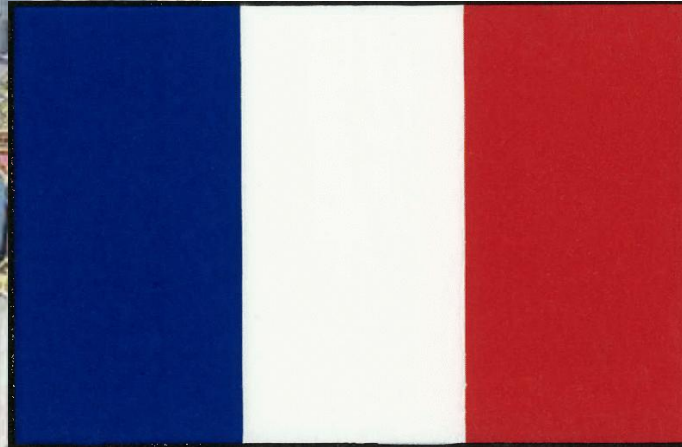




THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



The French Revolution

- **More fundamental** and profound consequences than the American Revolution! Meant to be **exported**!
- French Revolution was a **radical, liberal** revolution that upended the social order and **transformed** world history.
- Worldwide impact; still felt today! It was **exported** all over the world!
- Becomes model for future revolutions worldwide! Even communists will find inspiration in the French Revolution!



Phases of French Revolution

The National Assembly (1789-1791) Moderate Change (1st Phase)

- **June 29, 1789: Tennis Court Oath.** Nat. Ass. resolves not to disband until it has written a constitution.
July 14, 1789: Bastille stormed and taken by a Paris mob.
July 19-Aug. 3, 1789: Great Fear. Peasants attack noble manors.
Aug. 4, 1789: Nobles in National Assembly renounce feudal rights; Jacobin Club formed.
Aug. 27, 1789: Assembly issues Declaration of the Rights of Man.
Oct. 5-6, 1789: King Louis brought from Versailles to Tuileries palace in Paris.
July 12, 1790: Assembly issues Civil Constitution of the Clergy, requiring elections and oaths.
June 20-21, 1791: King flees to Austria, is caught at Varennes.
Aug. 27, 1791: Austria and Prussia call for support of French King ("Declaration of Pillnitz")
Sept. 1791: National Assembly issues Constitution; elections are held.

Legislative Assembly (1791-1792) Constitutional Monarchy (2nd Phase)

- Apr. 20, 1792: France declares war on Austria and Prussia.
Aug. 10, 1792: Paris mob storms royal palace; Commune siezes Assembly; Legislative Assembly falls. Minister of Justice Danton purges thousands of presumed traitors.
Sept. 20, 1792: French army stops Prussians and Austrians at Valmy (Belgium).

National Convention (1792-95) Radicalization (3rd Phase)

- Sept. 21, 1792: Convention abolishes monarchy and declares France a republic.
Oct. 1792: Revolutionary calendar introduced; Sept. 22, 1792=day 1.
Jan. 21, 1793: Convention condemns and executes the King.
Feb. 1793: Convention declares war on 1st Coalition of Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland and Spain.
Feb. 1793: Counter-revolutionary revolt in the Vendee begins.
March 1793: "Reign of Terror" by Committee of Public Safety (Robespierre) begins.
Aug. 23, 1793: Levy-in-Mass (military draft) instituted.
Fall 1793: price controls, dechristianization, administrative reform .
Apr. 4, 1794: Danton executed.
June 26, 1794: French victory over Austrians at Fleurus (Belgium).
July 28, 1794: "Thermidorian Reaction:" Robespierre executed, end of terror.
Feb. 21, 1795: Churches reopened.
Aug. 22, 1795: New constitution is adopted, forming the Directory.

The Directory (1795-99) Collective Oligarchy (4th Phase)

- Oct. 5, 1795: Napoleon's "Whiff of Grapeshot" save the Directory from a royalist mob.
Sept. 4, 1797: Coup d'état removes royalists from Directory.
Nov. 9, 1799: Napoleon's coup d'état abolishes Directory and establishes Consulate.

The Old Regime (*Ancien Regime*)

- **Old Regime** – socio-political system which existed in most of Europe during the 18th century
- Countries were ruled by **absolutism** – the monarch had absolute control over the government
- Classes of people – privileged and unprivileged
 - **Unprivileged people** – paid taxes and treated badly
 - **Privileged people** – did not pay taxes and treated well



FRENCH LADY ENTERING A SEDAN CHAIR

The sedan chair, used by the upper classes during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, was carried by two "chairmen." It had side windows, a hinged door at the front, and a roof that opened to allow the occupant to stand. It took its name from the town of Sedan, France. This engraving, made in Paris in 1777, shows the elegant costumes worn by the nobility and their servants.

EUROPE IN 1789

Scale of Miles

0 50 100 150 200 250 300

--- Boundary of the Holy Roman Empire

Prussian Territories

Austrian-Hapsburg Territories



Society under the Old Regime

- In France, people were divided into three estates, representing the traditional social order of France:
 - **First Estate**
 - High-ranking members of the Church
 - Privileged class; paid no taxes; biggest landowner
 - Collected tithes, fees, rents
 - **Second Estate**
 - Nobility
 - Privileged class; paid almost no taxes; owned most land; relics of feudalism!
 - **Third Estate**
 - Everyone else – from peasants in the countryside to wealthy bourgeoisie merchants in the cities
 - Unprivileged class; paid most of the taxes, did most of the work, had few rights and no privileges
 - Third Estate made up the vast majority of the population (75-80%)



The Three Estates

Estate	Population	Privileges	Exemptions	Burdens
First	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 130,000 •High-ranking clergy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collected the tithe •Censorship of the press •Control of education •Kept records of births, deaths, marriages, etc. •Catholic faith held honored position of being the state religion (practiced by monarch and nobility) •Owned 20% of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid no taxes •Subject to Church law rather than civil law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Moral obligation (rather than legal obligation) to assist the poor and needy •Support the monarchy and Old Regime
Second	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 110,000 •Nobles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Collected taxes in the form of feudal dues •Monopolized military and state appointments •Owned 20% of the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid no taxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Support the monarchy and Old Regime
Third	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circa 25,000,000 •Everyone else: artisans, bourgeoisie, city workers, merchants, peasants, etc., along with many parish priests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Paid all taxes •Tithe (Church tax) •Octrot (tax on goods brought into cities) •Corvée (forced road work) •Capitation (poll tax) •Vingtième (income tax) •Gabelle (salt tax) •Taille (land tax) •Feudal dues for use of local manor's winepress, oven, etc.

What does this contemporary political cartoon say about conditions in France under the Old Regime?



Government under the Old Regime: The Divine Right of Kings

- Monarch ruled by **divine right**
 - God put the world in motion
 - God put some people in positions of power & Power is given by God
 - No one can question God, hence Nobody can question someone put in power by God—rationale for absolutism
 - ***Questioning the monarchy was blasphemy because it meant questioning God!***



What the King Did

Appointed the *Intendants*, the “petty tyrants” who governed France’s 30 districts

Appointed the people who would collect his taxes and carry out his laws

Controlled justice by appointing judges

Controlled the military

Could imprison anyone at any time for any reason (blank warrants of arrest were called *lettres de cachet*)

Levied all taxes and decided how to spend the money

Made all laws

Made decisions regarding war and peace

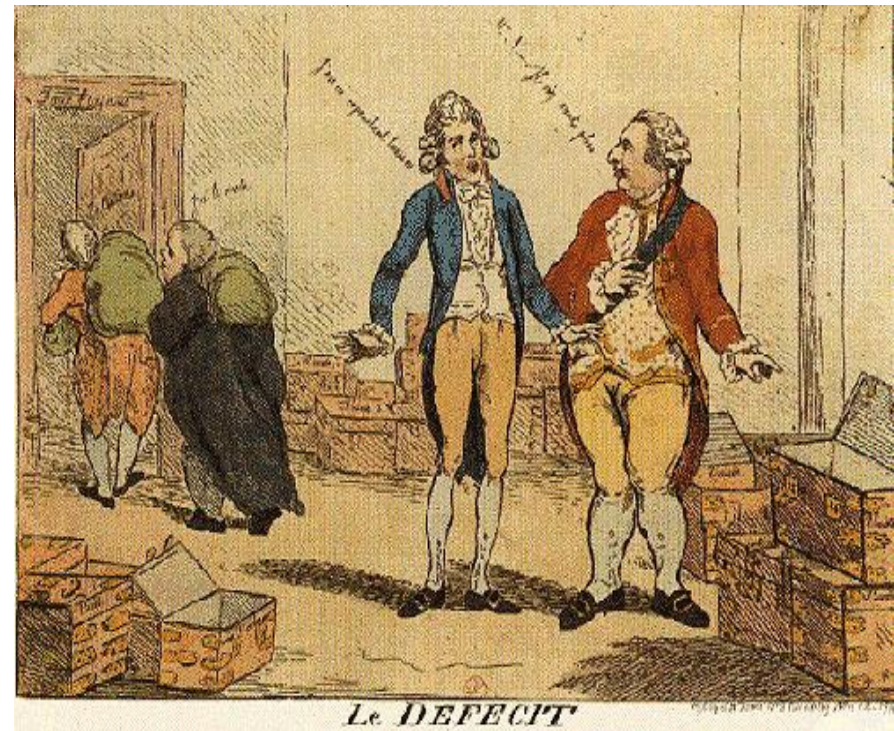
Economic Conditions under the Old Regime

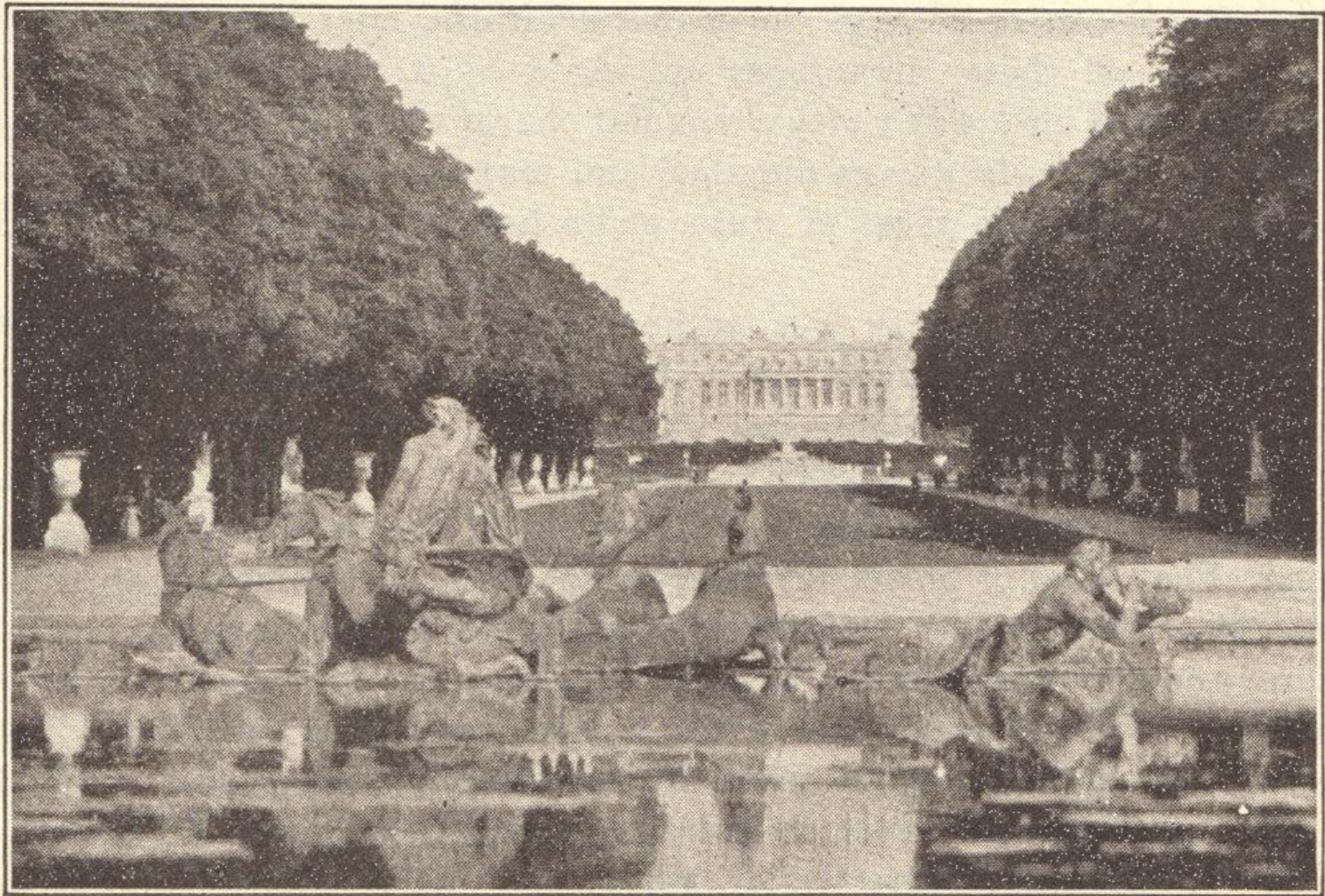
- Rapid population growth strained the food supply and social systems of 18th century France.
- France's economy was based primarily on agriculture
- Peasant farmers of France bore the burden of taxation
- Poor harvests in 1787 & 1788 meant that peasants had trouble paying their regular taxes & not enough food was produced.
 - Certainly could not afford to have their taxes raised
- Bourgeoisie often managed to gather wealth
 - But were upset that they paid taxes while nobles did not
 - Bourgeoisie agitate for reform!



France Is Bankrupt

- The king (Louis XVI) lavished money on himself and residences like Versailles
- Queen Marie Antoinette was seen as a wasteful spender
- Government found its funds depleted as a result of wars
 - Seven Years War
 - Including the funding of the American Revolution
- **Deficit spending** – government spending more money than it takes in from tax revenues.
- Privileged classes would not submit to being taxed; wealthiest escaped tax while the poor paid a disproportionate share of the tax burden.
- The people of France were starving, the economy was faltering and the people were being asked for more money in taxes. Recipe for revolution!





PALACE OF VERSAILLES AS SEEN FROM THE GARDENS

This side of the palace is almost 2000 feet long. The portion seen in this picture contains the Gallery of Mirrors, so named from the seventeen large mirrors which occupy the side of the room opposite the round arched windows on the second floor. It was in this great hall that the Treaty of 1919 with Germany, ending the World War, was signed by delegates representing nearly nine tenths of the population of the globe.



“Let them eat
cake!”



MARIE ANTOINETTE AND HER CHILDREN

From a painting by Madame Lebrun, in the Versailles Palace. Marie Antoinette was unpopular both at the French court and with the people almost from the time of her marriage. The ladies of the court disliked her because she made fun of their grand manners. The people considered her frivolous and extravagant. They declared that she was nothing but a "foreigner," and generally called her "the Austrian." She had four children—two daughters and two sons. The younger daughter died in infancy, in 1787; and the older son died at the age of seven, in 1789. The younger son, who survived his parents, is shown in the picture as the baby on the queen's lap.

Philosophy of the French Revolution: The Enlightenment (Age of Reason) powered the revolution!

- Scientists during the Renaissance had discovered laws that govern the **natural** world
- Intellectuals – ***philosophes*** – began to ask if natural laws might also apply to human beings
 - Particularly to human institutions such as governments
 - ***Philosophes*** were **secular** in thinking – they used **reason** and **logic**, rather than faith, religion, and superstition, to answer important questions
 - Used **reason and logic** to determine how governments are formed
 - Tried to figure out what logical, rational principles work to tie people to their governments—social contract! They sought a more perfect association of individuals in society!
 - Questioned the divine right of kings and popularized the **sovereignty of the people in any legitimate social contract.**
 - **Jean-Jacques Rousseau** was an important influence on the French Revolution and the creation of an enlightened, just society governed by the **general will**. The general will is easily discerned and is never wrong.

Long- and Short-term Causes

- Long-term causes
 - Also known as *underlying causes*
 - Causes which can stem back many years
- Short-term causes
 - Also known as *immediate causes*
 - Causes which happen close to the moment the change or action happens
- Example: A person is fired from his or her job.
 - Long-term cause(s): The person is often late to work and is generally unproductive on the job.
 - Short-term cause(s): The person fails to show up for work and does not call the employer
- Key: *One typically does not happen without the other. Events which bring important change (or action) need both long-term and short-term causes.*

Long-term Causes of the French Revolution

Everything previously discussed

- Absolutism
- Unjust socio-political system (Old Regime)
- Poor harvests which left peasant farmers with little money for taxes
- Influence of Enlightenment *philosophes*

Also

- System of mercantilism which restricted trade
- Influence of other successful revolutions
 - England's Glorious Revolution (1688-1689)
 - American Revolution (1775-1783)

Short-term Causes of the French Revolution

Bankruptcy

- Caused by deficit spending
- Financial ministers (Turgot, Necker, Calonne) proposed changes
 - But these were rejected
- Assembly of Notables voted down taxation for the nobility in 1787

Great Fear

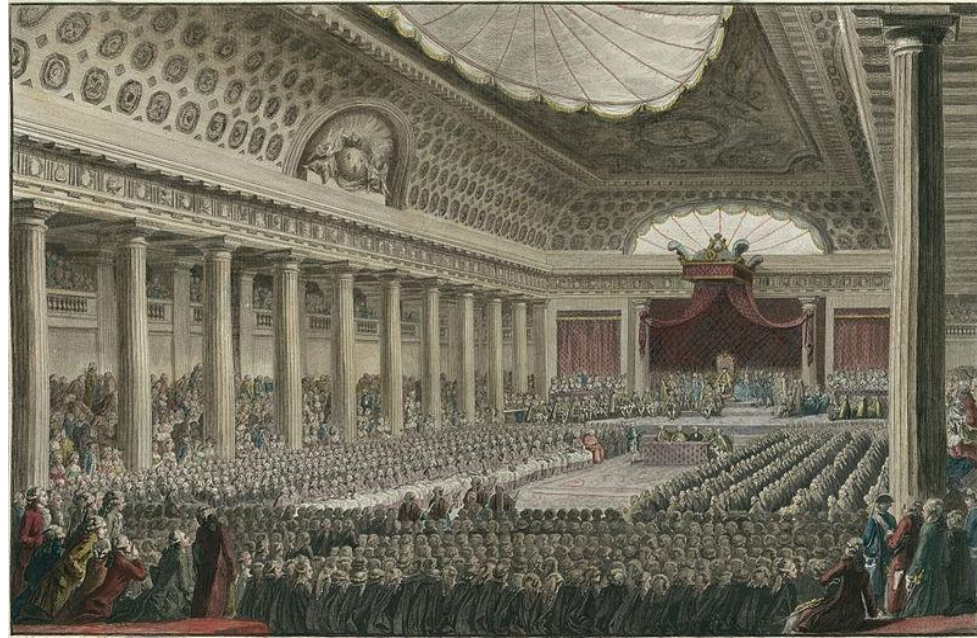
- Worst famine in memory
- Hungry, impoverished peasants feared that nobles at Estates-General were seeking greater privileges
- Attacks on nobles occurred throughout the country in 1789

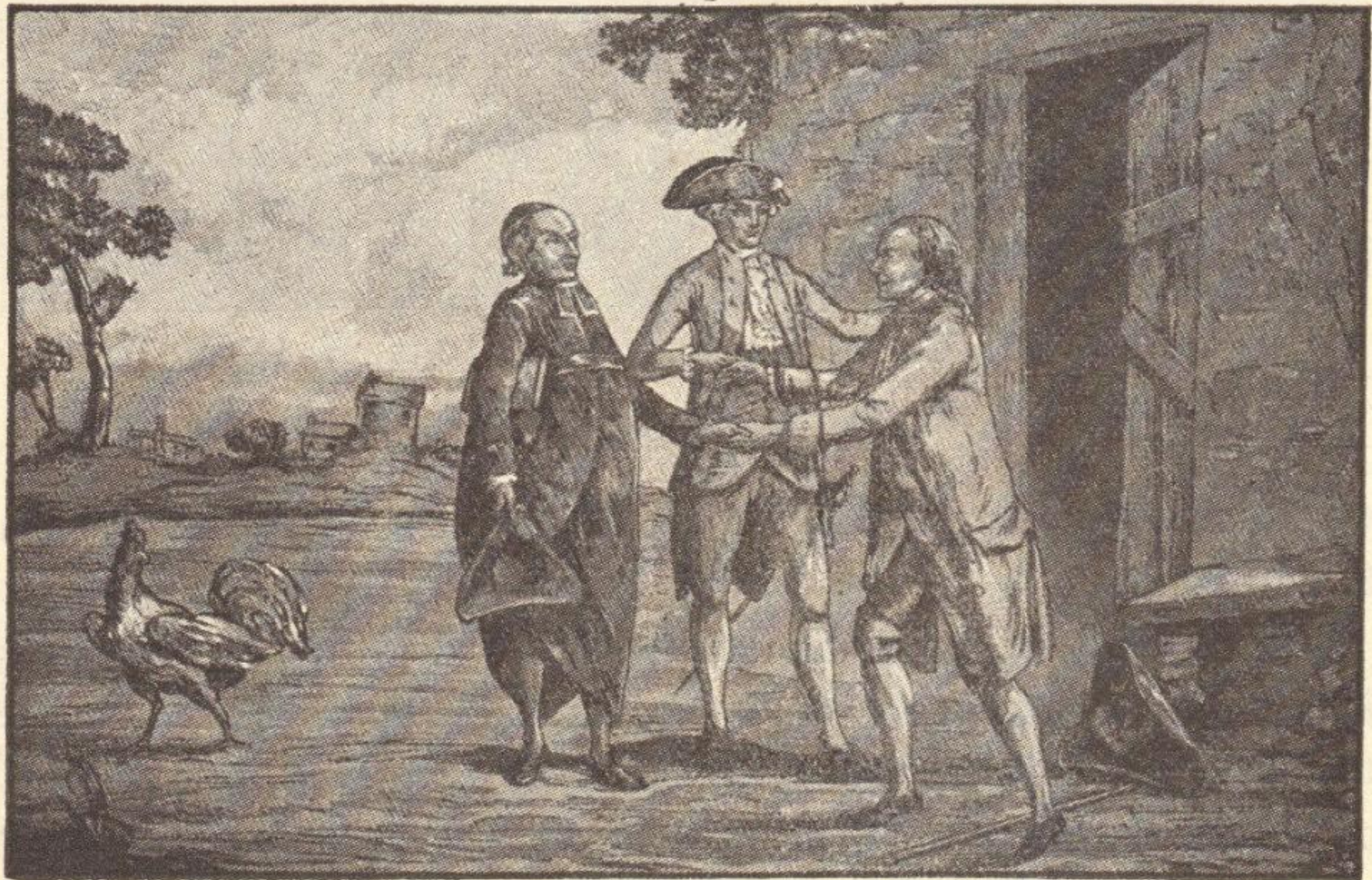
Estates-General

- Louis XVI had no choice but to call for a meeting of the **Estates-General** to find a solution to the bankruptcy problem
 - All three estates
- Had not met since 1614
- Set in motion a series of events which resulted in the abolition of the monarchy and a completely new socio-political system for France

Preparing for the *Estates-General*

- Winter of 1788-1789
 - Members of the estates elected representatives
- *Cahiers*
 - Traditional lists of grievances written by the people
 - Nothing out of the ordinary
 - Asked for only moderate changes
 - Requested relief





THE THREE ESTATES

A contemporary cartoon, showing the Third Estate welcoming the nobles and the clergy to the ranks of the National Assembly, June 30, 1789.

Meeting of the *Estates-General*: May 5, 1789

- **Voting was conducted by estate**
 - Each estate had one vote
 - First and Second Estates could operate as a bloc to stop the Third Estate from having its way
- ◊ **First Estate + Second Estate - vs. - Third Estate**
- **Representatives from the Third Estate demanded that voting be by population (proportional)**
 - This would give the Third Estate a great advantage
- **Deadlock resulted as the Third Estate demanded a real voice. The Third Estate took over the event.**
- **Third Estate announced it was the National Assembly for all of France (national legislature)**
- **Louis XVI locked the delegates of the Third Estate out of the hall. They met in an indoor tennis court the next day and issued the Tennis Court Oath, a promise not to leave until a constitution was created and agreed upon.**
- **The Tennis Court Oath was the beginning of the end of absolutism in France and led to the formation of a constitutional monarchy in the short term.**



Tennis Court Oath

The Third Estate declared itself to be the **National Assembly**.



Louis XVI responded by locking the Third Estate out of the meeting.



The Third Estate relocated to a nearby tennis court where its members vowed to stay together and create a written constitution for France.



On June 23, 1789, Louis XVI relented. He ordered the three estates to meet together as the **National Assembly** and vote, by population, on a constitution for France.

Tennis Court Oath by Jacques Louis David

Tennis Court Oath by Jacques Louis David



The Tennis Court Oath

“The National Assembly, considering that it has been summoned to establish the constitution of the kingdom, to effect the regeneration of the public order, and to maintain the true principles of monarchy; that nothing can prevent it from continuing its deliberations in whatever place it may be forced to establish itself; and, finally, that wheresoever its members are assembled, there is the National Assembly;

“Decrees that all members of this Assembly shall immediately take a solemn oath not to separate, and to reassemble wherever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established and consolidated upon firm foundations; and that, the said oath taken, all members and each one of them individually shall ratify this steadfast resolution by signature.”

Four Phases (Periods) of the French Revolution

National Assembly (1789-1791)

Legislative Assembly (1791-1792)

Convention (1792-1795)

Directory (1795-1799)

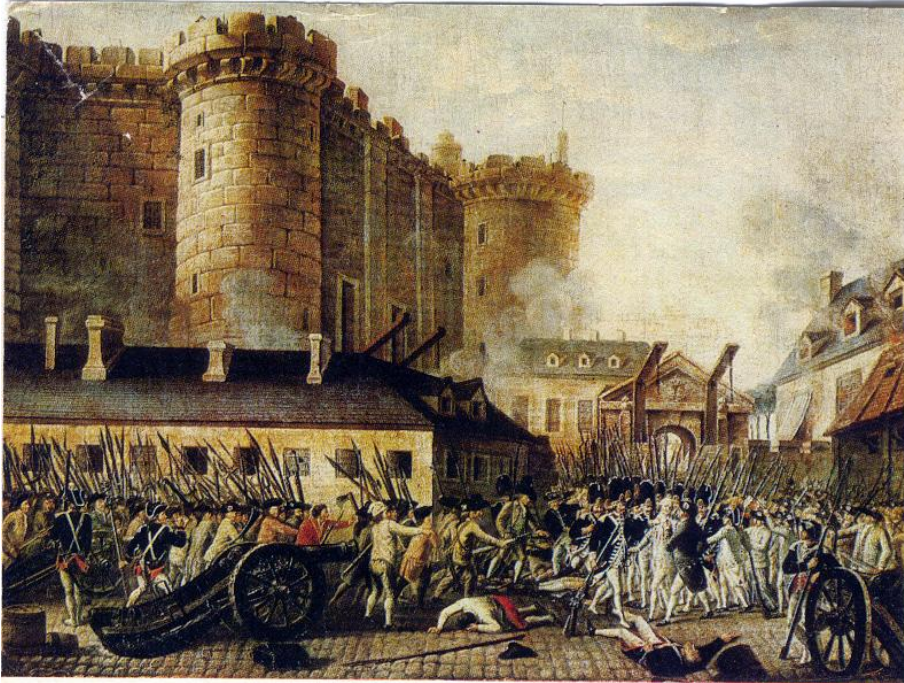
National Assembly (1789-1791)

- Louis XVI did not actually want a written constitution
- When news of his plan to use military force against the National Assembly reached Paris on **July 14, 1789**, people stormed the **Bastille**, an act which symbolized the beginning of the French Revolution and the complete overthrow of the old order (the ancien regime)



STORMING THE BASTILLE

Storming the Bastille

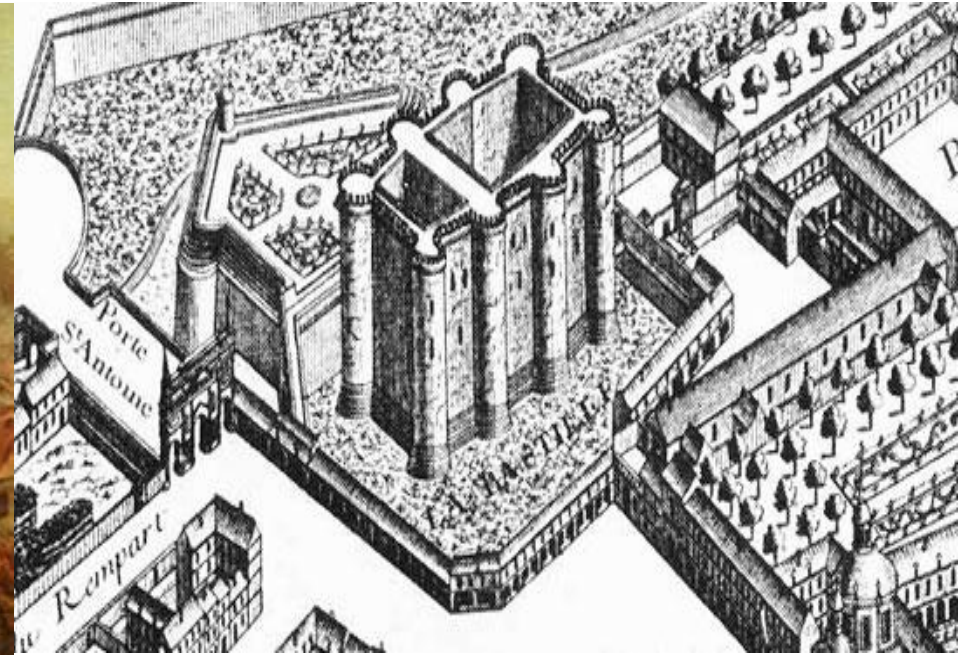


- Reasons for the attack on the Bastille:
 - Capture gunpowder and weapons
 - Free political prisoners
- The stubbornness of the governor of the fortress led to drawn out battle
- Celebrations on the night of July 14th: The people of Paris tore down the prison by hand
- Sparks tremendous popular revolution all over France
- Marks the official beginning of the French Revolution! It is a people's revolution!



Storming of the Bastille

July 14th 1789



Later in the day the prisoners were released.

There were only seven:

Two were convicted forgers.

One was a loose-living aristocrat put in prison by his own father.

Nevertheless it was a great symbolic event, one which is still celebrated in France every year.



Uprising in Paris

People of Paris seized weapons from the **Bastille**

- July 14, 1789
- Parisians organized their own government which they called the **Commune**
- Small groups – **factions** – competed to control the city of Paris

Uprising spread throughout France

- Nobles were attacked
- Records of feudal dues and owed taxes were destroyed
- Many nobles fled the country – became known as *émigrés*
- Louis XVI was forced to fly the new tricolor flag of France

“The Great Fear”

- Independent revolutionary agitation in the countryside
- General revolt all over France against aristocratic privilege, fees and obligations—nobles flee!
- Rumors of Royalist troops becoming wandering vandals
- Fear breeds fear and peasants start marching
- **The Great Fear** spread throughout France in the summer of 1789
- Within 3 weeks of July 14, the countryside of France had been completely changed
- **Abolition of the Nobility**—August 4, 1789 the National Assembly voted to abolish landlord rights and aristocratic privilege!



“Revolutionaries in the Streets”

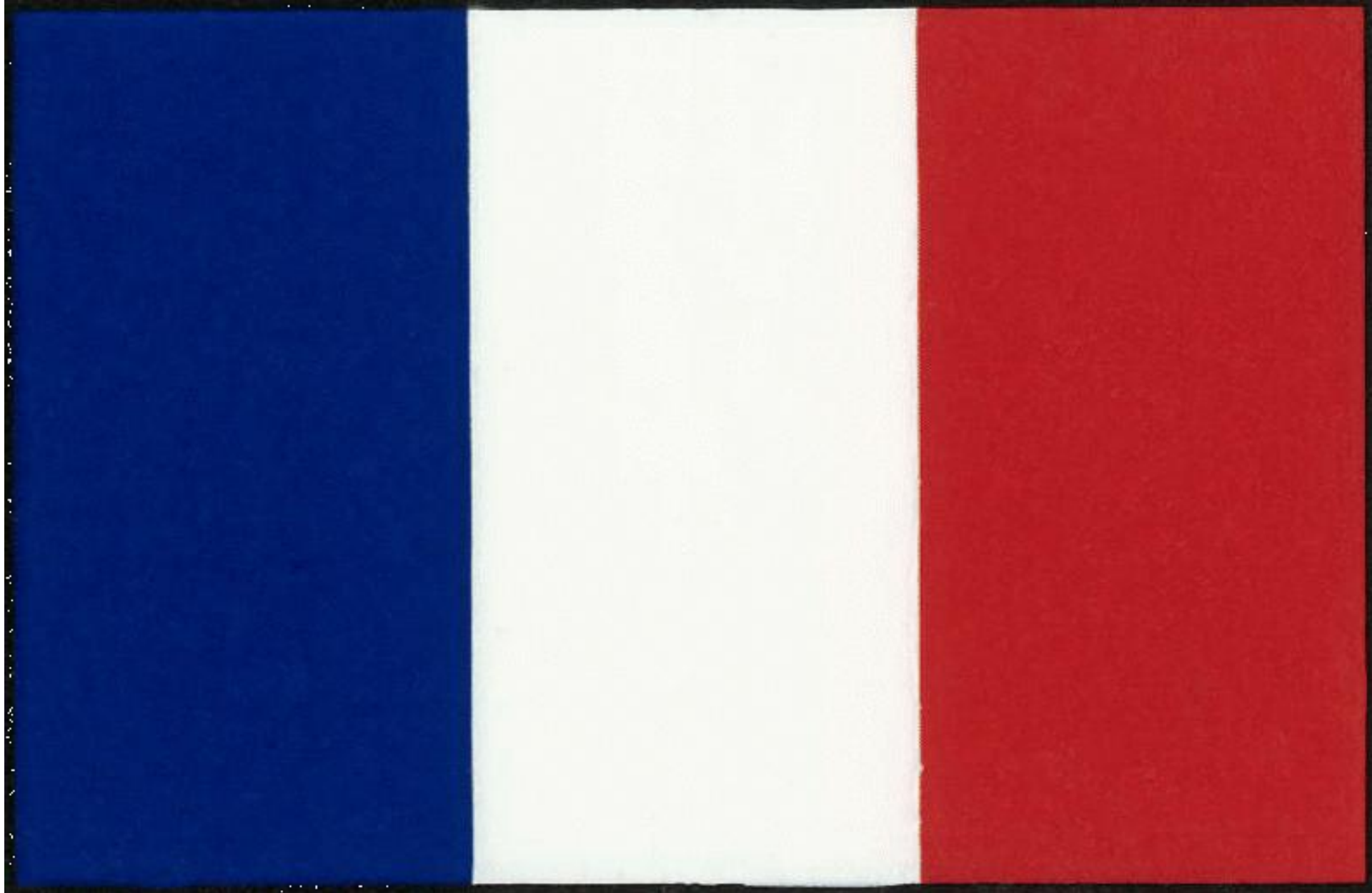


- Urban poor, radicalized and desperate, part of the underclass of France.
- “Sans-culottes” (without knee britches)—became the uniform of the urban radical!
- Picked up the ideas and slogans of the Revolution from the more educated leadership of lawyers and journalists and acted it out!
- Enforced revolutionary radicalism in the streets!

What were the Motivations of these Revolutionaries?



- **Poverty and Hunger**—spike in bread prices and long term famine
- **Low wages** and **fear** of unemployment
- **Heightened expectations** and the exposure to a political perspective
 - **“Cahiers”**—grievances
- Enlightenment thought permeated the lower classes; expectations were raised!
- Strong dislike for and distrust of the wealthy, the nobility and the church. Looking for major change!
- Wanted to punish the elites who were oppressing the people and create a new social order to uplift the masses.



White - peace and honesty

Red - hardiness, bravery, strength & valour

Blue - vigilance, truth and loyalty, perseverance & justice

Goodbye, Versailles! *Adieu, Versailles!*

- **Paris Commune** (revolutionary city government of Paris) feared that Louis XVI would have foreign troops invade France to put down the rebellion
 - Louis XVI's wife, Marie Antoinette, was the sister of the Austrian emperor
- A group of women attacked Versailles on October 5, 1789
 - Forced royal family to relocate to Paris along with National Assembly to show support for the revolution
 - Royal family spent next several years in the **Tuileries Palace** as virtual prisoners
 - Hatred of the king had not yet reached a fever pitch
 - Beginning in 1791, King Louis XVI would be a constitutional monarch.
 - Absolutism in France was over and Monarchy was on the way out as well; events are out of the control of Louis XVI.



Tuileries Palace (Paris, France)



Changes under the National Assembly

Abolishment of
guilds and labor
unions

Abolition of
special privileges

Constitution of
1791

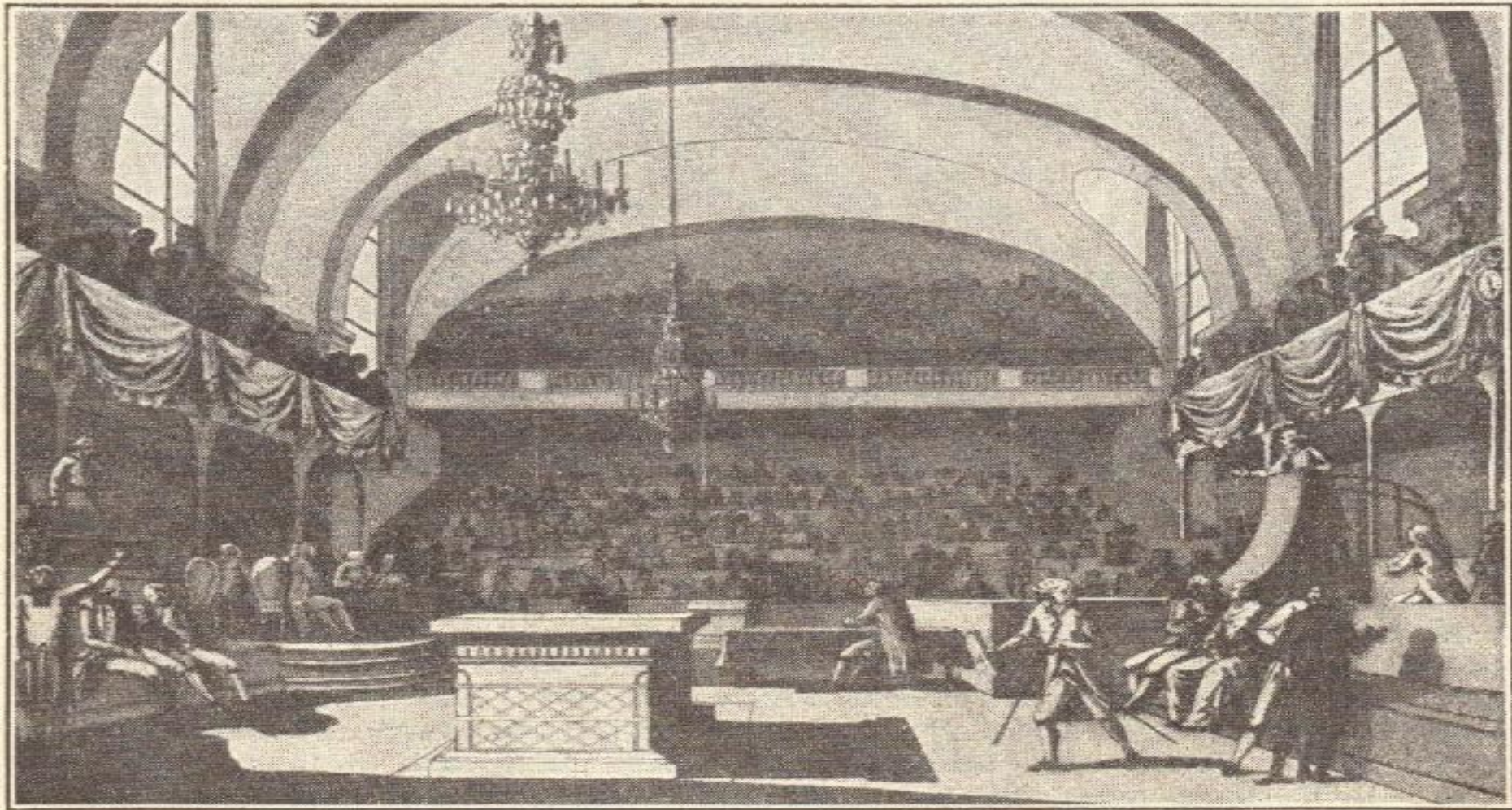
*Declaration of the
Rights of Man*

Equality before the
law (for men)

Many nobles left
France and
became known as
émigrés

Reforms in local
government

Taxes levied based
on the ability to
pay



HALL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN PARIS

From a contemporary print. The States-General which met in May, 1789, had adopted the name National Assembly. When the mob compelled the king to move to Paris from Versailles the Assembly followed and convened in a hall near the Tuileries. From the speaker's rostrum at the right of the picture the Assembly was addressed at various times by the leaders of the Revolution, including Lafayette and Mirabeau. The mob filled the galleries, hissing or applauding the speakers. Those who could not crowd inside stood without and were informed by signals from the windows of what was going on within.

The National Assembly

The Declaration of the Rights of Man, which stated the principle that all men had equal rights under the law.

- This document has remained the basis for all subsequent declarations of human rights. (Compare *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*).

Declaration of the Rights of Man

- "Men are born free and equal in their rights....These rights are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression.
- The fundamental source of all sovereignty resides in the nation.
- The law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to take part personally, or through representatives, in the making of the law."
- Declaration of the Rights of Man reflects Enlightenment principles from Jean-Jacques Rousseau.
- Has inspired revolutionaries to the present!

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen



Declaration of the Rights of Man

Freedom of
religion

Freedom of
speech

Freedom of
the press

Guaranteed
property
rights

“Liberty,
equality,
fraternity!”

Right of the
people to
create laws

Right to a fair
trial

Declaration of the Rights of Woman

Journalist **Olympe de Gouges** argued in her *Declaration of the Rights of Woman* that women are equal citizens and should benefit from governmental reforms just as men did.

Madame Jeanne Roland also served as a leader in the women's rights movement, and was able to heavily influence her husband (a government official).

Women did gain some rights during the French Revolution, but these were designed for purposes other than liberating women.

- Women could **inherit property**, but only because doing so weakened feudalism and reduced wealth among the upper classes.
- **Divorce** became easier, but only to weaken the Church's control over marriage.

End of Special Privileges

- Church lands were seized, divided, and sold to peasants
- **Civil Constitution of the Clergy** required that Church officials be elected by the people, with salaries paid by the government
 - 2/3 of Church officials fled the country rather than swear allegiance to this
- All feudal dues and tithes were eradicated
- All special privileges of the First and Second Estates were abolished

Le Peignageur Latéral



The Oath of Allegiance

- Clergymen were required to swear an oath to the new constitution.
 - Many refused to swear the oath and were placed under arrest.
 - The measure was very controversial to a nation of Catholics and drew support away from the new government



Reforms in Local Government

- The 30 provinces and their “petty tyrants” (*Intendants*) were replaced with 83 new departments
 - Ruled by elected governors
- New courts, with judges elected by the people, were established
- People addressed each other as “citizen” and a new egalitarianism emerged in French society.

Constitution of 1791

- **Democratic features**

- France became a **limited, constitutional monarchy**

- King became merely the head of state

- All laws were created by the **Legislative Assembly**

- Feudalism was abolished and civil liberties protected

- **Undemocratic features**

- Voting was limited to taxpayers

- Offices were reserved for property owners

- This new government became known as the **Legislative Assembly**

Legislative Assembly (1791-1792)

- Royal family sought help from Austria
 - In June, 1791, they were caught trying to escape to Austria
- Nobles who fled the revolution lived abroad as ***émigrés***
 - They hoped that, with foreign help, the Old Regime could be restored in France
- Church officials wanted Church lands, rights, and privileges restored
 - Some devout Catholic peasants also supported the Church
- **Political parties**, representing different interests, emerged
 - **Girondists**—middle class, rural, moderate
 - **Jacobins**---middle class/poor, urban, radical

The Flight to Varennes

- Although the King reluctantly accepted the new constitution, he could not accept all the reforms (e.g., the Civil Constitution of the Clergy) and decided to leave the country.
- On June 20, 1791, the King and his family set out for the border in a carriage.
 - The King was disguised as a steward and his son was wearing a dress.
 - At the border village of Varennes, he was recognized and eventually apprehended. He was travelling with some of his valuables, which instantly identified him.
 - Royal family was brought back to Paris under guard; the king was seen as a counter-revolutionary figure. This marked Louis XVI as doomed!



HALTING THE ROYAL FAMILY AT VARENNES

From a contemporary print. The royal family traveled in a great coach built for the purpose. The roads were bad, and the traveling carriage was heavy, but all went well until, at a point near Varennes, the king put his head out of the window and was recognized by the likeness of his features to the profile stamped on the French coins. The man who thus discovered the royal flight jumped on a horse, dashed into Varennes and roused the citizens to stop the coach. A messenger was dispatched to Paris, and shortly after, under the escort of members of the National Assembly, the royal family was compelled to return.

Return of the Royal Family to Paris, 1791

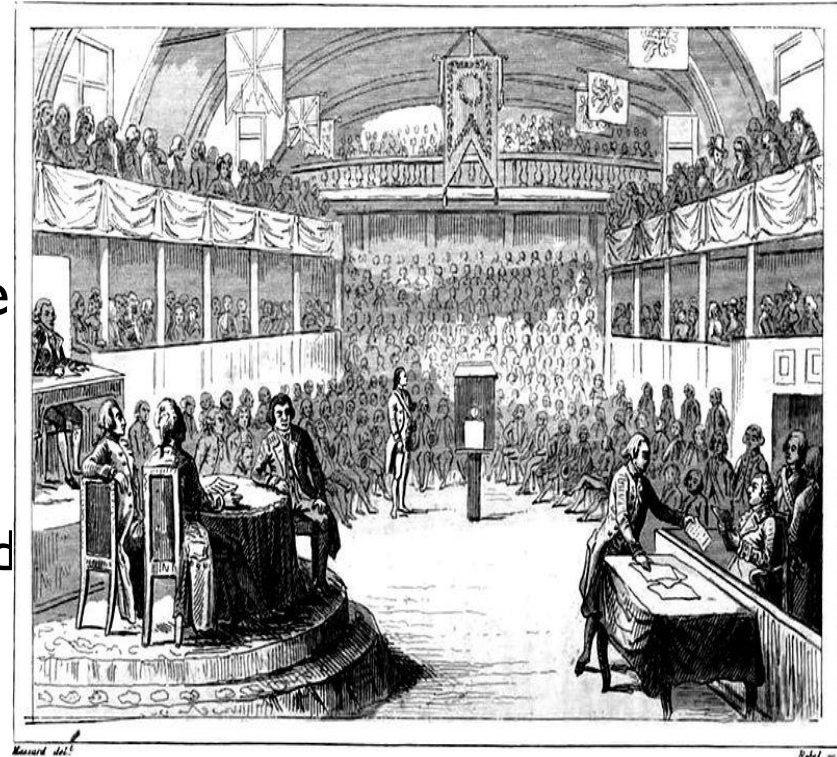


Opposition to the New Government

- European monarchs feared that revolution would spread to their own countries—French Revolutionaries were trying to export their revolution!
 - France was invaded by Austrian and Prussian troops
- In the uproar, the Paris Commune took control
 - Commune was led by Georges Danton, a member of the Jacobin political party
- Voters began electing representatives for a new convention which would write a republican constitution for France
 - A republic is a government in which the people elect representatives who will create laws and rule on their behalf
 - Meanwhile, thousands of nobles were executed under the suspicion that they were conspirators in the foreign invasion

Convention (1792-1795)

- On September 22, 1792, the **Convention** met for the first time
- Established the **First French Republic**
- **The Monarchy was abolished and Louis XVI executed**
- Faced domestic opposition and strife
 - **Girondists** were moderates who represented the rich middle class of the provinces
 - **Jacobins** (led by **Marat, Danton, and Robespierre**) represented workers
- Faced opposition from abroad
 - Austria, England, Holland, Prussia, Sardinia, and Spain formed a Coalition, invading France to stop the revolution!



Interrogatoire de Louis le dernier

Abolishment of the Monarchy

- The **Convention** abolished the monarchy
 - As long as the royal family lived, the monarchy could be restored, which was a threat to the revolution!
 - Put the royal couple on trial for **treason**
 - Convictions were a foregone conclusion
 - **Louis XVI** was guillotined on January 21, 1793
 - **Marie Antoinette** was guillotined on October 16, 1793
 - Daughter **Marie-Thérèse** was allowed to go to Vienna in 1795
 - She could not become queen because of **Salic law**, which did not allow females to succeed to the throne
 - Son **Louis-Charles**, a.k.a. Louis XVII (lived 1785-1795) was beaten and mistreated until he died in prison, a helpless victim of the revolution.



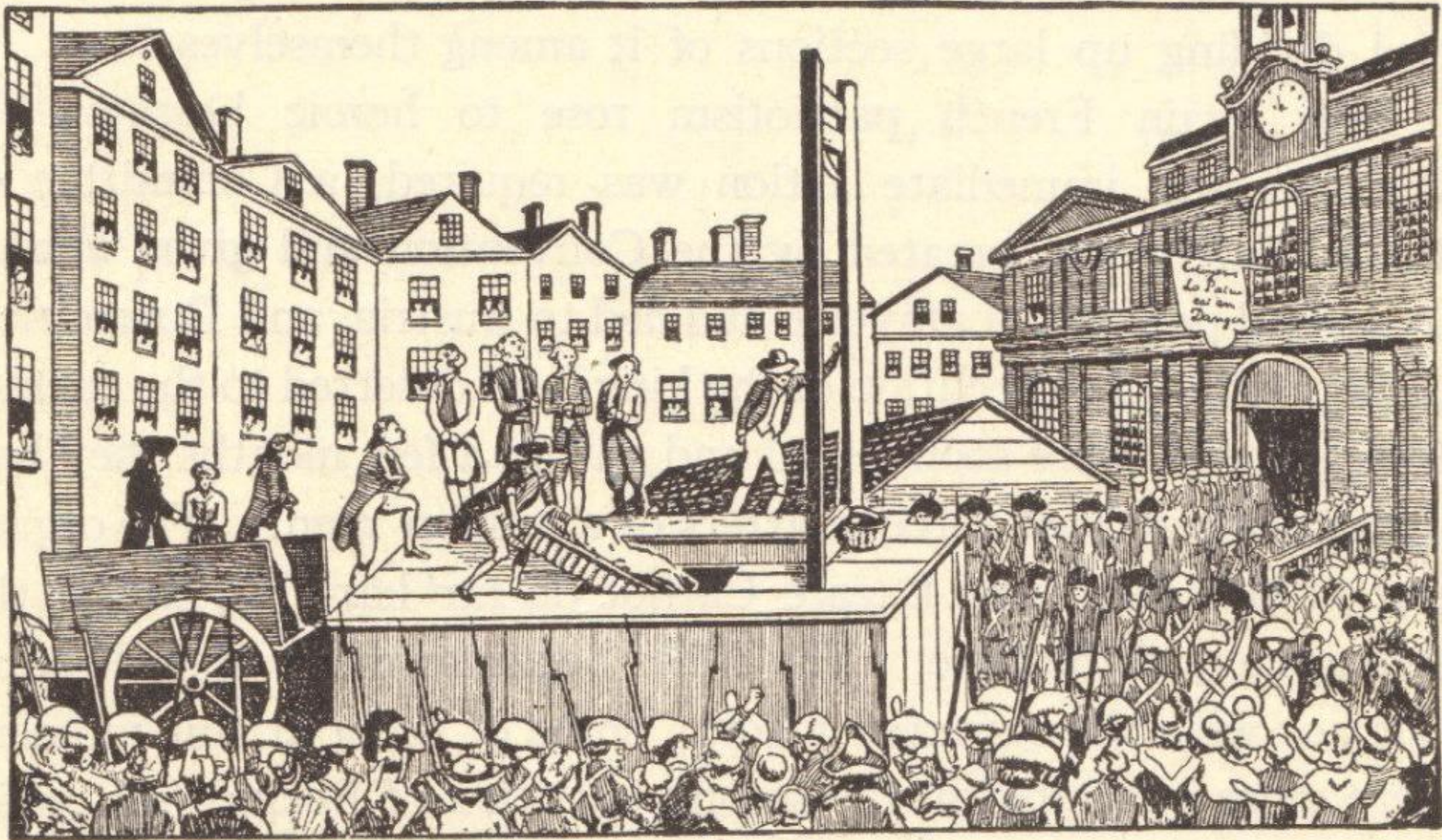
Revolutionary Violence





MEMORIAL TO THE KING AND QUEEN

Drawing of a funeral urn with the profile of Louis XVI in the base at the left, Marie Antoinette at the right, the Dauphin in the willow tree at the right margin, and his sister Madame Royale at the left of the king's head. Made for sympathetic royalists by a contemporary artist.



GUILLOTINE IN THE SQUARE BEFORE THE HOTEL DE VILLE

Illustration from a contemporary newspaper.



The three most memorable Jacobins were **Georges Danton, Maximilien Robespierre, and Jean-Paul Marat.**

Because of a debilitating skin condition, propagandist **Marat** was eventually forced to work from home. He was assassinated (in the tub while taking a medicinal bath) by **Charlotte Corday**, a Girondist sympathizer, in July, 1793. Corday was appalled by the violence and was attempting to stop it.

The Death of Marat by Jacques-Louis David

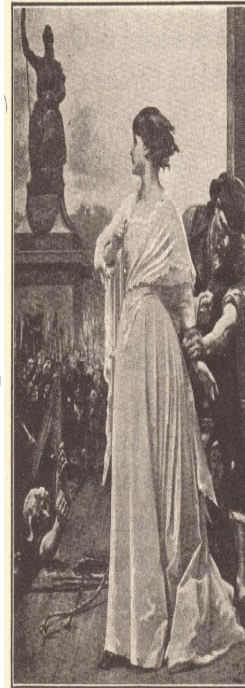
Growing Coalition against the French

- Coalition: Austria, Prussia, Spain, Netherlands, Sardinia
- Convention drafted Frenchmen into the army to defeat the foreign Coalition—conscripted national army!
 - These troops were led by **General Carnot**
 - The people supported military operations because they did not want the country back under the Old Regime
- **Rouget de Lisle** wrote the “***Marseillaise***”
 - Became the French national anthem
 - Inspired troops as they were led into battle
- After two years
 - Coalition was defeated
 - France had gained, rather than lost, territory
 - France was most powerful land power in Europe!
 - The French Revolution was being exported all over Europe!

Reign of Terror:

September 5, 1793-July 27, 1794

- Despite military successes, the Convention continued to face problems domestically
- **Danton** and his **Jacobin** political party came to dominate French politics
- Committee of Public Safety
 - Headed by **Danton** (and later **Robespierre**)
 - Those accused of treason were tried by the Committee's **Revolutionary Tribunal** and **summary executions were carried out**
 - **Robespierre was trying to create a “Republic of Virtue”**
 - Approximately **15,000** people died on the **guillotine**
 - **Guillotine** became known as the “**National Razor**”
 - Including innovative thinkers like **Olympe de Gouges** and **Madame Jeanne Roland**
- Guillotine Facts
 - Total weight of a guillotine is about 1278 lbs
 - The guillotine metal blade weighs about 88.2 lbs
 - The height of guillotine posts average about 14 feet
 - The falling blade has a rate of speed of about 21 feet/second
 - Just the actual beheading takes 2/100 of a second
 - The time for the guillotine blade to fall down to where it stops takes 70th of a second
 - Considered a humane method of execution!



MADAME ROLAND ON HER WAY TO
EXECUTION

From a painting by Royer.

DeChristianization of France under the Committee of Public Safety

- The Committee of Public Safety attempted to create a new order based on reason and therefore sought to reduce or eliminate influence from the church, in the quest to form an enlightened, secular society.
- **Dechristianization** efforts:
 - The word “saint” was removed from street names
 - Churches were looted and closed by revolutionary forces
 - The Notre Dame cathedral was renamed the “temple of reason” for the worship of reason
 - New calendar was adopted that ignored the year of Christ’s birth and started with the year of the revolution as the year one. There were 12 months with 3 10 day weeks. The names of the months invoked the seasons to accurately reflect the weather.
 - Any Christian influence in public life was removed.

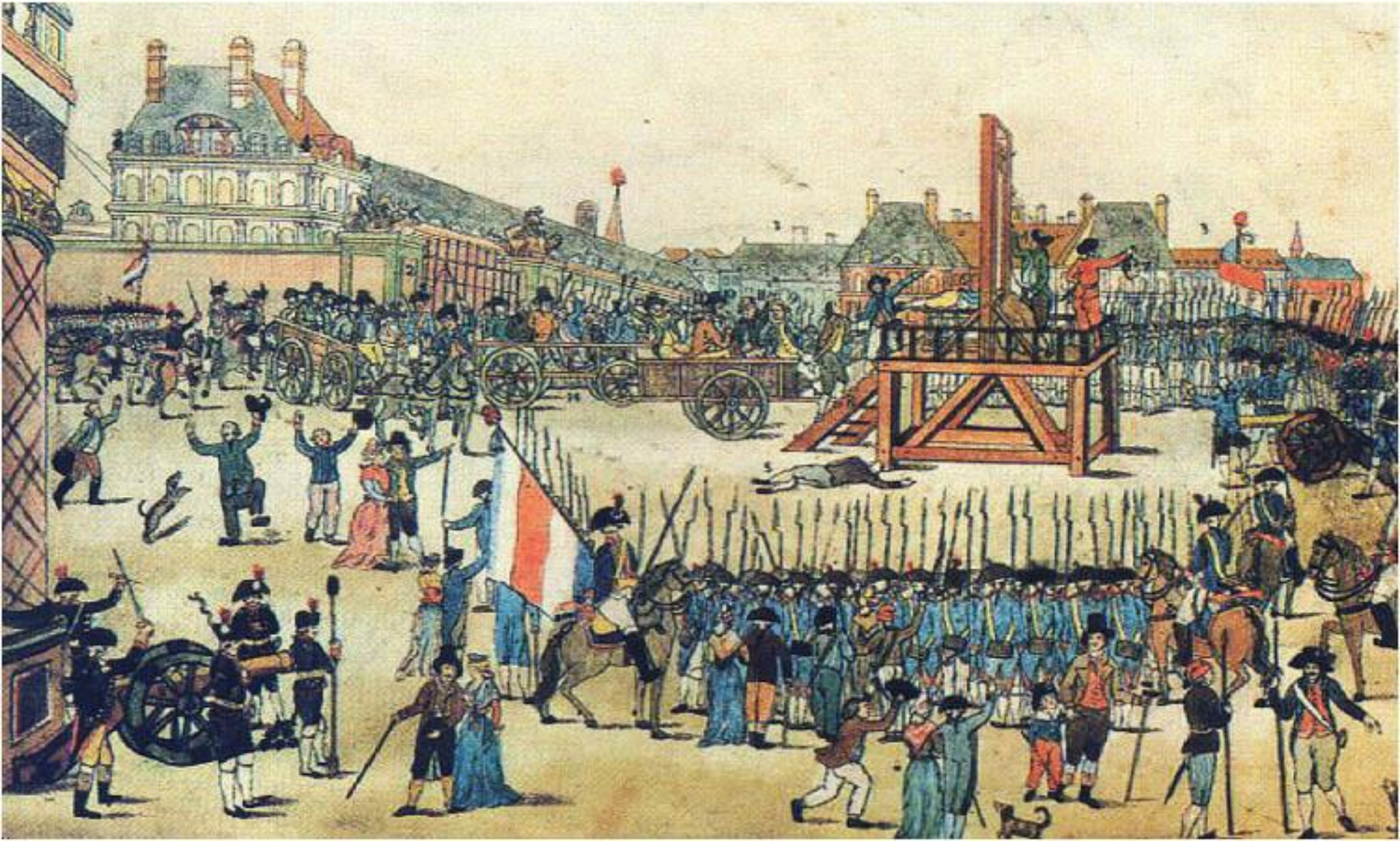
Committee of Public Safety



End of the Reign of Terror

- Members of the **Girondist** political party tried to end the **Reign of Terror** initiated by the **Jacobin** political party
 - This opposition to the **Committee of Public Safety** caused many Girondists to be tried and executed for treason
- Eventually, even **Georges Danton** wanted to end the executions
 - This resulted in Danton being tried and executed for treason
- **Maximilien Robespierre** became leader of the Committee of Public Safety
 - He continued the executions at a frenetic pace; wants to wipe out enemies of the revolution!
 - Convention came to blame Robespierre for the Reign of Terror
- **Thermidorean Reaction**
 - July 27, 1794 – ended the Reign of Terror
 - Convention sent Robespierre and other members of the Committee of Public Safety to the guillotine
 - Robespierre was guillotined on July 28, 1794

Execution of Robespierre 1794



Constitution of the Year III of the Republic (1795)

With the foreign invaders vanquished and the Reign of Terror at an end, the Convention was finally able to inaugurate its new constitution

- **Constitution of the Year III of the Republic (1795) created the Directory, an oligarchy of 5 men to collectively govern France, with a bicameral (2 house) legislature to pass laws.**
- **The Directory increasingly relied on the military to stay in power! This opened the door for Napoleon Bonaparte to gain power.**

Government under the Directory

Executive

- 5 directors appointed by the Legislature

Legislature

- Lower house (500 members) proposed laws
- Upper house (250 members) voted on these laws
- 2/3 of the Legislature would initially be filled by members of the Convention

Qualifications

- Girondists (middle-class party) had defeated the Jacobins (working- and peasant-class party)
- Girondists' constitution stated that **suffrage** (the right to vote), as well as the right to hold office, were limited to property owners

Other Parting Reforms Passed by the Convention

Adopted the metric system

Dealt the final blow to feudalism by abolishing primogeniture (the system whereby the oldest son inherited all of his father's estate)

Drew up a comprehensive system of laws

Ended debt imprisonment

Ended slavery in France's colonies

Established a nationwide system of public education

Directory (1795-1799)

The Directory suffered from corruption and poor administration.

The people of France grew poorer and more frustrated with their government.

Despite, or perhaps because of, these struggles, the French developed a strong feeling of **nationalism** – they were proud of their country and devoted to it.

National pride was fueled by military successes.

It would be a military leader – **Napoleon Bonaparte**, coming to power through a **coup d'état** – who would end the ten-year period (1789-1799) known as the French Revolution.

Review Questions

1. What Paris building was stormed on July 14, 1789?

2. What human rights were established in France by the *Declaration of the Rights of Man*?

3. How did Olympe de Gouges fight for women's rights?

4. What were *émigrés*, and why did French revolutionaries view them as a threat?

5. Name and describe the two political parties that competed for power in revolutionary France.

6. What was the Committee of Public Safety?

7. Describe the Reign of Terror and explain how it eventually came to an end.

8. Were the “excesses” of the French Revolution justified? Why or why not?

9. Looking back at the first half of 1789, could the French Revolution have been avoided? If so, how?