



Although it is one of the most important events in modern history, the Virginia SOL does not require that you know *that* much about it. So, below are the Causes, Events, and Influence of the French Revolution.

## Causes...



The American Revolution



The Enlightenment

## Events...



Storming of the Bastille



The Reign of Terror

## Outcomes...



+



End of the Absolute Monarchy of Louis XVI



Rise of Napoleon

## Influence...



Independence in Latin America



Toussaint L'Ouverture in Haiti



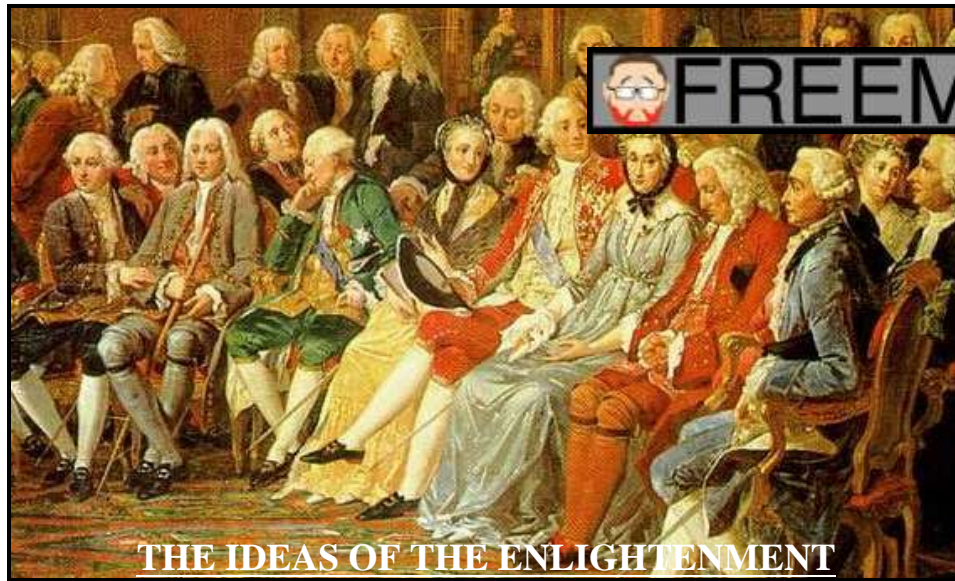
Simon Bolivar in South America





# You Say You Want a Revolution

The French Revolution didn't just randomly happen. There were two direct causes that led the people of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate to rise up against the King. The ideas of the Enlightenment and French participation in the American Revolution influenced the French people to view their government in new ways.



THE IDEAS OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT

“To become truly great, one has to stand with the people, not above them.”

HOW MIGHT THIS SPARK A REVOLUTION?

-Montesquieu

“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.”

HOW MIGHT THIS SPARK A REVOLUTION?

-Rousseau

“The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to... bear arms is... to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

HOW MIGHT THIS SPARK A REVOLUTION?

*W. Jefferson*

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is **the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it**, and to institute new Government.”

HOW MIGHT THIS SPARK A REVOLUTION?

*W. Jefferson*



FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

- The American colonists were the first in the new world to gain their Independence
  - The Americans rejected the Parliament's right to rule them from abroad
- Since King George III was a tyrant; the Americans could no longer swear allegiance
- July 4 1776: Americans declare Independence
- Americans defeated the British at the Battle of Saratoga (1777)
  - Convinces the French that the Americans might win
  - Benjamin Franklin negotiates alliance with the French
- American Revolution was very popular among the French People
- The British actually surrendered to the French at Yorktown
- **CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FRENCH:**
  - **The Bill:** 1.3 BILLION LIVRE (3x their Annual National Income)
  - **Trade:** Americans quickly formed a trading alliance with Great Britain!!!!



FRENCH KING LOUIS XVI

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



# The 3 Estates of the Realm

You know where the French got the ideas for the Revolution. You know the financial situation that precipitated the Revolution. Now, you need to get to know the situation in France in the Ancien Regime (this is what the French call the political/social/economic system pre-Revolution).



All of Europe was essentially under a political caste system that is commonly referred to as the...



**1** % = .5% # = 179,000 **THE CLERGY**

- Roman Catholic Clergy in France
- Owned 10% of the Land
- Exempt from paying taxes

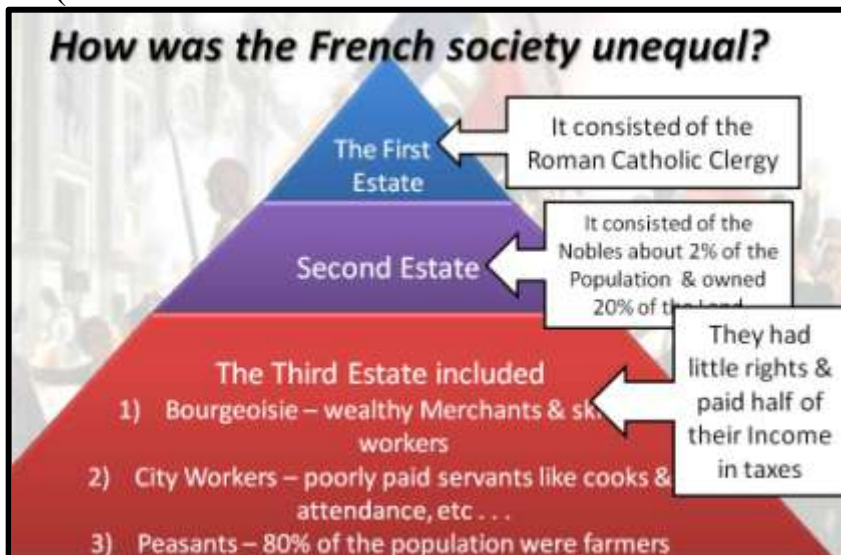
**2** % = 1-2% # = 300,000 **THE NOBILITY**

- French Royalty (other than the King)
- Held high-ranking positions in Government, Military, etc.
- Exempt from paying taxes

**3** % = 98% # = 27 M **EVERYONE ELSE**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Estates lived off of the labor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate
- Mostly rural wage laborers, but there were also...
- BOURGEOISIE (n)- Wealthy, Educated, Urban 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate members (8%)

(SINCE THE KING WAS DIRECTLY CHOSEN BY GOD, HE DOES NOT FIT INTO YOUR HUMAN SYSTEM)



NAME 3 THINGS ABOUT THE ESTATES REPRESENTED BY THIS CARTOON

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.





# What is the Third Estate?

Clocking in at 98% of the entire French population, the Third Estate was the grand majority of France. So, who are these people? Luckily for you, Jacques Necker (the French Finance Minister) asked the French people to write about how the Estates should be organized... Below is Abbe de Sieyes response, entitled *What is the Third Estate?*

The plan of this work is quite simple.  
We have three questions  
to ask ourselves.

1. What is the Third Estate?

– *Everything.*

2. What has it been *so far* in  
the political order?

– *Nothing.*

3. What does it ask to be?

– *Something.*

We shall see if these are the right answers. Meanwhile, it would be wrong to say that these truths have been exaggerated when you have not yet seen the supporting evidence. Next we shall examine the measures that have been tried, and those that must [still] be taken, for the Third Estate to actually become *something*. Thus we shall state:

**What should have been done;**

And finally,

**What remains to be done**

for the Third Estate so that it can take up the place that is its due.

**What is a nation?** A body of people who join together to live under *common* laws and be represented by the same *legislative assembly*. It is only too clear that the

nobility has privileges and exemptions it dares to call its rights that are separate from the rights of the main body of citizens.

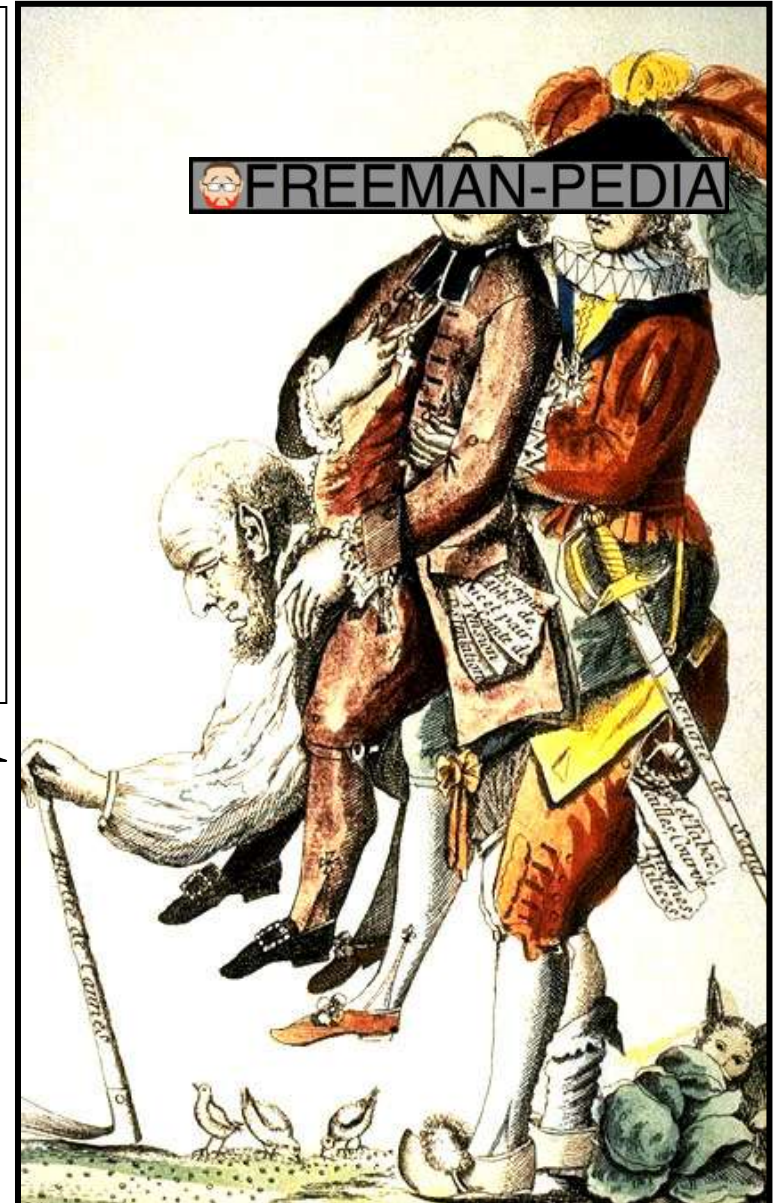
As a consequence of these special rights, it does not belong to the common order, [nor is it subject to] the common law. Thus its private rights already make the nobility into a separate people, a nation within a nation.

The Third Estate thus contains everything proper to the nation; and those who do not belong to the Third Estate cannot be seen as part of the nation. **What is the Third Estate?**

*Everything.*

1. Why is the **SECOND ESTATE** already its own nation?

2. What is the **THIRD ESTATE**?



It is absolutely impossible for the nation as a whole, or even for any separate order, to be free, if the Third Estate is not. We do not get our freedom from privileges, but from our rights as citizens, rights which belong to everyone.

Sometimes, people seem surprised to hear complaints about the triple *aristocracy* of Church, Army and Law. They like to think that this is just a manner of speaking; but the phrase must be taken literally. If the Estates-General is the interpreter of the general will, and has legislative power in that capacity, then surely it is precisely this that makes the Estates-General, in as much as it is just a *clerical-noble-judicial* assembly, into a true aristocracy. Add to this awful truth the fact that, in one way or another, every branch of the executive has fallen into the hands of the caste that supplies the Church, the Law and the Army with their members. Feelings of brotherhood or *comradeship* of some sort make nobles always prefer each other to the rest of the nation. The usurpation is total; they reign over us in every sense

3. Who can be free if the THIRD ESTATE is not free?

4. What is the TRIPLE ARISTOCRACY?

5. In what sense do the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> estates rule over the 3<sup>rd</sup>?

Read your history to check whether or not this statement fits the facts, and you will see, as I have seen, that it is a great mistake to think that France is governed as a monarchy. In the annals of our history, you will think you are reading the history of a palace autocracy. **It is the court that reigns**, not the monarch. The court has made and the court has unmade, has appointed ministers and dismissed them, has created posts and filled them, and so on. And what is the court but the head of this vast aristocracy overrunning the whole of France, which through its members seizes on everything and exercises total control over every essential aspect of public life.

6. Who *really* rules France?

7. Which estate is this?

8. What changes do they want made in the Estates General?

a.

b.

To sum up, so far the Third Estate has not had any true representatives in the Estates-General. Thus its political rights have been non-existent.

The people want to be *something* – to be honest, the least thing possible. **First**, it wants to have genuine representatives in the Estates-General, that is to say deputies *drawn from its own order*, able to interpret its wishes and defend its interests. **Secondly**, it demands that the number of its representatives be equal to that of the two other orders put together. The Third Estate demands **thirdly** therefore that votes be counted *by heads and not by orders*. The modest objective of the Third Estate is to have an influence in the Estates-General equal to that of the privileged orders. I repeat, could it ask for less?

The privileged orders fear the third order having equality of influence, and so they declare it to be unconstitutional. This behavior is all the more remarkable for the fact that until now they have been two against one without finding anything unconstitutional in that unjust advantage. They feel very deeply the need to retain the veto over anything that could be against their interest.

*Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité*

**RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE**



# Révolution Française

Enough background... Let's revolt! You know the political climate in France leading up to the Revolution. Below is how the whole thing played out...



CATALYST:

## FRANCE IS BROKE

KING'S RESPONSE:

HIRE A NEW  
FINANCE MINISTER



NECKER'S RESPONSE:

1. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Estates pay taxes
2. Restrict power of King's Counselors/Court

KING'S RESPONSE:

- King called the Estates-General to meet
  - First meeting since 1614!
- Wanted to find solutions to the Crisis

RULES OF THE E.G.

1. Each Estate gets ONE vote
2. Work to fix the crisis
3. Third Estate sits in the back!

## ESTATES-GENERAL of 1789



PROBLEM: ALL THE ESTATES WANTED TO ARGUE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EESTATES GENERAL!

## THE 3<sup>rd</sup> ESTATE WALKED OUT...

(LED BY ABBE DE SIEYES.. YES, *THAT* ABBE DE SIEYES!)



- King locked them out of their meeting room, so they moved next door
- Promise to keep meeting until they have written a new Constitution
  - Most of the Nobility and 15% of the Clergy joined them
- Louis' military surrounded Paris and the Palace of Versailles
- July 11: Louis fired Necker (the people's favorite member of the gov't)
- July 14: The people, in need of gunpowder, Stormed the Bastille...





### FUN FACTS

#### LIFE

1370-1789

#### AMERICAN EQUIVALENT

Boston Tea Party

#### SYMBOLIC DATE

French Independence Day

#### DEATH TOLL:

98 Rioters, 2 Guards

#### REMAINS:

Built a bridge out of it

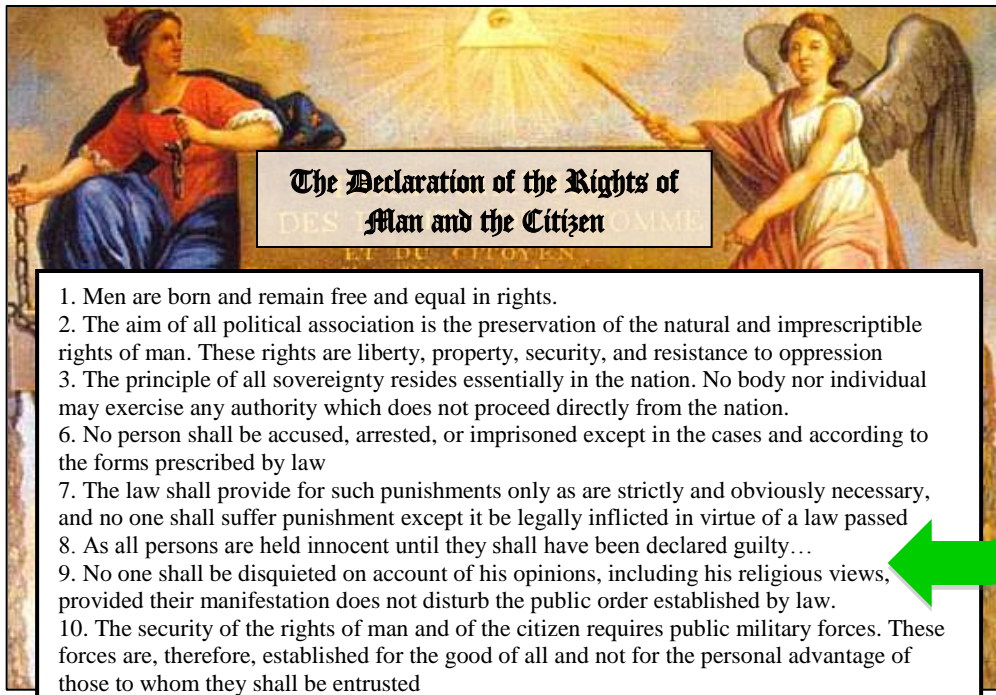
#### PRISONERS FREED:

Seven

#### LOCATION OF THE KEY:

Mt. Vernon (it was given to

 FREEMAN-PEDIA



### The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression
3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.
6. No person shall be accused, arrested, or imprisoned except in the cases and according to the forms prescribed by law
7. The law shall provide for such punishments only as are strictly and obviously necessary, and no one shall suffer punishment except it be legally inflicted in virtue of a law passed
8. As all persons are held innocent until they shall have been declared guilty...
9. No one shall be disquieted on account of his opinions, including his religious views, provided their manifestation does not disturb the public order established by law.
10. The security of the rights of man and of the citizen requires public military forces. These forces are, therefore, established for the good of all and not for the personal advantage of those to whom they shall be entrusted

LIST **TWO** RIGHTS YOU HAVE AS AMERICANS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO THE RIGHTS DECLARED IN THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND THE CITIZEN

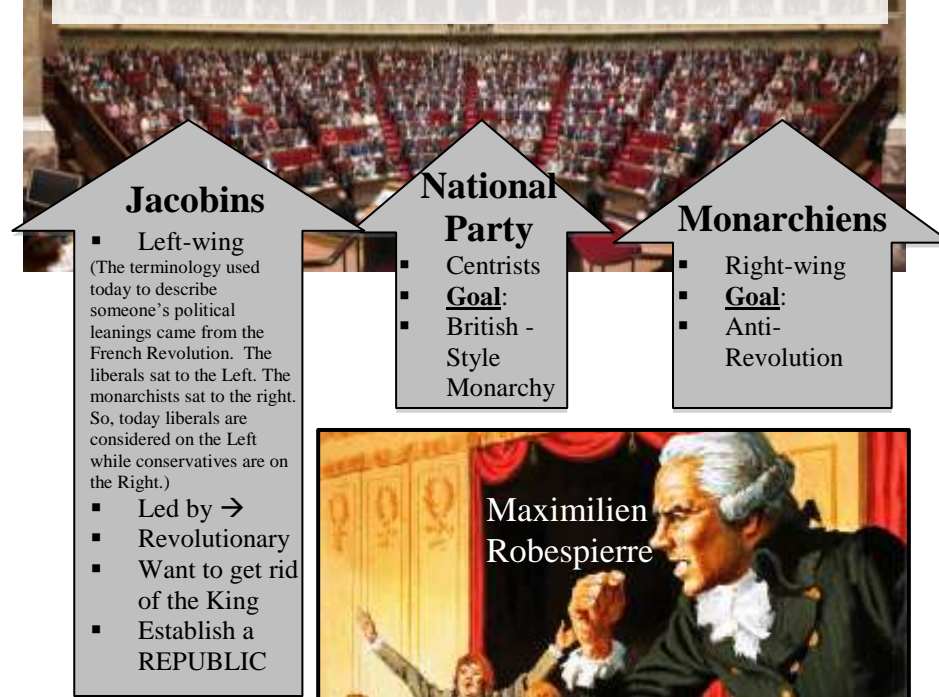
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

### MEANWHILE... BACK IN PARIS...



- Bread prices skyrocketed
- Women of Paris marched to Versailles
- Took the King/National Assembly back to Paris
- End of the Independent Authority of the King of France

### LAYOUT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



#### Jacobins

- Left-wing  
(The terminology used today to describe someone's political leanings came from the French Revolution. The liberals sat to the Left. The monarchists sat to the right. So, today liberals are considered on the Left while conservatives are on the Right.)
- Led by →
- Revolutionary
- Want to get rid of the King
- Establish a REPUBLIC

#### National Party

- Centrists
- Goal:  
British - Style Monarchy

#### Monarchiens

- Right-wing
- Goal:  
Anti-Revolution

Maximilien Robespierre



# RADICAL! REVOLUTION

To this point, the Revolution has been pretty tame. Sure, the Bastille fell and a few royal guards were beheaded. But, a few events exacerbated the Revolution into a bloody mix of beheadings and social change. Below is a retelling of these events.

## Flight of the King

- Dressed as servants, they fled for the border
- Caught (recognized King from \$\$\$ →)
- Returned under armed guard



## French Revolutionary Wars

- Every other European country was a Monarchy
- They all feared the Revolution and the idea of Republic
- France “pre-emptively” declared War on Austria
- Republic started Conscription; up to 1.5 Million troops!



## Execution of the King and Queen

- Jacobins put the King on trial
- “Conspiracy against the Public Liberty”
- Horrified the rest of Europe
- Many nations joined in the above wars
- Queen followed later that year



## Reign of Terror

- In lieu of the above, all government powers were given to: The **COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
- Leader: Maximilien Robespierre
- Fight both **EXTERNAL** & **INTERNAL** enemies
- Executed 40,000 people



The French Revolution wasn't all Guillotines & Constitutions. There were also major social changes. Below, we look at some of these...

## Social Changes

### Church

The Catholic Church was banned. All of its lands were confiscated, statues/crosses destroyed. It was replaced with the Cult of Reason et al.

### Calendar

Year One began with the first day of the Republic (1792). Clocks ran on decimal time and each week had ten days (no Sundays!)

### Clothes

Say, “Goodbye to Fancy Pants!” The old garb of the upper-estates fell out of fashion as people tried to dress more commonly. (*Sans-Culottes*)

### Estates

Say, “Goodbye to Estates, too!” The new Republic essentially ended the Nobility (and the Church, see above). Everyone was simply, “Citizen.”

### Women

Before the Revolution, women were considered “failed men” who did not fully form in the womb. Afterwards, they still could not vote but gained a greater voice in politics.



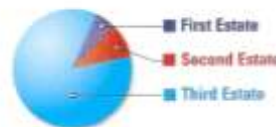
## FREEMAN-PEDIA

### Guillotine Facts & Figures

- Total weight of the Guillotine was 1278 lbs.
- The blade weighed 88 lbs.
- Height of the side posts was 14 ft.
- The power at impact was 888lbs. per square inch

### Beheading by Class

More than 2,100 people were executed during the last 132 days of the Reign of Terror. The pie graph below displays the breakdown of beheadings by class.



## FIN

(THE END)

- Jacobin's Reign of Terror went too far
- New Constitution in 1795
- 500 Member Parliament
- 5 Member Executive
  - **The Directory**
- Challenged by:
  - Jacobins
  - Royalists