**First Estate**

comprised of the Roman Catholic clergy; 1% of the population

controlled 5-10% of the land in France

had $ from their lands as well as the 10% tithe from the Catholic populace

used the funds to help people w/schools, aid the poor, and maintain church property

also used the $ to support their grand lifestyles (!)

lower clergy came from common backgrounds

often sided with the poor, downtrodden

often resented the luxurious lifestyles of the upper clergy

**Second Estate**

nobility; 2% of the population; owned 25% of the land

held high posts in the gov’t and military

some lived in Versailles others in lavish homes on inherited land

had $ from feudal dues from peasants who lived on and worked their lands

**Third Estate**

97% of the population

owned 40% of the land but were poor b/c they had to pay taxes, tithes, and feudal dues and fines

bourgeoisie (middle class): doctors, lawyers, merchants, and business managers

lived in towns and cities, educated, relatively well-off

poor artisans and their families who worked for low wages and in poor conditions in the slums of Paris

peasants (largest group) lived in rural areas and had no effective voice in gov’tPre-Revolution France’s debt

increased by Louis XVI’s support of the colonies in American Revolution and Marie Antoinette’s spending on luxuries (clothing, jewels, parties, etc.)

**Estates-General**

summoned by Louis XVI in May 1789; hadn’t met since 1647

comprised of delegates representing each estate with east estate having one voteNational Assembly

created by members of the Third Estate when they were shut out of the Estates General after demanding per capita votes (rather than by estate)

**Tennis Court Pledge/Oath**

**June 14, 1789**

Third Estate members (mostly bourgeoisie), shut out of the Estates General, took an oath to stay together until they’d written a new constitution for France

**Storming of the Bastille**

**July 14, 1789**

angry mob surrounded and attacked this French fortress, arsenal, and prison

wanted to steal weapons to defend the National Assembly

prison commander lowered drawbridge in hopes of calming the crowd

they attacked and killed him

freed the 7 prisoners, killed prison commander and several soldiers

98 rioters killed; led to formation of a revolutionary government in Paris

**the Great Fear**

**July-August, 1789**

rumors spread that the nobility had hired robbers to kill peasants and seize their property

peasants armed themselves and some attacked and robbed nobles

**Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen**

**August 1789**

inspired by the Declaration of Independence and England’s Bill of Rights

incorporated the ideas of Enlightenment writers like Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau

all people are equal before the law

guaranteed freedom of speech, press, and religion

protected against unfair arrest and punishment

**March to Versailles**

**October, 1789**

King Louis XIV refused to accept the Declaration of Rights

thousands of women demanding bread marched on the palace at Versailles

demanded that the king and queen move to Paris; they did

National Assembly also moved to Paris

**Civil Constitution of the Clergy**

**July 12, 1790**

placed the French Church under gov’t control

turned clergy into elected, salaried officials

gov’t needed $: took & sold church lands, with permission of liberal French bishop Talleyrand

the Pope condemned these reforms and rift formed between Revolution and Catholic Church

**Constitution of 1791**

**September 3, 1791**

elected unicameral legislature and called it the Legislative Assembly

gave suffrage rights to all males who paid a minimum tax

delegates in Legislative Assembly were seated according to their political views

right: reactionary royalists (conservatives; didn’t want much change)

middle: moderates

left: radicals (liberals; favored change)

**September Massacres**

**1792**

Paris crowds attacked the king’s palace and killed several guards

Louis and Marie run to Legislative Assembly to hide; are arrested

imprisoned nobles and priests killed

radicals took over Legislative Assembly, creating the National Convention

called for a new constitution and extended the vote to all males (no tax)

**sans-culottes**

**1792-95-ish**

“without breeches”

Paris’s shopkeepers, artisans, etc. saw themselves as heroes and demanded respect from wealthy

everyone starts calling each other “citizen” or “citizeness”Jacobins

extreme radicals named for the convent they met in

Robespierre, Danton, Marat

formed the Mountain (sat high up in the NC chamber)

**Girondists**

**1792-1793**

moderates (from Girond region of France)

political faction within the Legislative Assembly and the National Convention who campaigned for the end of the monarchy but then resisted the spiraling momentum of the Revolution, causing many of them to die by guillotine

**The Reign of Terror**

**July 1793-July 1794**

period of violence incited by conflict between rival political factions, the Girondins and the Jacobins, and marked by mass executions

**Committee of Public Safety**

**July 1793**

Jacobin group ruled by Robespierre and headed by Georges Danton

hunted down traitors and handed down harsh penalties (often death)

people turned in their neighbors

80% of the 40,000 who died were commoners

**Republic of Virtue**

**1791-1794**

Jacobins wanted to create a democratic republic made up of good citizens

universal elementary education

issued pamphlets to farmers on good agricultural practices

price and wage controls instituted to halt inflation

abolished slavery in colonies

encouraged religious toleration

except for radical revolutionaries

didn’t like Catholics b/c of ties to monarchy and belief that they were the one true religion (closed their churches)

**The Directory**

**November 1795 - November 1799**

National Convention wrote new constitution in 1795

ended universal male suffrage (only property owners)

created bicameral legislature and an executive council of 5 men

wealthy middle class now controlling the government (again)

poor didn’t like it

**Napoleon Bonaparte**

1795, at 26, general in French army

protected the Directory from uprising

in command of French army fighting Austria

won control of most of northern Italy from Austrians

1799: fighting British in Egypt; won many battles but stranded among the Pyramids

hearing of bad political troubles at home, heads back

greeted by cheering crowds and joined leaders in a coup d’etat against the Directory