



French Revolution

FLT: I will be able to describe the inequalities of the estate system in France.

- King Louis XVI & Queen Marie-Antoinette
- System of feudalism called the **Old Regime**
 - First Estate: **Clergy**
 - Second Estate: **Nobility**
 - Third Estate: **Peasants/Workers**

French Society (1700s)



First Estate:

Clergy of the Roman Catholic Church

- owned 10% of the land
- contributed about 2% of its income to the government
- very wealthy but paid little to no taxes

French Society (1700s)



Second Estate:

Wealthy **nobles** and **aristocrats**

- made up only 2% of the population
- owned 20% of the land
- very wealthy but paid almost no taxes

French Society (1700s)



Third Estate:

98% of the people belonged to this estate – **everyone else**

Made up of 3 groups:

1. **Bourgeoisie**
2. **Workers**
3. **Peasants**

- most extremely poor but paid A LOT of taxes

French Society (1700s)

Third Estate:

1. **Bourgeoisie**

“That’s Bougie!”

- merchants and artisans
- well-educated, believed strongly in Enlightenment ideas
- some were as rich as nobles but still paid high taxes and lacked privileges

French Society (1700s)

Third Estate:

2. **Workers**

*“Everyday I’m
Hustlin’”*

- cooks, servants, and others
- poorer than the bourgeoisie
- were paid low wages and frequently out of work; they often went hungry

French Society (1700s)

Third Estate:

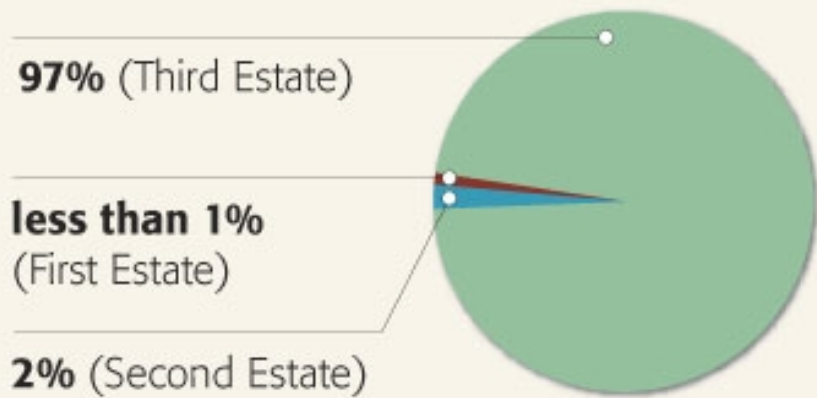
“Po’ Folks”

3. Peasants

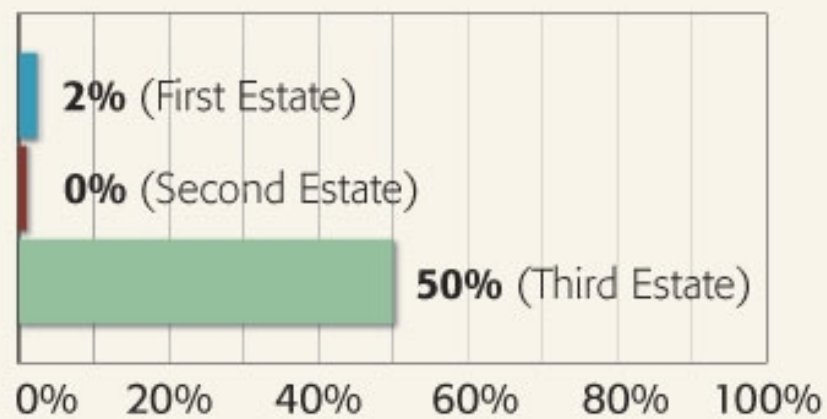
- largest group of the population
- paid half their income in dues to nobles, tithes to the church, & taxes to the king
- resented the clergy and nobles

French Society (1700s)

Population of France, 1787



Percent of Income Paid in Taxes



- France faced bankruptcy so King Louis XVI tried to tax aristocrats.
- Instead, the Second Estate forced him to call a meeting of the **Estates-General**

- An assembly of representatives from all three estates
- Each estate had 1 vote

The Estates-General

1. Of the three groups, who has to stay 1 hour longer?
2. Who is going to pay for nutrition and lunch for everybody? Peasants, Nobles or Clergy?
3. Who is going to buy donuts for everybody in the morning?
4. Which people are not required to do their homework? Peasants, Nobles or Clergy?

With this type of voting and population structure would the peasants ever win?

Class Activity

One Estate = One Vote

ESTATES GENERAL

CLERGY

NOBILITY

PEASANTS

Usually Clergy & Nobility vote together against peasants...so 2-1

Peasants always lose 😞

Representatives from each estate go around country asking for recommendations. Advice given by these travels:

- * New, fair tax system
 - * Get rid of King's right to arrest & jail civilians without trial
 - * End to most of nobility privileges
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Paragraph Response

Describe the inequalities of the estate system in France. Be sure to not only describe each estate, but how the whole system was unfair.
