

# Revolution





# The Old Order

- ▶ Background

- ▶ The Old Regime:

- ▶ Divided into three large social classes, or **estates**.

- ▶ Each estate had one vote in the **Estates-General**

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITTvKwCylFY>

- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXsZbkt0yqo>

# The Old Order

- ▶ The Privileged Estates

- ▶ First Estate

- ▶ Consisted of the Roman Catholic Church clergy
    - ▶ Owned 10 percent of the land
    - ▶ 2 percent of its income went to the government

- ▶ Second Estate

- ▶ Made up of rich nobles.
    - ▶ Accounted for 2 percent of the population.
    - ▶ Owned 20 percent of the land and paid almost no taxes.

# The Old Order

- ▶ The Third Estate
  - ▶ About 97 percent of the people belonged to the Third Estate.
  - ▶ Three groups made up this estate.
    - ▶ The Bourgeoisie (Middle Class)
    - ▶ Workers of France's cities
    - ▶ Peasants



A FAIT ESPERER D'ETRE GASTON DE TOULOUSE



# The Forces of Change

## ▶ Enlightenment Ideas

- ▶ Members of the Third Estate were inspired by the success of the American Revolution.

## ▶ A Weak Leader

- ▶ Louis XVI was indecisive
- ▶ Queen added additional problems
- ▶ Did not cut off expenses until he practically had no money left
  - ▶ His solution was to impose taxes on the nobility.
  - ▶ As a result, the Estates-General met

# The Forces of Change

- ▶ Economic Troubles
  - ▶ Economy in decline
  - ▶ The heavy burden of taxes
  - ▶ Cost of living was rising
  - ▶ Huge shortage of grain
    - ▶ Price of bread doubled in 1789
    - ▶ Many people faced starvation

# Dawn of the Revolution

- ▶ The Third Estates delegates were eager to make changes in government.
  - ▶ Each delegate should have a vote rather than just one vote per estate.
- ▶ King sided with the nobles and ordered the Estates-General to follow the medieval rules.
- ▶ June 17, 1789, the National Assembly
- ▶ Beginning of a representative government.



# Spring 1789



# Dawn of the Revolution

- ▶ The National Assembly (continued)
  - ▶ Delegates were locked out of their chamber
  - ▶ Tennis Court Oath – they would continue to meet until a constitution had been established
  - ▶ In response to these events, Louis stationed his army around Versailles.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNacY9uBsm0>

# Dawn of the Revolution

## ▶ Storming the Bastille

- ▶ Rumors began to circulate in Paris.
- ▶ People began to gather weapons to defend the city.
- ▶ July 14, a mob stormed the Bastille, a Paris prison.
  - ▶ Mob seized control of the building.
  - ▶ They hacked the prison commander and several guardsmen to death
  - ▶ Paraded around streets with dead men's heads on spikes



# Dawn of Revolution

▶ Storming the Bastille



# A Great Fear Sweeps France

- ▶ October 1789 – Parisian women rioted over the rising price of bread.
  - ▶ Demanded the National Assembly take action to provide bread.
  - ▶ Turned their anger to king and queen.
    - ▶ Broke into palace, killing some of the guards.
  - ▶ Louis and his family left Versailles.



# The Assembly Reforms France

- ▶ The Rights of Man
  - ▶ National Assembly adopted a statement of revolutionary ideals, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.
  - ▶ Document stated that “men are born and remain free and equal in rights.”
  - ▶ Guaranteed citizens of equal justice, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion.
  - ▶ Did not apply to women.



# The Assembly Reforms France

- ▶ A State-Controlled Church
  - ▶ The assembly took over Church lands
    - ▶ Church lost both its land and its political independence.
    - ▶ Proceeds from the sale of Church lands helped pay off France's huge debt
  - ▶ Action alarmed many peasants.
    - ▶ From this time on, many peasants opposed the assembly's reforms.

# Divisions Develop

- ▶ Limited Monarchy
  - ▶ September 1791, the National Assembly completed the new constitution.
  - ▶ Louis reluctantly approved.
  - ▶ Stripped the king of much of his authority.
    - ▶ The king still held the executive power to enforce laws.
  - ▶ Legislative Assembly.
    - ▶ Had the power to create laws and to approve or reject declarations of war.

# Divisions Develop

- ▶ Groups Split France
  - ▶ Legislative Assembly split into three general groups
  - ▶ Divided over the question of how to handle problems
    - ▶ Radicals
    - ▶ Moderates
    - ▶ Conservatives



# War and Execution

- ▶ France at War
  - ▶ Austria and Prussia wanted the French to restore absolute monarchy
  - ▶ Prussian commander threatened to destroy Paris if the royal family was harmed
  - ▶ In retaliation, mob massacred royal guards and imprisoned royal family



# War and Execution

- ▶ September Massacres
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGOEsx3yuG4>
- ▶ Legislative Assembly set aside the Constitution due to pressure from radicals.
  - ▶ It declared the king deposed, dissolved the assembly, and called for the election of a new legislative.
- ▶ National Convention (Took office September 21)
  - ▶ Abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.
  - ▶ Adult male citizens were granted the right to vote and hold office.

# War and Execution

- ▶ Jacobins Take Control
  - ▶ People involved in the government changes
  - ▶ Radical political organization.
- ▶ National Convention
  - ▶ Ruled by Jacobins, tried Louis for treason.
- ▶ Louis was beheaded by the guillotine.
- ▶ <http://www.biography.com/people/marie-antoinette-9398996/videos/marie-antoinette-mini-biography-126127171781>
- ▶ <http://www.history.com/topics/french-revolution/videos/coroners-report-guillotine>





# War and Execution

- ▶ The War Continues
  - ▶ The National Convention continued the war with Austria and Prussia.
  - ▶ 1793, Great Britain, Holland, and Spain join Austria and Prussia.
    - ▶ As a result, Convention ordered a draft of 300,000 French citizens between the ages of 18 and 40.

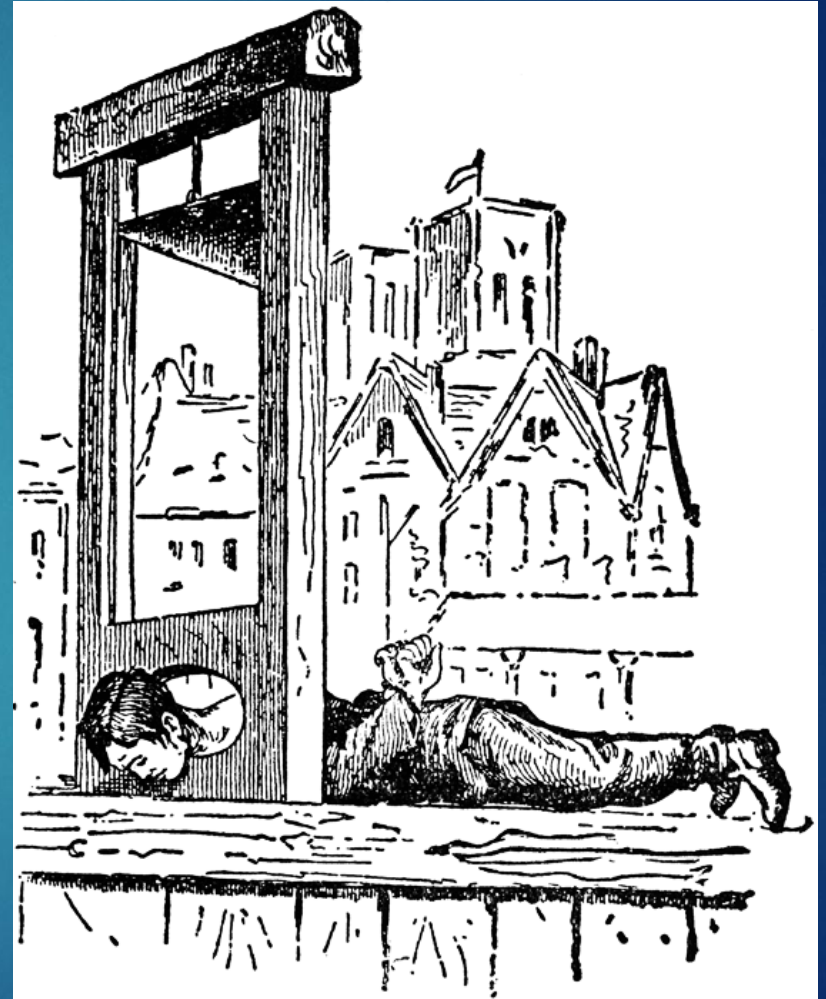
# The Terror Grips France

- ▶ Maximilian Robespierre gained power in 1793.
  - ▶ Wanted to build a “republic of virtue”
  - ▶ Governed as a dictator.
  - ▶ Leader of the Committee of Public Safety
    - ▶ Sole task was to protect the Revolution from its enemies.
    - ▶ Enemies were tried in morning and guillotined in the afternoon.



# The Terror Grips France

- ▶ Used terror because it enabled French citizens to remain true to the ideals of the Revolution.



# End of the Terror

- ▶ Robespierre went to the guillotine.
- ▶ 1795, moderate leaders in the National Convention drafted a new plan of government (third since 1789).
  - ▶ Placed power in the hands of the upper middle class.
  - ▶ Called for two-house legislature and an executive body of five men, known as the Directory.