

History through art: Fine art

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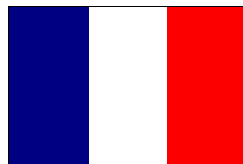


The French Revolution

(1789-1799)

Egalité! , Liberté! Fraternité!

The French Revolution was a major transformation of the society and the political system of France, lasting from **1789 to 1799**. During the course of the Revolution, France was temporarily transformed from an **absolute monarchy**, where the king monopolized power, to a **republic** of theoretically free and equal citizens.



Introduction

During the *ten years* of the Revolution, France first transformed and then removed *the Old Regime*, the political and social system that existed in France before 1789, and replaced it with a series of *different governments*. Although none of these governments lasted more than *4 years*, the many initiatives they enacted permanently *changed France's political system*.

The effects:

To later generations of Europeans and non-Europeans who sought to overturn their political and social systems, the *French Revolution provided the most influential model of popular insurrection* until the Russian Revolution of 1917.

- The French Revolution changed the society; create a new political & social structure;
- The ideas of *liberty, equality & fraternity* have inspired many oppressed people to revolt against the tyranny. *ex: Russia, China*
- The French people revolt against the *Old Regime* against the Old Structure of privileges.

After the French Revolution the society in Europe will never be the same.

The Old Regime

- **The Old Regime** was a period of time often considered by many to be representative of a crashed society.
- Under the Old Regime in France, the king was the ***absolute monarch***. King Louis XIV had centralized power in the royal bureaucracy. King Louis' reign in France played a significant role in its history and economy. He was a king to all during the most important events of the time, but he was also a financial king to the rich because he created ***a tax system that only benefited those who were wealthy***.
- During the time of the Old Regime, society was broken down into **three classes**, known traditionally as ***estates***.

The Old Regime

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graph TD; A[The Old Regime] --- B[1st Estate  
Clergy]; A --- C[2nd Estate  
Rich nobles]; A --- D[3rd Estate  
The bourgeoisie  
Workers  
Peasants];
```

1st Estate

Clergy

2nd Estate

Rich nobles

3rd Estate

The bourgeoisie

Workers

Peasants

2%

98%



The 1st and the 2nd Estates



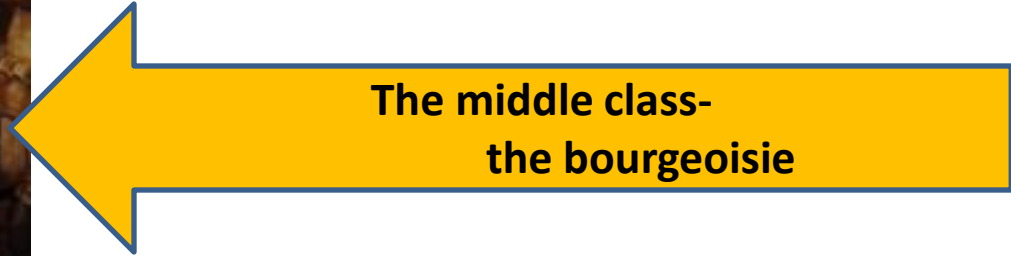
- ***The first two estates represented only 2% of the French population but held the most influence in the whole kingdom. They were grouped together because they had similar political beliefs.***
- The ***First Estate*** consisted of ***the Clergy***, owned nearly 10% of all the land in France. This estate paid no taxes, but to support church activities such as running schools and caring for the poor, it collected a tithe, or a tax on income.
- The ***Second Estate*** was mainly comprised of ***the Nobility***. This class, generally characterized by the richest members of society, enjoyed extensive *rights and privileges, great land, and much wealth*. The Nobles accumulated their wealth by collecting taxes and rents for the use of their farms or estates. ***Noblemen traditionally lived by the values of loyalty, courage, refined manners, and service to the King.***

The Third Estate

The middle class-
the bourgeoisie

the Peasants

Urban Workers



The Third Estate

- *The Third Estate which* represented 98% of the French population was composed of *three groups*: **the Peasants**, the **Middle Class**, and the **Urban Workers**.
- *Since the first two estates were exempt from taxes, the Third Estate had to provide almost all of the country's income.*
- *They were forced to pay taxes on their income, land, property, crops, salt, tobacco, wine, cider and even their lives. These taxes were just too much for a hard working individual to pay; thus, this class system caused human life to be unequal.*
- *In addition they were faced with yet another burden - forced military service. Once in the army, these people were paid very poorly and fed even worse..*
- ***Ironically, these people were taught that all were born equal; therefore, they learned that classifying mankind must was wrong.***

The Old Regime cartoon



As a result

- **As a result of these restrictions, the people of the Third Estate were tired of being treated unfairly throughout their everyday lives. The first two estates were enjoying their tax-free lifestyles while the poor paid for this injustice.**
- **Clearly, such a system could not survive for long.**

Question:

**What factors led to the French
Revolution?**

(1) The Enlightenment thinkers spread the ideas that everyone should be *equal*

- During the 18th century, criticism of the French monarchy came from people who worked for the Old Regime.

(Some of the king's own ministers criticized past practices and proposed reforms, but a more influential source of dissent was **the Parliament of Paris**)

(2) The philosophes

- Those protests blended with an influential group of professional intellectuals called **the philosophes**. (Like those who supported the parliaments, the philosophes **did not advocate violent revolution**. They ridiculed the Old Regime's inefficiencies and its abuses of power.)

(3) The French economy was failing, with low profits, shortages of food, and government debt.

Debt grew in part because France participated in a series of costly wars:

- ***the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748);***
- ***the Seven Years' War (1756-1763);***
- ***the American Revolution (1775-1783).***



(4) The king **Louis 16** was weak and the queen Marie-Antoinette was a big spender and very unpopular in France.





During the reign of **Louis XIV** the royal court at **Versailles**, had been developed to impress the French people and Europe.

(5) Versailles began to symbolize the waste and corruption of the entire **Old Regime**;

Le palais de Versailles



Le palais de Versailles

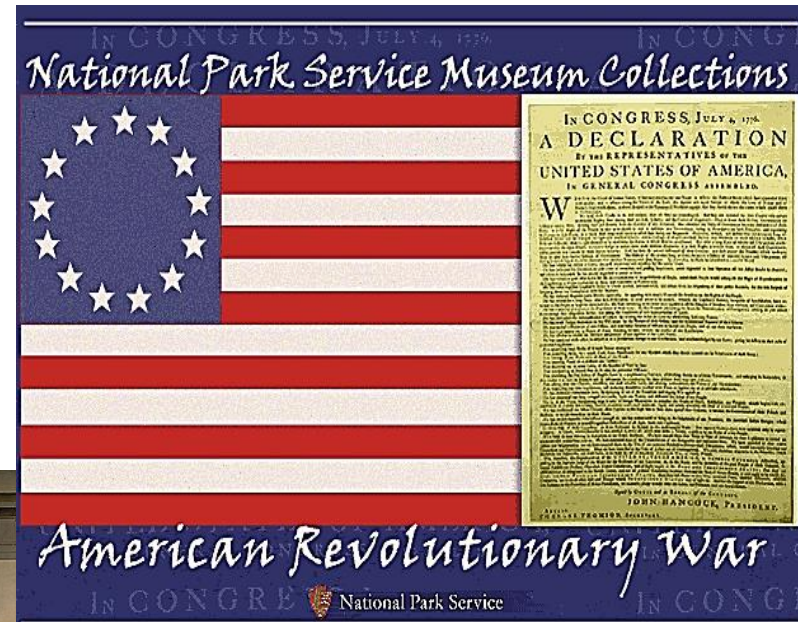


La chambre de Marie-Antoinette



(6) The American Revolution

- And last but not least the influence of the American Revolution.



Contributing Factors

Enlightenment philosophy

American Revolution

Social injustices of Old Regime

Economic crisis in France

Question:

How did the Revolution begin?



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

1. Meeting of the Estates-General- **May 1789**

By 1789 many French people had become critical of the monarchy. They resented

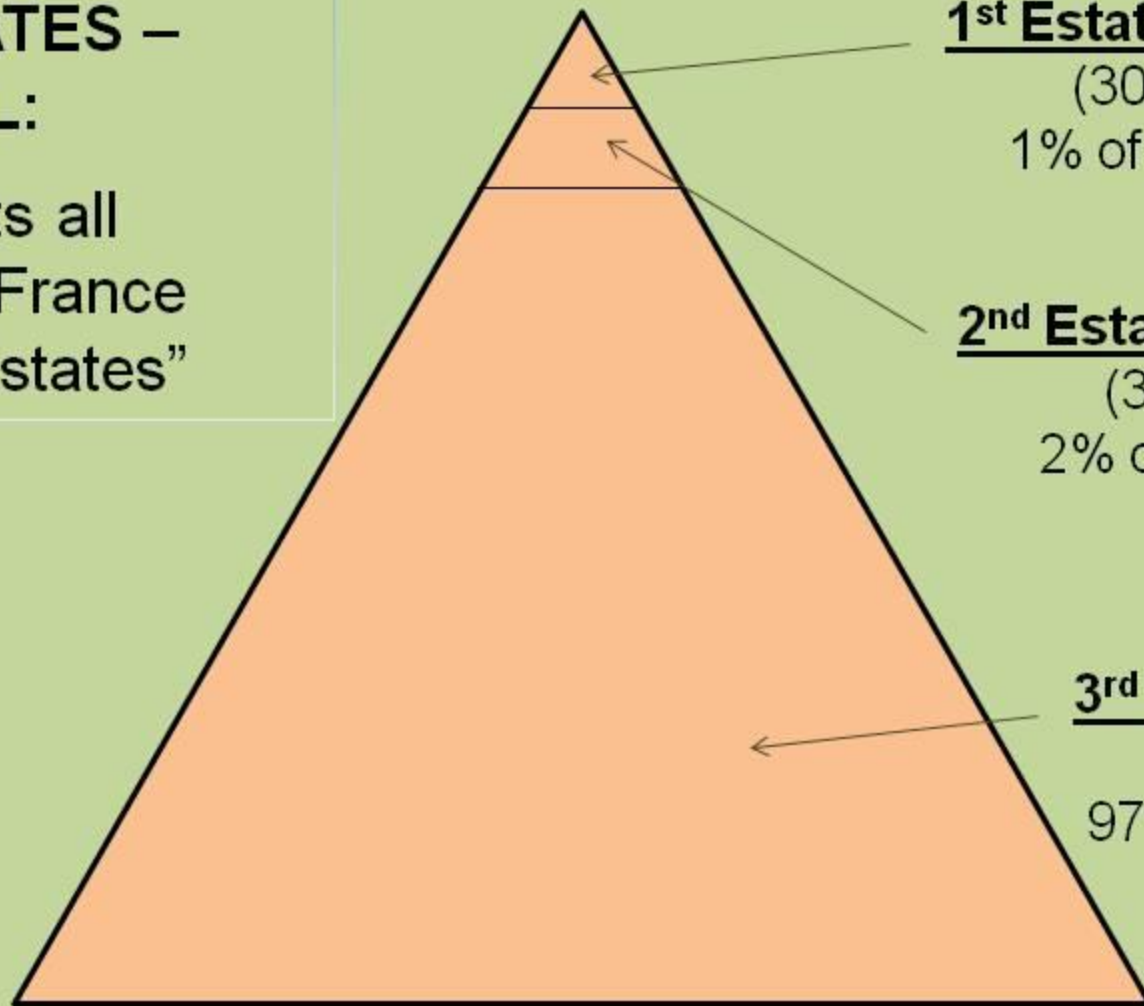
- **the rising and *unequal taxes*;**
- **the *persecution of religious minorities*;**
- ***government interference in their private lives.***

-In 1780, deeply in debt, **Louis 16** tries to tax the nobles. They forced the king to call a meeting (May 1789) and to decide tax issues. The meeting began with argument over **how to count votes.**

The French Revolution

The **ESTATES – GENERAL:**

Represents all people in France
...the “3 Estates”



1st Estate – CLERGY

(300 votes)

1% of population

2nd Estate – NOBILITY

(300 votes)

2% of population

3rd Estate – POOR

(648 votes)

97% of population

2. Establishment of the National Assembly-

June 17, 1789

- The Third Estate met separately in 1789. The delegates voted to rename themselves to **National Assembly**. They claimed to represent all the people.
- The deputies proclaimed and end the **absolute monarchy** and, the beginning of representative government. This vote was the first deliberated act of Revolution.

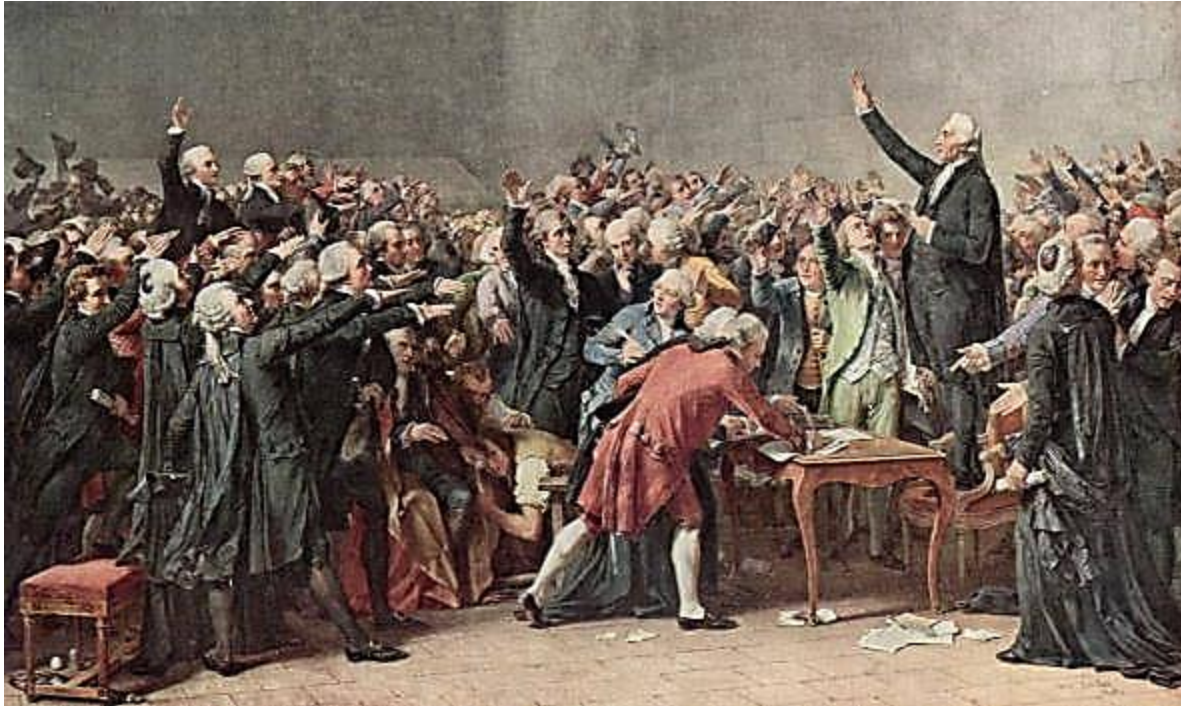


Declaration of Rights of Man

The Declaration of the Rights of Man is a fundamental document of the French Revolution, defining the individual and collective rights of all the estates of the realm as universal. Influenced by the doctrine of "natural right", the rights of man are held to be universal: valid at all times and in every place, pertaining to human nature itself.



3. Tennis Court Oath



The **Third Estate** promised to stay there until they made a *new constitution*. This promise was called the Tennis Court Oath.

4. The storming of the Bastille –14 July,1789



On July 14, rumors flew that Swiss soldiers paid by Louis were going to attack French citizens. An angry crowd captured the prison of Paris-**la Bastille**. The mob wanted to get gunpowder for their weapons. The prison was empty they found only 7 prisoners.

The Great Fear

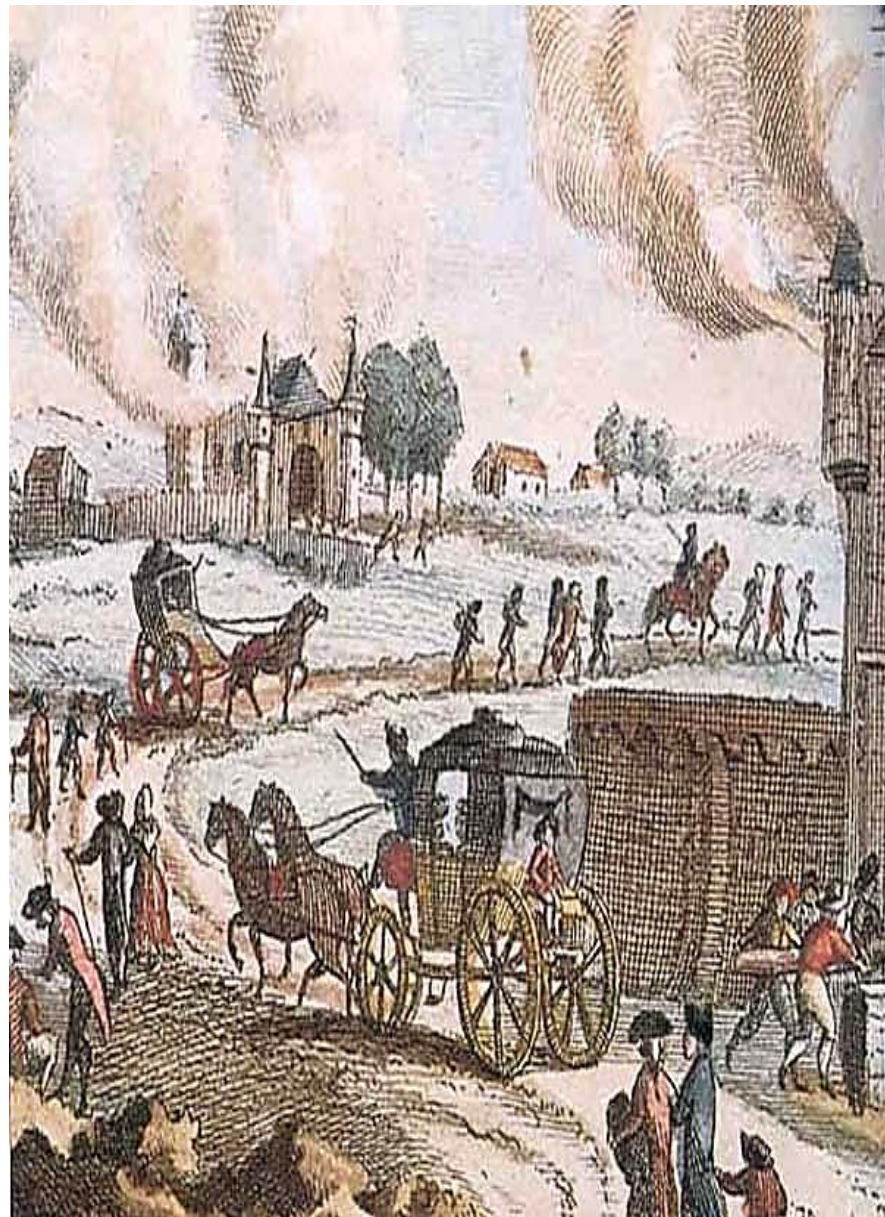
Between June and the beginning of August there were riots in the countryside.

It was called "**The Great Fear**" and spread quickly throughout France.

Peasants broke into and burned noble's houses. They particularly targeted documents which contained records of their feudal obligations.

They were angry about high bread prices and demanded that the king move to Paris.

The king and the queen left Versailles, never to return.



The 6,000 Parisian Women March to the palace at Versailles



à Versailles à Versailles le 5 Octobre 1789.



Immediate Causes

Convening of Estates General

Indecision of Louis XVI

Fall of Bastille

The Great Fear

REVOLUTION

Immediate Effects

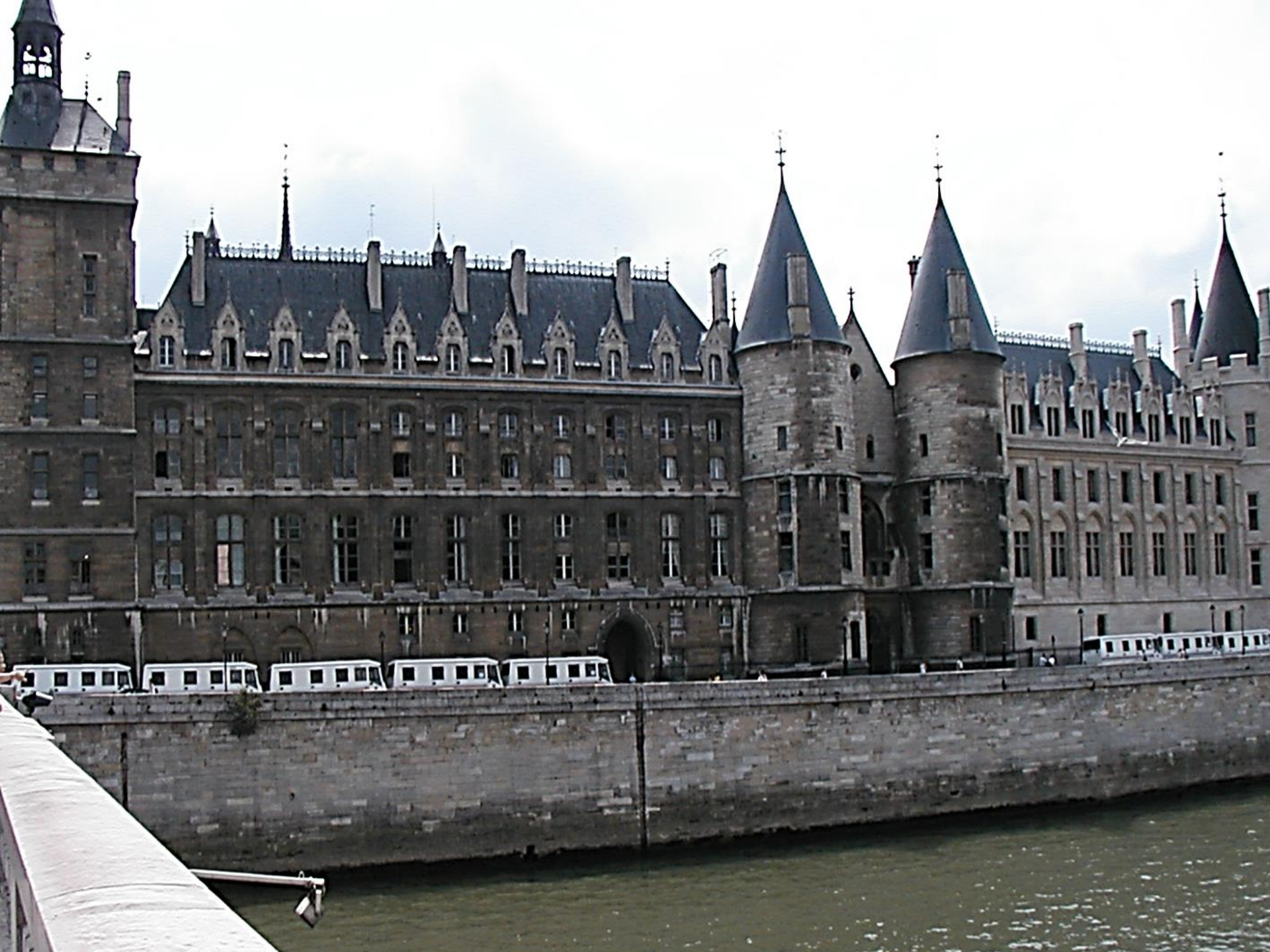
Declaration of Rights of Man

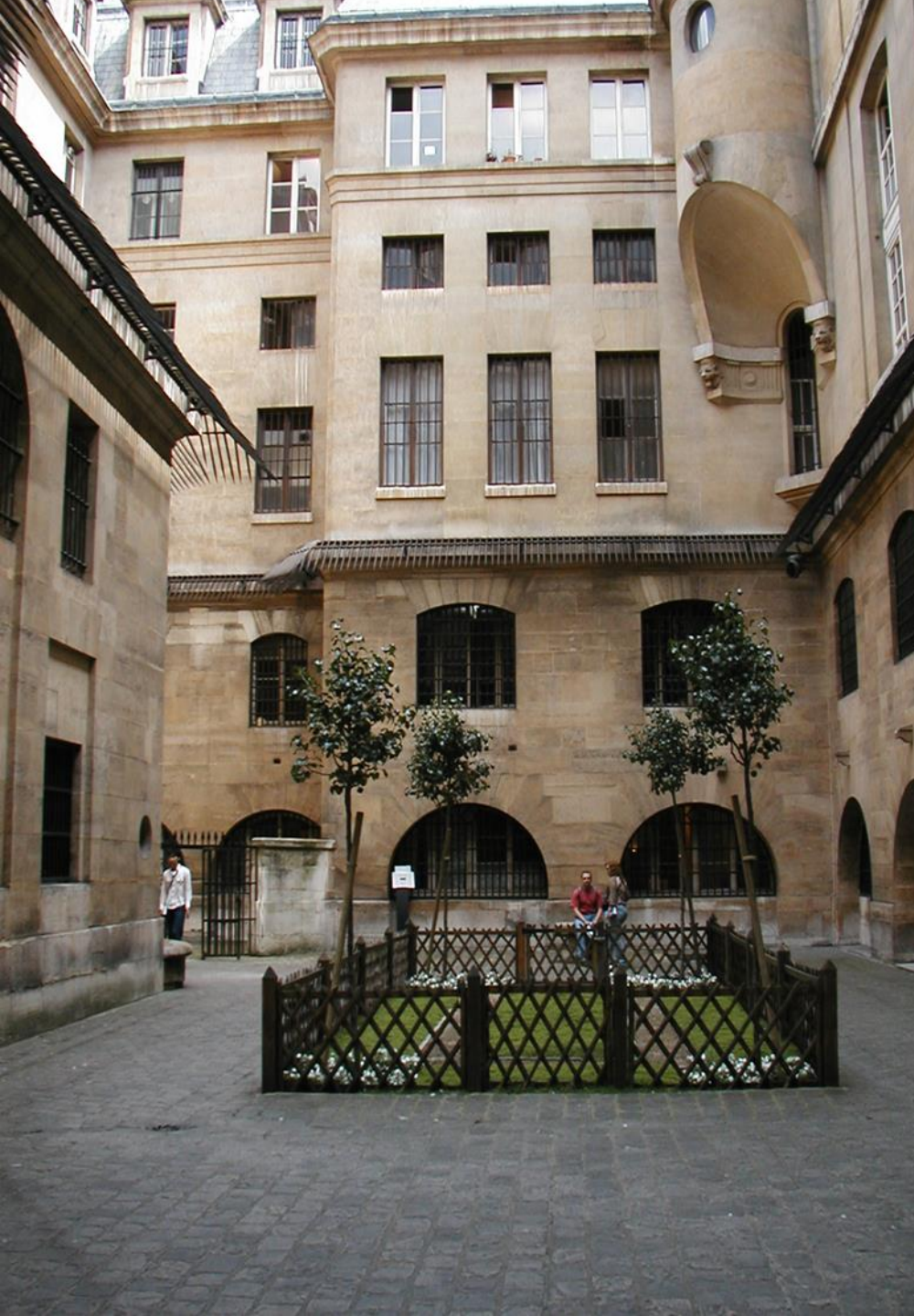
Abolishing of Old Regime

Execution of king and queen

Reign of Terror - 1793

War and forming of citizen-army





Exécution de Louis XVI, le 21 janvier 1793





Marie-Antoinette in prison





Marie-Antoinette avant d'être décapitée.





Long-Term Effects

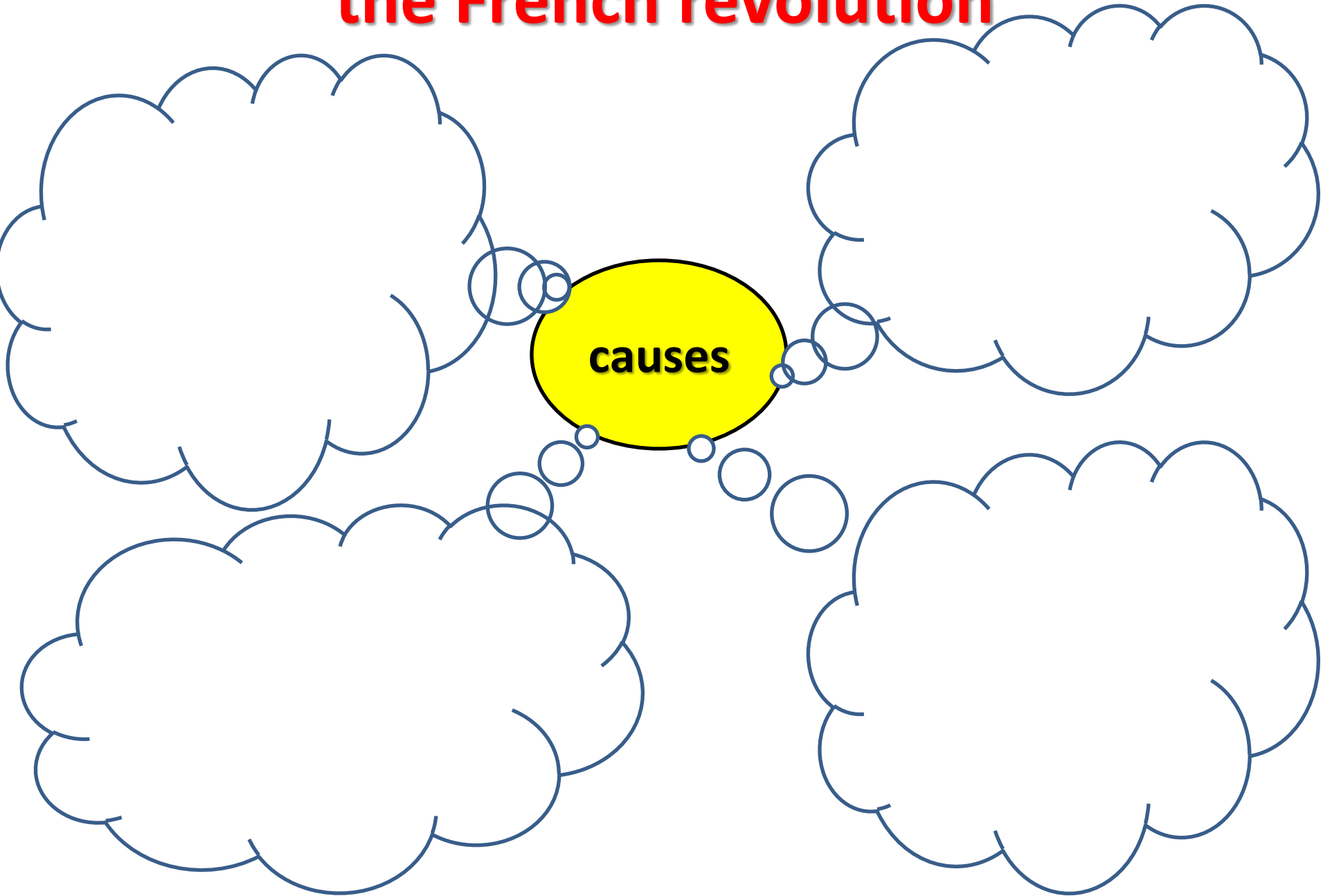
Rise of Napoleon

Spread of revolutionary ideals

Growth of nationalism

Conservative reaction

the French revolution



Analyzing motives:

Why did the Third Estate propose a change in the Estate General's voting rules?



Critical thinking :

What event or events signified the end of absolute monarchy and the beginning of representative government?

Recognizing effects:

How did the *women's march* mark a turning point in the relationship between the king and the people?



Forming opinion:

Do you think that changes in the French government were inevitable?

Think about:

- **The leadership of Louis 16**
- **The French national debt**
- **Enlightenment ideas**
- **Other world revolutions**

Answer:



Synthesizing:

How did the slogan “ Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” sum up the goals of the Revolution?

