

---

---

# The French Revolution

1789-1799

---

---

# King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette

-b. 1754

-Resides in the Palace of Versailles

-Absolute Monarch who is an inept ruler



-b. 1755

-“Madame Deficit”

-Austrian



# Major Problems within France:

1. **Debt due to War:** France had accumulated debt due to the Seven Years War (French and Indian War) and the American Revolutionary War.
2. **Economic Instability:** shortages of bread created unrest amongst the lower class and taxes continues to levied on the lower classes as the elite could find loopholes around taxes. Low wages.
3. **Enlightenment Ideals threatened Clergy and Nobility:** ideas regarding the equality of all individuals, the right to rebel, government of the people, and natural rights and liberties.
4. **Poor Leadership:** Louis and Marie are too involved in royal court issues. Did not fix problems immediately but let them linger.

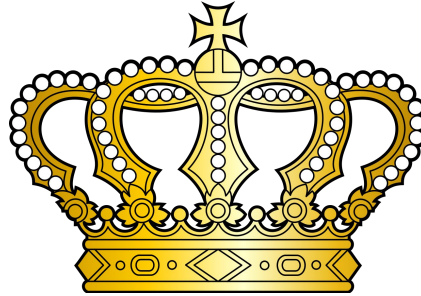
# Estates General: Three Estates

## 1st Estate



- Made up of the **clergy** of Roman Catholic Church
- Less than **1%** of population
- Disliked** Enlightenment Ideas

## 2nd Estate



- Made of the rich **Nobles**
- Highest offices in government and paid **no/limited taxes**
- 2%** of population

## 3rd Estate



- Included the bourgeoisie (middle class), urban lower class and peasant farmers
- Taxes **50%** of income
- 97%** of population

# New Governmental Structure:

## 3rd Estate



NO say in  
government affairs  
and want to  
implement new  
Enlightenment ideals

Creates

## National Assembly



- Tennis Court Oath:**  
established the beginning of  
the National Assembly of new  
representative government for  
the French people.
- Stand against absolute  
monarchy

# Constitutional Monarchy

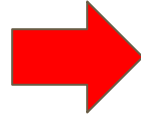
# Republic

National Assembly  
1789-1791

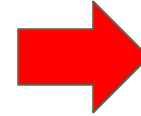
Legislative Assembly  
1791-1792

National Convention  
1792-1795

NA



LA



NC

- Given power by the Declaration of the Rights of Man.
- Focused on taking control of the Church: weakening power of church to nothing

- Given power by the Constitution of 1791
- Took more power away from the Louis XVI and allowed LA to make more laws

- Threw out 1791 Constitution
- ("Radical")Jacobins gain power
- Adult male citizen given right to vote and hold office

# Moderate Phase:

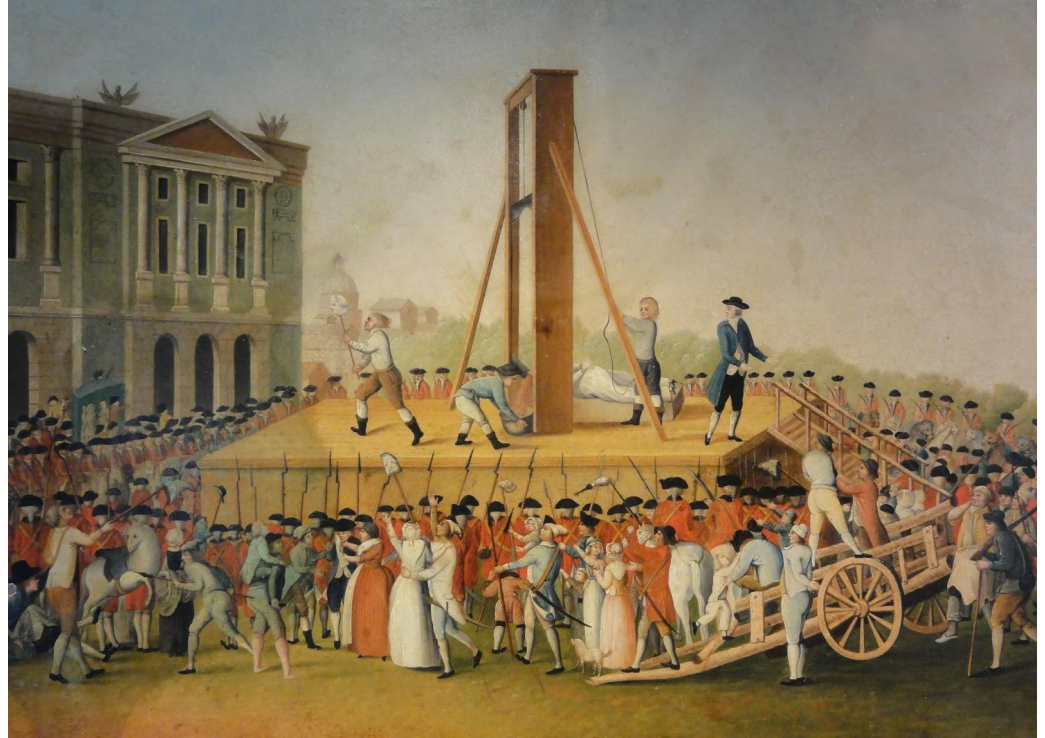
1. Three Estates=Estates General
2. National Assembly  1789 (June 13th)
3. Tennis Court Oath  1789 (June 20th)
4. Storming of the Bastille  1789 (July 14th)
5. Declaration of the Right of Man  1789 (August 26)
6. French Revolutionary Wars  1792 (April)
7. Transition of Legislative Bodies (previous slide)
8. Jacobins and Girondins
9. Fate of the King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette  L. Jan. 21 1793

## Phase #2: The Terror

-National Convention abolish French Monarchy and convict Louis and Marie of treason.

-Jacobins take control of the National Convention and develop the Committee of Public Safety.

-COPS assume executive power over military, judicial system and legislative decisions.





# Changes During The Terror:

- Replace by Cult of Supreme Being (Deist religion started by Robespierre).
- Religious symbols forbidden (bells, crosses)



- Calendar changed to French Republican Calendar.
- 10 day week, no more Christian Holidays or Sundays

- Dechristianization:  
@ beginning of Rev. 95% pop.  
=Catholic and Church was largest landowner.

- Church officials fled France by the thousands and hundreds of priests were killed in mass executions.



- Between 16,000- 40,000 citizens were executed during The Terror. The guillotine became a symbol of fear.

- Challenging the revolution was deemed an act of treason, punishable by death.

# Thermidorian Reaction-July 1794

- Coup d'état against the Jacobin Club in control of the Committee of Public Safety.
- Began with the vote in the National Convention to execute Maximilien Robespierre and other leaders of the Jacobin Club.
- Robespierre is killed by the guillotine on July 28, 1794.
- The National Convention is now controlled by a more moderate group and in 1795 another constitution is drafted creating a bicameral legislature and an executive body called the Directory.

# The Directory and the Rise of Napoleon

- Directory is made up of five men at the top who hold executive power
- Corruption, self-interest, undemocratic, poor support from the people, dependent on army to deal with foreign and domestic affairs.
- A young Napoleon comes to rescue of the Directory and quickly climbs the ranks becoming general of the armies in Italy.



# Coup d'état:

-After winning decisive victories in Italy and an Egypt (although falling to British Royal Navy under Sir Nelson) Napoleon returned to Paris to find a weak Directory, failing economy and golden opportunity.

-FIRST CONSUL OF FRANCE in November 1799 and end of the French Revolution and start of the French Empire. 1804 Napoleon is crowned Emperor of France

-Approval of the people and instilled Napoleonic Code: Freedom of religion, government jobs for the most qualified, civil legal system, making laws clear and accessible.