoinette's arrival in France.



FRANCE'S FINANCIAL ISSUES

- France's debt was due to:
 - The Seven Years' War and the American Revolution
 - Lavish spending of Louis XIV

THE PALACE OF VERSAILLES





FRANCE'S FINANCIAL ISSUES (CONTINUED)

- Economic solutions:
- The government wanted to increase taxes, reduce expenses, or do both
- The first two estates still opposed paying any taxes

WHAT THE KING DID

Appointed the *Intendants*, the “petty tyrants” who governed France’s 30 districts

Appointed the people who would collect his taxes and carry out his laws

Controlled justice by appointing judges

Controlled the military

Could imprison anyone at any time for any reason (blank warrants of arrest were called *lettres de cachet*)

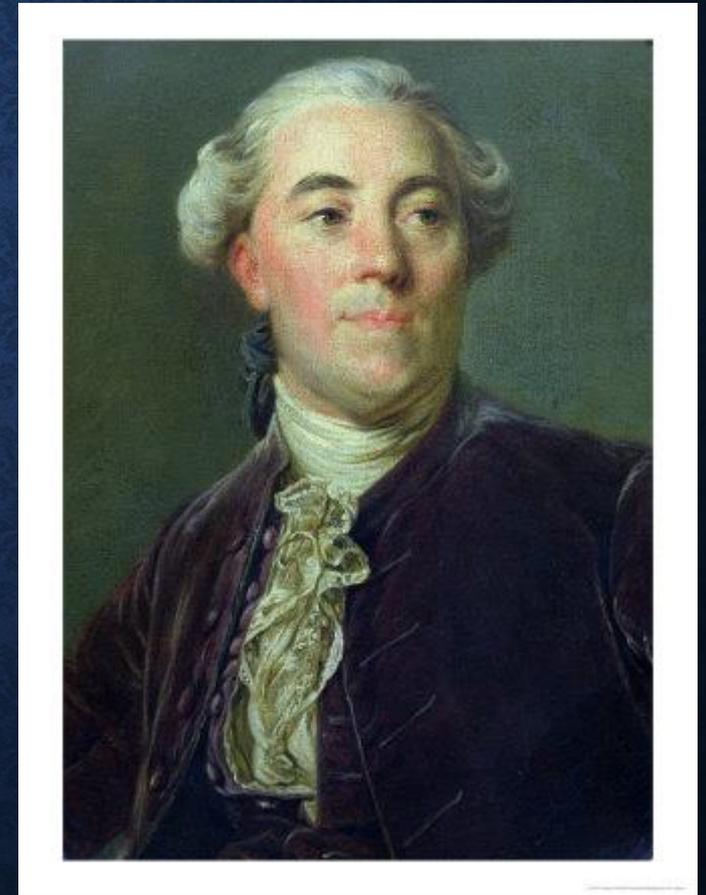
Levied all taxes and decided how to spend the money

Made all laws

Made decisions regarding war and peace

ECONOMIC REFORMS FAIL

- Louis XVI was responsible for correcting France's economic issues
 - He sought the advice of Jacques Necker, his financial advisor



ECONOMIC REFORMS FAIL (CONTINUED)

- Jacques Necker's suggested solutions:
 - Reduce lavish spending
 - Reform the government
 - Abolish internal tariffs

ECONOMIC REFORMS FAIL (CONTINUED)

- Proposed taxing the First and Second Estates
- Eventually Necker was dismissed from his position

THE ESTATES-GENERAL

- This was a legislative body made up of representatives from the three estates
- May 1789: Estates-General was summoned by Louis XVI at Versailles



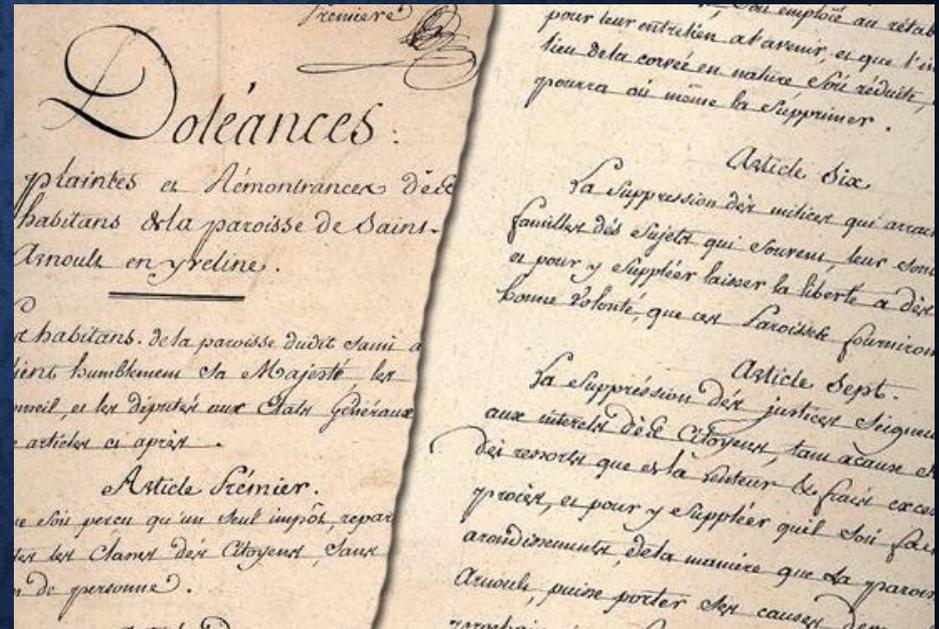
*Was last used 175 years ago

THE ESTATES-GENERAL (CONTINUED)

- Each Estate prepared *cahiers*: notebooks listing their grievances
 - These called for:
 - Fair taxes
 - Freedom of the press
 - Regular meetings of the Estates-General

THE ESTATES-GENERAL MEETS

- Each estate had one vote
 - This meant that the First and Second Estate always out voted the Third Estate
- The Third Estate favored all estates meeting as a single body



THE TENNIS COURT OATH

- June 1789: the Third Estate declared themselves the National Assembly
- They took the Tennis Court Oath
- Other groups joined the Assembly
- King Louis was forced to accept this

*Tennis Court Oath—
the members vowed:
“Never to separate,
and to meet where
ever the
circumstances might
require until we have
established a sound
and just constitution.”*

Tennis Court Oath by Jacques Louis David



STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

- The Bastille was a medieval fortress used for housing political and other prisoners
 - It was believed weapons were also kept here



STORMING OF THE BASTILLE (CONTINUED)

- July 1789: 800 Parisians assembled outside the Bastille
 - There were rumors that royal troops were going to occupy Paris
 - Their goal was to get weapons for protection

STORMING OF THE BASTILLE (CONTINUED)

- Eventually the mob broke into the Bastille and violence occurred
 - As it turned out there were no weapons inside

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETS

- Voted to end their own privileges
- Issued the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
 - Modeled after the Declaration of Independence
 - Made all men free and equal before the law



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETS (CONTINUED)

- Included natural rights
- Freedom of religion
- Taxes would be issued based on ability to pay
- Note: this did not include women

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETS (CONTINUED)

- Created the Constitution of 1791:
 - Set-up a limited monarchy
 - Set-up the Legislative Assembly
 - Held the power to make laws, collect taxes, and decide issues of war and peace

EVENTS LEADING TO THE RADICAL REVOLUTION

- The Legislative Assembly met but faced problems:
 - Decreased value in currency
 - Food shortages
 - Groups started to demand a republic instead of monarchy

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION

- Radicals took control of the Legislative Assembly
 - Called for new legislative body (the National Convention)
 - Right to vote was granted to all male citizens (instead of just those who owned property)

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION (CONTINUED)

- The National Convention abolished the monarchy and executed the king and queen
- Established the French Republic

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION (CONTINUED)

- The National Convention created the Committee of Public Safety
 - Headed by Robespierre
 - Purpose: to deal with outside threats to France

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION (CONTINUED)

- France's revolution was met with threats from within the country – usually from the nobles and those loyal to the monarchy
- Other European monarchs were scared that revolution would spread to their countries

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION (CONTINUED)

- This led to the beginning of the “Reign of Terror”— in which 300,000 were arrested and 17,000 were killed

AFTER THE REIGN OF TERROR

- Another new government and constitution were created
 - The Directory was also created
 - It was weak and resembled a dictatorship
- This led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte in France

RESULTS OF THE REVOLUTION

- The old social order was overthrown as was the monarchy
- The title of citizen was adopted which showed liberty and equality of all French citizens
- The people became very nationalistic
- There was a push for social reforms and religious reforms

ONLY 1700s KIDS



WILL REMEMBER THIS

The French Revolution

1789-1799

Before 1789-Causes



We have no money or food to pay taxes!

Why should we have to pay when we work hard, while the nobles and clergy barely work yet don't have to pay taxes?

Peasants had to pay ridiculously high taxes even when they were in poverty (due to having to pay lots of taxes to their lords, the clergy, and the King), while the nobles and clergy didn't have to pay at all even though the peasants did more work!

Before 1789-Causes

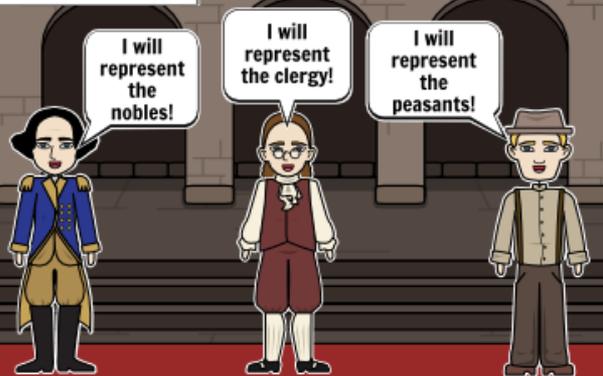


Tax everyone!

Keep sending those troops overseas!

Since the peasants had no money to pay taxes, they were usually in debt, and wanted the King to lower taxes. However, the King ignored the pleas of the peasants and instead spent all of his money trying to fund the American Revolution. Since the King was no longer receiving money from taxes, he realized he was running out of money, and started taxing the nobles and the clergy (the Church). This made the nobles and clergy unhappy, which is why they decided to side with the already unhappy peasants. This also caused France's economy to plummet, causing France to become bankrupt/in debt.

1789-Estates-General



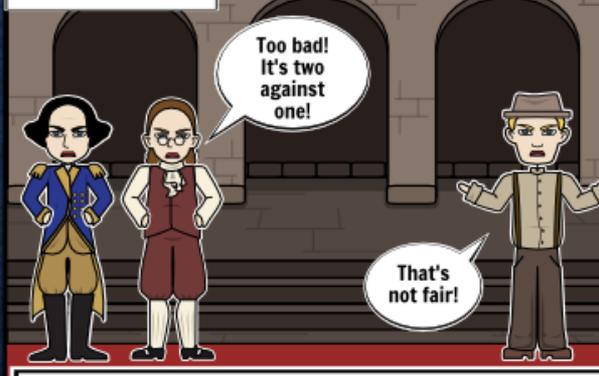
I will represent the nobles!

I will represent the clergy!

I will represent the peasants!

Eventually, the French people got fed up with the King, and got together to form the Estates-General in 1789 in order to try and come to a decision as to what they should do. This assembly was made up of the 1st estate (clergy), the 2nd estate (nobles), and the 3rd estate (peasants).

1789-Estates-General

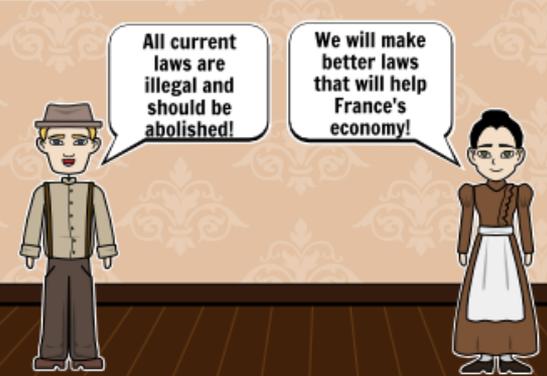


Too bad! It's two against one!

That's not fair!

The Estates-General voted by estates, and since the 1st estate and the 2nd estate were the rich ones, they usually sided with each other, making the 3rd estate feel that the voting system was unfair. After 6 weeks of no progress, due to the 3rd estate wanting different things than the 1st and 2nd estate, the 3rd estate decided to make their own assembly.

1789-National Assembly



All current laws are illegal and should be abolished!

We will make better laws that will help France's economy!

The 3rd estate was unhappy with the voting in the Estates-General, so they came together and formed the National Assembly of France. They declared all current laws to be illegal, and wanted to make fairer laws to pull France out of its economic crisis.