

The French Revolution

I. The French Revolution Begins

A. The Old Regime: Three Estates

1. First Estate: Roman Catholic Clergy
 - a. Owned 10% of land and paid 2% of income in taxes
2. Second Estate: Rich Nobles
 - a. Owned 20% of land and paid almost no taxes

A. The Old Regime: Three Estates

3. Third Estate: Bourgeoise (middle class), urban lower class, and peasant farmers

- a. Embraced Enlightenment ideas
- b. Resented 1st and 2nd Estate
- c. Had no power or influence
- d. Paid high taxes

B. The Forces of Change

1. Voltaire and Rousseau's ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy influenced the Third Estate.
2. France's economy started to decline by the 1780s. Involvement in the American Revolution made the national debt worse.

B. The Forces of Change

3. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette made matters worse by their weak leadership and extravagant spending.

4. Louis XVI imposed taxes on the nobility, which led the Second Estate to call a meeting of the Estates-General.

C. Dawn of Revolution

1. Members of the Third Estate voted to form the National Assembly on June 17, 1789 (1st act of revolution).
2. The NA's pledge to meet to form a new constitution was the Tennis Court Oath.
3. A mob stormed the Bastille on July 14, 1789. The fall of Bastille became a symbolic act of the revolution.

D. A Great Fear Sweeps France

1. A wave of panic and rebellion known as the Great Fear spread through France.
2. The royal family left Versailles, marking the beginning of radical reforms.

**II. Revolution
Brings
Reform and
Terror**

A. The Assembly Reforms France

1. The NA eliminated the Old Regime (estates) in Aug. 1789, and adopted the Declaration of Rights of Man and of Citizen.
2. Revolutionary leaders adopted the expression “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity.”
3. The church soon lost its lands and political independence. The royal family tried to leave France but got caught.

B. Divisions Develop

1. The NA completed a new constitution in Sept. 1791 that created a limited constitutional monarchy and a Legislative Assembly.
2. Many problems, like debt and food shortages, continued.
 - 2a. Three groups formed in the LA: radicals, moderates, and conservatives.

B. Divisions Develop

2b. Nobles seeking the return of the Old Regime, Emigres, fled France.

2c. Parisian workers and shopkeepers called sans-culottes, wanted more change.

C. War and Execution

1. By 1792, France was at war with Prussia and Austria.
2. The Sept. Massacre in 1792 claimed over 1,000 lives.
3. Jacobin Jean-Paul Marat called for the execution of the king's supporters.

C. War and Execution

4. The monarchy was abolished, and a National Convention was put in place. In Jan. 1793, Louis XVI was found guilty of treason and was beheaded by the guillotine.

D. The Terror Grips France

1. Jacobin Maximilien Robespierre took control as a dictator and set to build a “republic of virtue.”
2. Robespierre launched a Reign of Terror to protect the Revolution from its enemies. About 40,000, many of whom were poorer, were executed from 1793-1794.
3. Marie Antoinette was also beheaded.

E. End of Terror

1. The Reign of Terror ended when Robespierre was beheaded by the guillotine in July 1794.
2. The NC drafted a new plan of government.