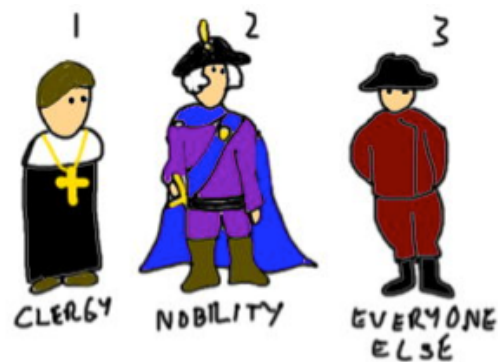



Aim: What were the causes of the French Revolution?




Get Going: If I broke you into three groups, and there were a total of 3 votes to spread out, how many should each group get? How do you make it fair? Be as detailed as possible.

Okay, here goes:

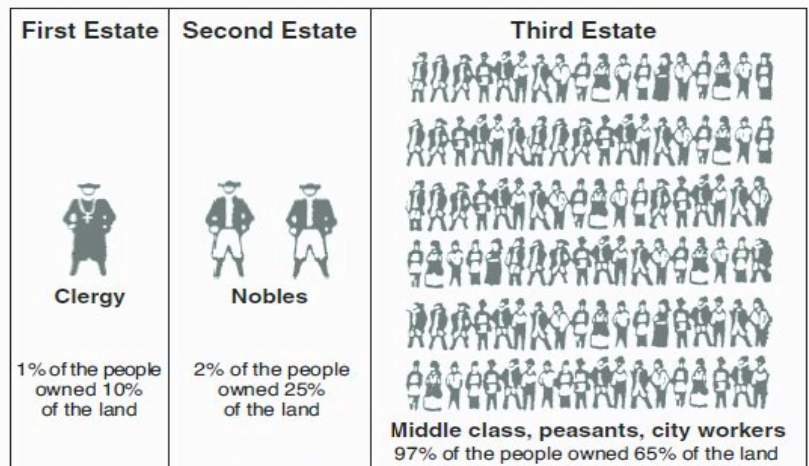
Group 1: 1 vote 

Group 2: 1 vote 

Group 3: 1 vote 

Fair?


In the 1770s, the social and political system of France—the **Old Regime**—remained in place. Under this system, the people of France were divided into three large social classes, or estates.



Source: Schwartz and O'Connor, *Democracy and Nationalism*, Globe Book Company (adapted)

In the 1770s, the social and political system of France—the \_\_\_\_\_—remained in place. Under this system, the people of France were divided into three large social classes, or \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Three Estates



A FAUT ESPÉRER QU'EU JEU LA EXTRA D'EN TOT

**A First Estate**

- made up of clergy of Roman Catholic Church
- scorned Enlightenment ideas

**B Second Estate**

- made up of rich nobles
- held highest offices in government
- disagreed about Enlightenment ideas

**C Third Estate**

- included bourgeoisie, urban lower class, and peasant farmers
- had no power to influence government
- embraced Enlightenment ideas
- resented the wealthy First and Second Estates.

**Population of France, 1787**

97%	(Third Estate)
less than 1%	(First Estate)
2%	(Second Estate)

**Percent of Income Paid in Taxes**

2%	(First Estate)
0%	(Second Estate)
50%	(Third Estate)

**SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts and Political Cartoons**

**1. Drawing Conclusions** How do the chart and the graphs help explain the political cartoon?

**2. Making Inferences** Why might the First and Second Estates be opposed to change?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE THREE ESTATES OF FRANCE

The **First Estate** was the clergy, who were people, including priests, who ran both the Catholic church and some aspects of the country. In addition to keeping registers of births, deaths and marriages, the clergy also had the power to levy a 10% tax known as the *tithe*.

The **Second Estate** consisted of the nobility of France, including members of the royal family, except for the King. Members of the Second Estate did not have to pay any taxes. They were also awarded special privileges, such as wearing a sword and hunting. Like the clergy, they also collected taxes from the Third Estate.

The **Third Estate** was made up of everyone else, from peasant farmers to the bourgeoisie (the wealthy business class). While the Second Estate was only 1% of the total population of France, the Third Estate was 97%, and had none of the rights and privileges of the other two estates.

1) What percent of the population belonged to the:

First Estate: \_\_\_\_\_%      Second Estate: \_\_\_\_\_%      Third Estate: \_\_\_\_\_%

2) What rights did the First Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

3) What rights did the Second Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? \_\_\_\_\_

What rights did the First Estate have that gave them distinct social, political and economic advantages? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

4) Describe the rights (or lack thereof) of the Third Estate: \_\_\_\_\_

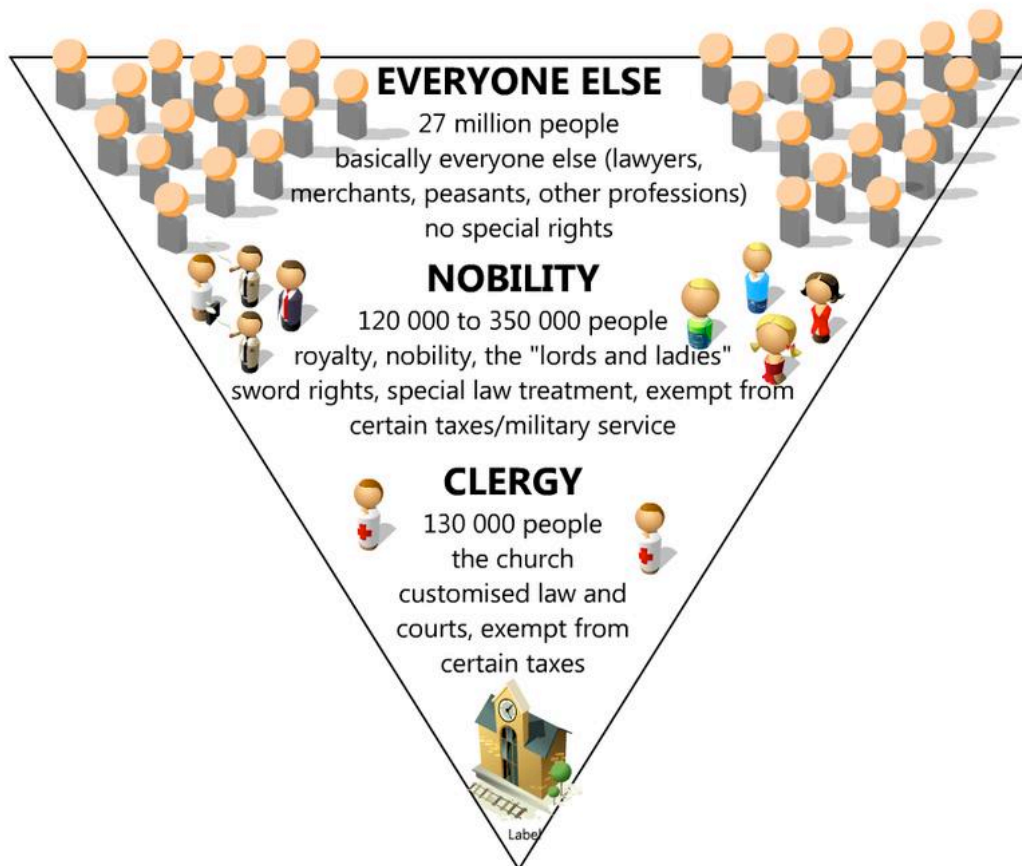
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

The Third Estate is the People and the People is the foundation of the State; it is in fact the State itself; the . . . People is everything. Everything should be subordinated to it . . . It is in the People that all national power resides and for the People that all states exist.

**COMTE D'ANTRAIQUES**, quoted in *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*



## Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette



Watch the following trailer for the film "Marie Antoinette". Be prepared to discuss the following:

1. How is Marie Antoinette portrayed?
2. How is King Louis Portrayed?
- 3, How might the way the king and queen were viewed have led to Revolution?

## Weak Leaders

Louis inherited debt from previous kings and spent a tremendous amount of money fighting the Americans. However, he and Marie Antoinette continued to spend incredible amounts of money on their own lavish lifestyles (keeping up the Palace of Versailles is not cheap). Marie Antoinette in particular spent the tax payers money on gowns, jewels, gambling and gifts. This earned her an unflattering nickname:



# Madam Deficit



↙  
A shortage of  
money

## History Makers



**Louis XVI**  
**1754–1793**

Louis XVI's tutors made little effort to prepare him for his role as king—and it showed. He was easily bored with affairs of state, and much preferred to spend his time in physical activities, particularly hunting. He also loved to work with his hands, and was skilled in several trades, including lock-making, metalworking, and bricklaying.

Despite these shortcomings, Louis was well intentioned and sincerely wanted to improve the lives of the common people. However, he lacked the ability to make decisions and the determination to see policies through. When he did take action, it often was based on poor advice from ill-informed members of his court. As one politician of the time noted, "His reign was a succession of feeble attempts at doing good, shows of weakness, and clear evidence of his inadequacy as a leader."

What do you think are the most important things we should write down about Louis XVI from this reading?



**Marie Antoinette**  
1755–1793

Marie Antoinette was a pretty, lighthearted, charming woman. However, she was unpopular with the French because of her spending and her involvement in controversial court affairs. She referred to Louis as “the poor man” and sometimes set the clock forward an hour to be rid of his presence.

Marie Antoinette refused to wear the tight-fitting clothing styles of the day and introduced a loose cotton dress for women. The elderly, who viewed the dress as an undergarment, thought that her clothing was scandalous. The French silk industry was equally angry.

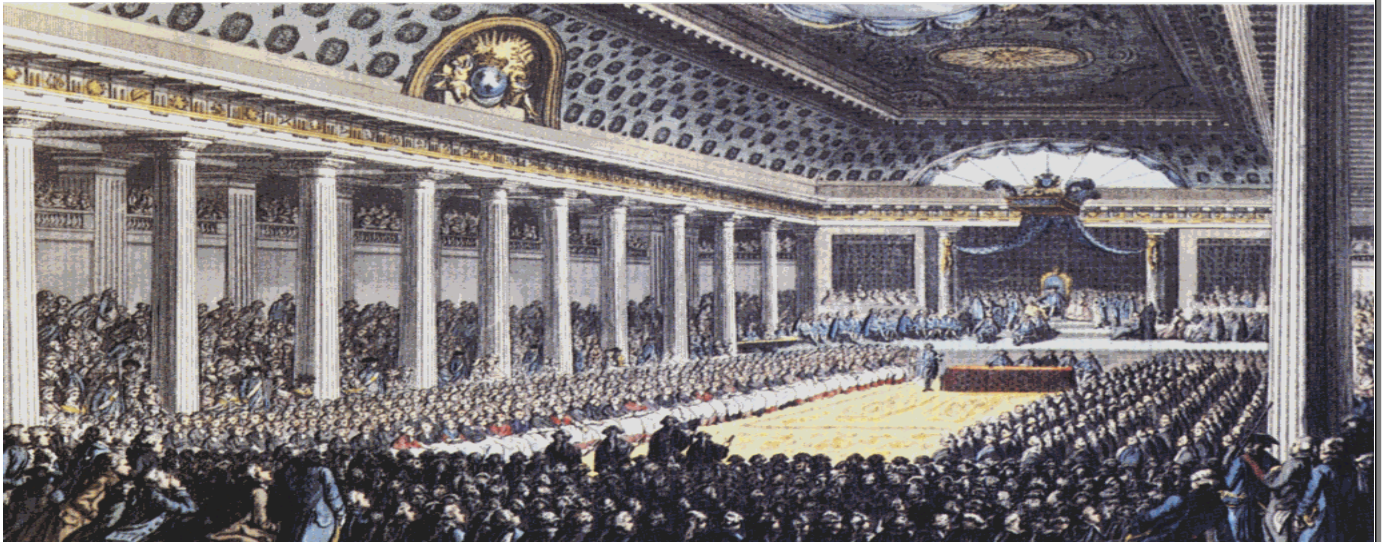
In constant need of entertainment, Marie Antoinette often spent hours playing cards. One year she lost the equivalent of \$1.5 million by gambling in card games.

What do you think are the most important things we should write down about Marie Antoinette from this reading?

Okay, Louis realizes that things are bad. So he comes up with a plan for the government to get more money. What do you think his "brilliant" plan is for the government to get more money from the people?

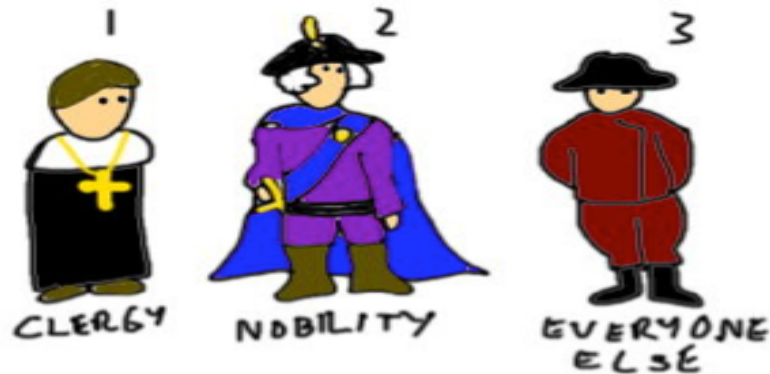


Which two estates do you think are going to be particularly upset about this? Which estate has some power to do something about it?



Louis' finance minister Jacques Necker convinces Louis to call a meeting of the Estates-General. This is when all three estates meet to approve an act. It hadn't met in over 175 years!





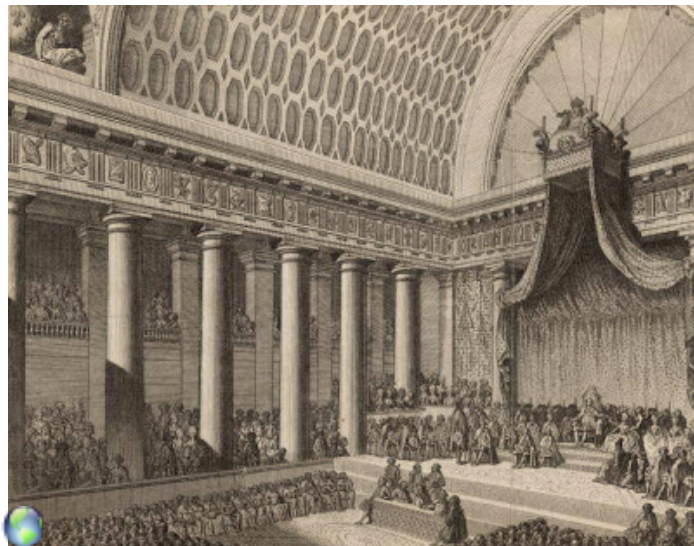
So here's how everything would usually go. Each group would meet separately. The 1st estate would vote, and their vote counted as 1 (even though they only had 1% of the population). The second estate would get their vote (even though they only had 2% of the population). And the third estate would get their 1 vote (even though they had 97% of the population). Then they would all get back together, the first and the second estate would vote the same way, and the third estate would lose... every time.







This time... the Third Estate had enough. They were influenced by the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ . They felt this was their time. Enough!



The Third Estate decided to get together and rename themselves the "National Assembly", and that they would pass laws and reforms in the name of the French People. This was done by a vote, and it is considered to be the first action of the French Revolution.





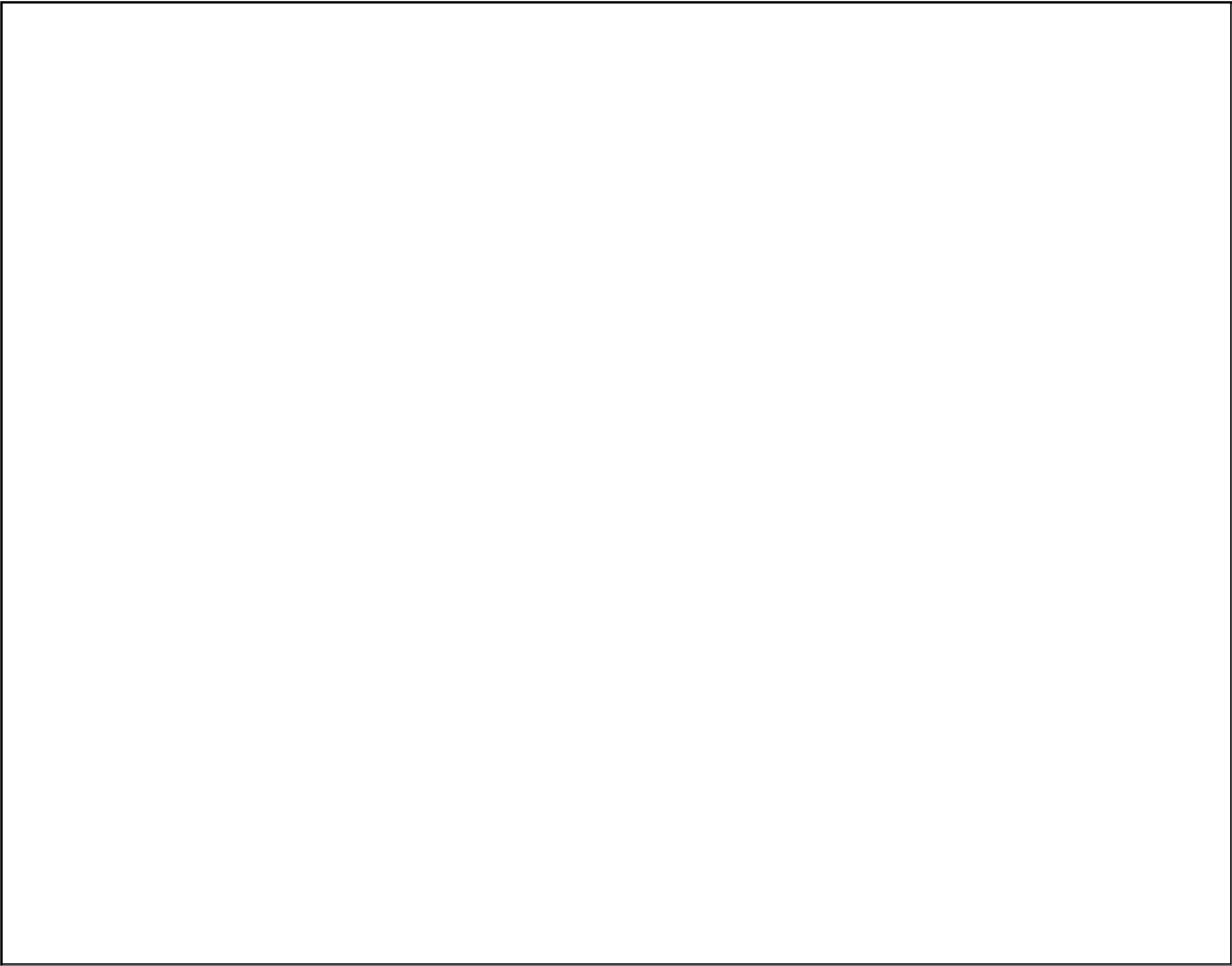
The Third Estate delegates found themselves locked out of their meeting room. They broke down a door to an indoor tennis court, pledging to stay until they had drawn up a new constitution. This pledge became known as the Tennis Court Oath. Soon after, nobles and members of the clergy who favored reform joined the Third Estate delegates.

How would you respond if you were King Louis XVI?

In response to these events, Louis stationed his mercenary army of Swiss guards around Versailles...

Up Next...





Day 6

