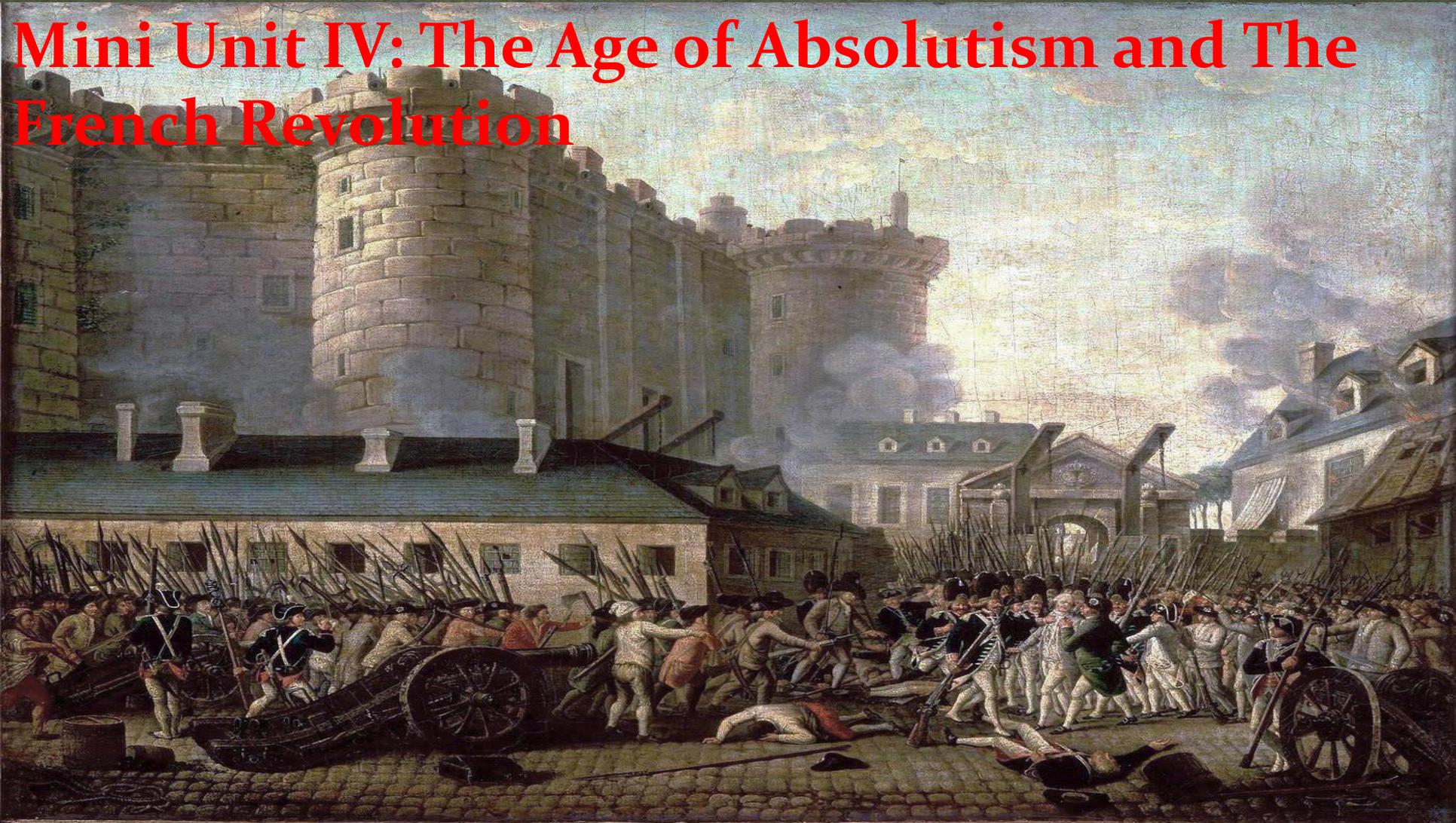


# Mini Unit IV: The Age of Absolutism and The French Revolution



# ENGLAND DEVELOPS INTO A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY 1689



# King v Parliament

1. Since 1215 when King John had signed the Magna Carta, group of nobles evolved into Parliament made up of the House of Lords and the House of Commons



# Queen Elizabeth I

1. Reign included frequent conflicts with Parliament over funds
2. Died in 1603-passed on huge debt to successor
3. Parliament's "power of the purse" → obstacle to English ruler's becoming absolute monarchs



# King James I

1. Elizabeth dies without an heir
2. James Stuart, King of Scotland was nearest relative (cousin)
3. Inherited Elizabeth's debt and struggled with Parliament over monetary issues
4. Angered Puritans because his religious reforms only included accepting a new translation of the Bible
5. Dies in 1625



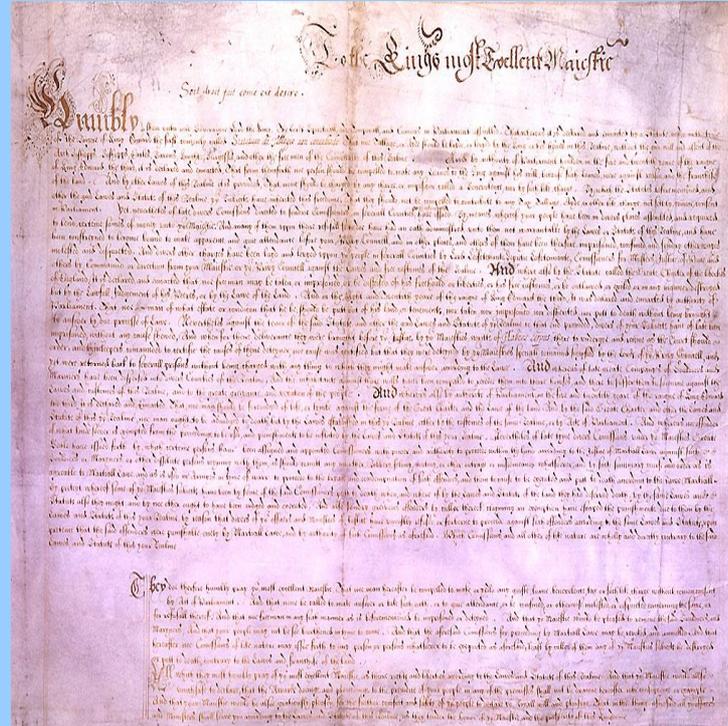
# King v Parliament

1. Son King Charles I took throne 1625, believed in “Divine Right” & behaved as absolute monarch
2. Needed \$ to fund war against Spain & France
3. When Parliament refuses to fund war→ dissolves it



# “Petition of Right”

1. 1628, Parliament forces Charles I to sign the “Petition of Right” → needed more \$ for war against Spain
2. Charles I agrees to four points:
  1. Cannot imprison subjects without due clause
  2. No taxes without Parliament’s consent
  3. Cannot house soldiers in private homes
  4. Cannot impose martial law in peacetime



# Events Leading to Civil War

1. Charles I ignores the Petition of Right
2. Offended Puritans by upholding the rituals of the Anglican Church
3. Forced Anglicanism on the Scots → Scots rebelled and threatened to invade England
4. To address threat, Charles called Parliament to session



# King v Parliament

1. Clash btw. Charles I & Parliament led to English Civil War 1642-1649
2. Parliament passed laws to limit royal power
3. Charles I tried to arrest members
4. Mob forced Charles I to flee to Northern England
  - a. Royalists/Cavaliers: wealthy nobles, supporters of king **vs.**
  - b. Roundheads: middle/low classes, Puritans



# King v Parliament

1. Led by Oliver Cromwell, Roundheads win ⇒ Public Trial ⇒ execute Charles I!!!
2. Guilty of treason against Parliament
3. 1<sup>st</sup> public execution of king



# King v Parliament

5. Supposedly a republic but Cromwell becomes military dictator
6. Tears up Constitution
7. Enforced a strict society based on Puritan principles



# King v Parliament

6. After Cromwell's death in 1658, England brings back Charles II (older son of Charles I) as king ⇒ called the Restoration



# The Glorious Revolution

1. Charles II's heir, brother James II, was Catholic which angered England
2. Appointed Catholic officials to high positions
3. Dissolved Parliament



# The Glorious Revolution

2. Parliament invites Protestant Dutch William & Mary to throne – James II flees to France



# The Glorious Revolution

3. However, in exchange for throne, Parliament makes William & Mary sign English Bill of rights (1689):
  - a. Requires monarch meet w/ Parliament regularly
  - b. House of Commons (lower house of Parl.) has “power of the purse” (control of money)
  - c. Formally states traditional rights of English citizens
    - i. trial by jury
    - ii. no cruel/unusual punishment
    - iii. protects habeas corpus



# The Glorious Revolution

4. This makes England constitutional monarchy (monarch has limited power by a constitution and/or legislature)
5. Bloodless overthrow called “Glorious Revolution”



# France Develops into an Absolute Monarchy



# Louis XIV

1. Louis XIV inherits throne 1643 at age 4



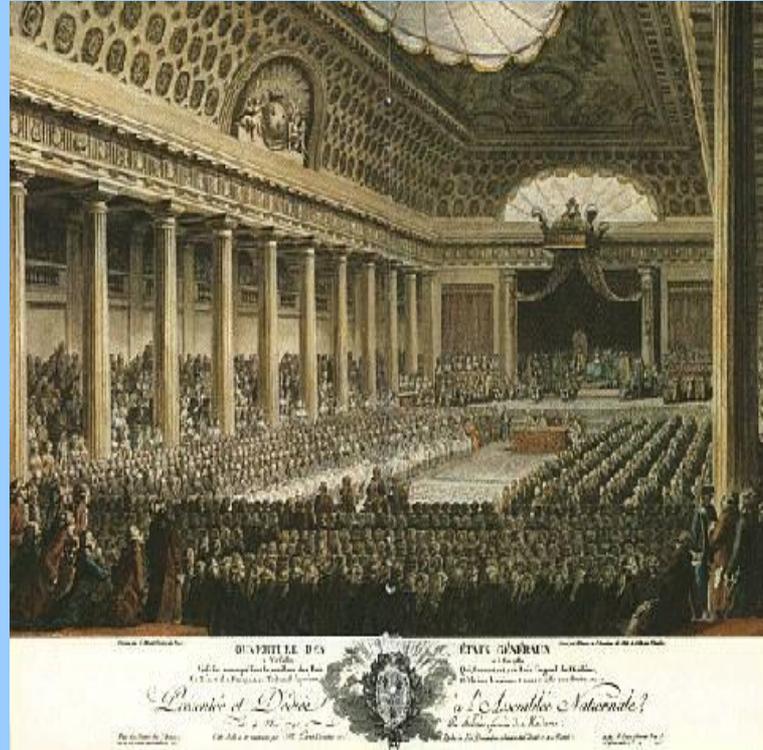
# Louis XIV

3. Like Charles II in England, Louis XIV believed in “Divine Right”
  1. Called the “Sun King” since believed he was at center of things like sun
  2. Famous quotation: “I am the state.”



# Louis XIV

4. Louis never called Estates General (France's version of Parliament)  $\Rightarrow$  no check on king's power



# Louis XIV

5. Louis worked to increase power
  - a. Gave govt. jobs to middle class – responsible for collecting taxes administering justice ⇒ builds loyalty
  - b. Established army of 300,000
  - c. Built huge palace Versailles ⇒ nobles forced to live there
  - d. Fought wars vs. English, Dutch, gained territory in New World



# Louis XIV

6. Later, this lavish spending will hurt France's economy, one of many factors leading to revolution!







Warm Up:

# THE THREE ESTATES

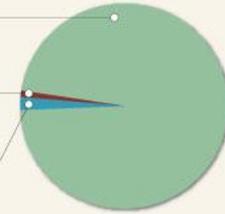


## Population of France, 1787

97% (Third Estate)

less than 1%  
(First Estate)

2% (Second Estate)



## Percent of Income Paid in Taxes

2% (First Estate)

0% (Second Estate)

50% (Third Estate)

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



1. Who do you think belongs to the First, Second and Third Estate by examining the picture?
2. How does the chart and graph help explain the political cartoon?
3. Why might the First and Second Estate be opposed to change?

The  
French  
Revolution

# King Louis XVI

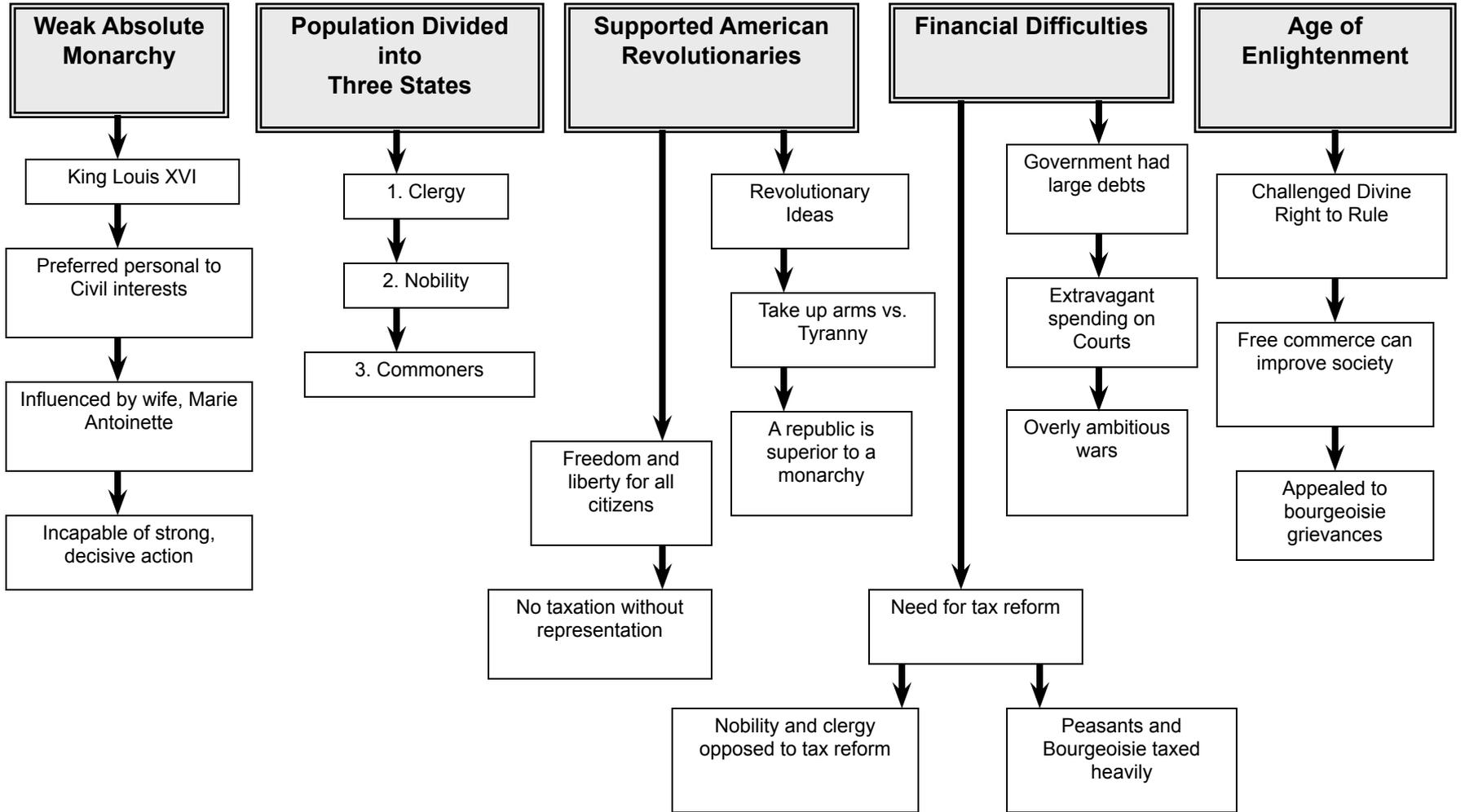
•Louis XVI was a weak absolute ruler because he was indecisive and lacked judgment





## **Queen Marie Antoinette**

**Marie Antoinette was unpopular because She was Austrian and she had very expensive tastes, even when everyone else was suffering in the midst of economic trouble**





**Diderot**



**Voltaire**

# Social Problems

When the philosophes were at their peak, French society was incredibly divided.

<b>First Estate</b>	<b>Second Estate</b>	<b>Third Estate</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Roman Catholic Clergy</li><li>•Owned 10% of the Land, were very wealthy</li><li>•Were exempt from taxes, but “gifted” some money to the government</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Nobility</li><li>•Owned about 20% of the land</li><li>•Held all high offices</li><li>•Refused to pay taxes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•The Commoners</li><li>•About 98% of the population</li><li>•Included the bourgeoisie, urban poor, and peasant farmers</li><li>•Bourgeoisie were educated and wealthy</li></ul>



# France was in Fiscal Ruin

- **Because of financial support for the American Revolution, France was in deep debt.**
- **In order to recoup that debt, the burden of taxation fell more and more heavily on the peasants**
- **Several poor growing seasons meant bread shortages in a country where bread was a staple.**
- **Finally, Louis XVI decided that he needed to tax the nobility**

# The Estates General

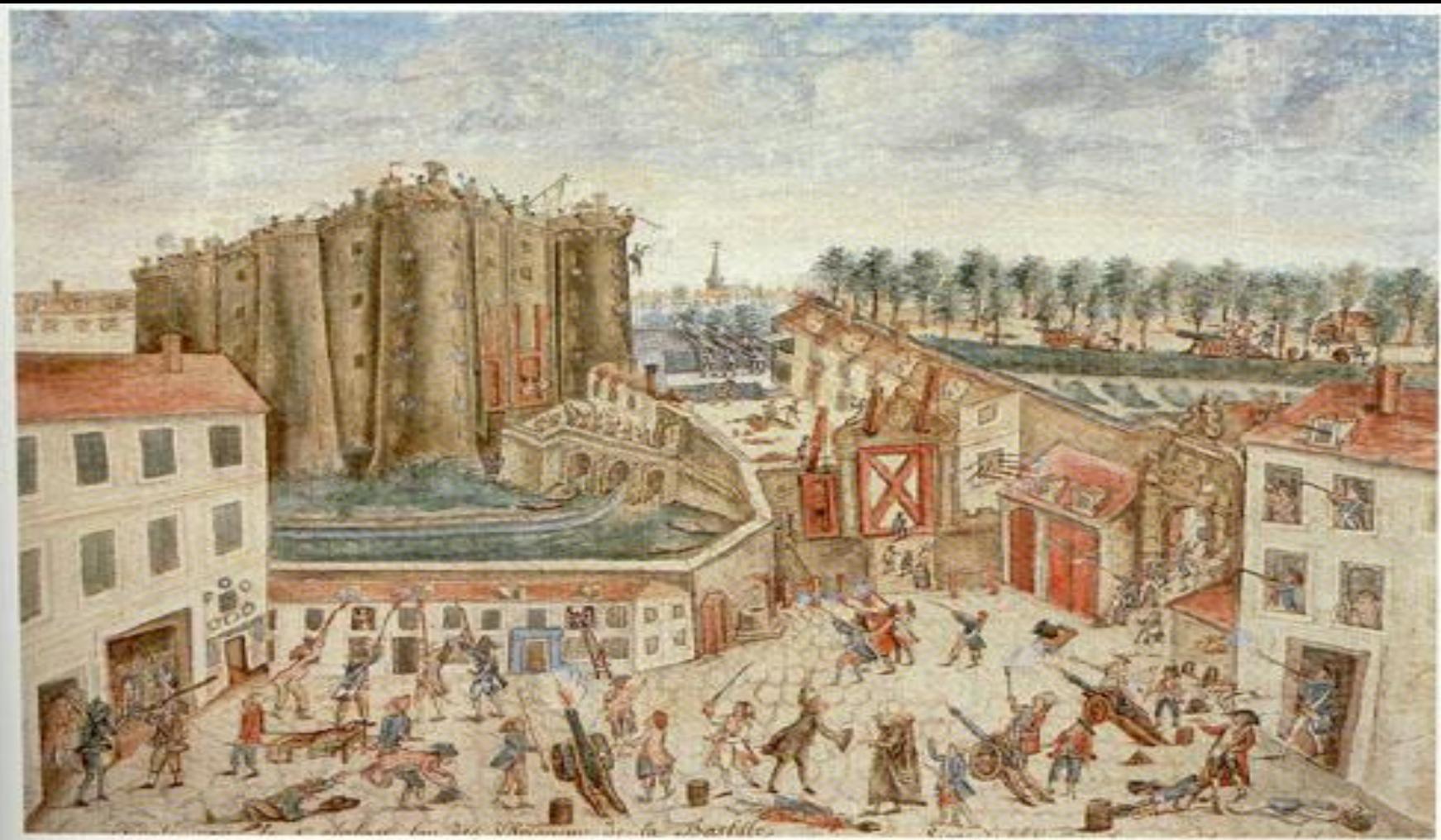
- **Before the Nobility would even hear of being taxed, they required that Louis XVI revive the medieval practice of convening an Estates General.**
- **Started in 1302 by Philip IV, the Estates General provided a forum for the three estates to work together on various issues**
- **Initially used by the king to usurp power from the clergy, in this instance it was used by the third estate to usurp power from the king.**

# The Tennis Court Oath

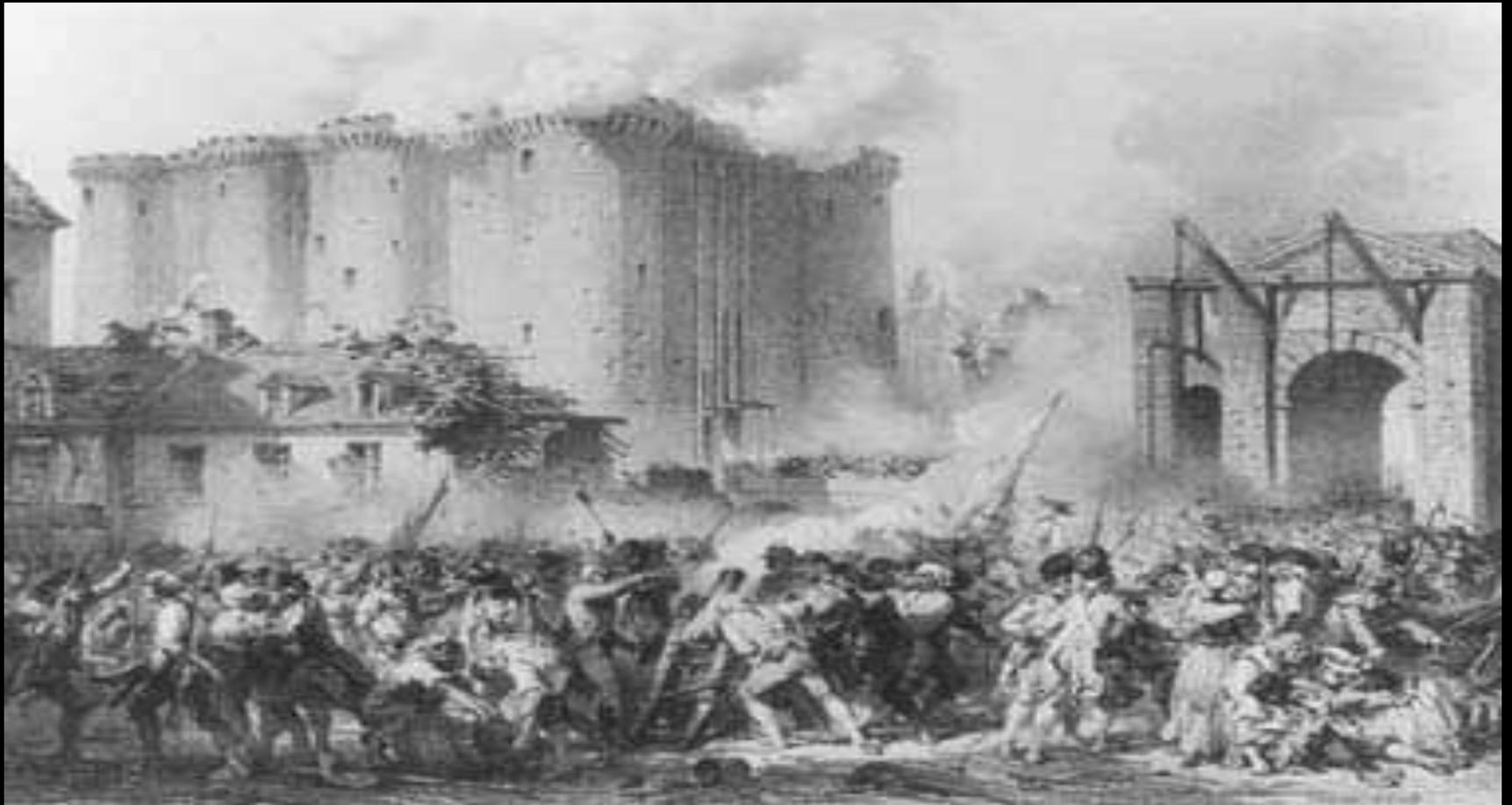
- In May 1789, Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General.
- At this meeting, the third Estate demanded that instead of each estate getting one equal vote, that each *member* of each estate get one equal vote
- Barred from the Estate General meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate met in the tennis court of Versailles where they changed their name to the National Assembly and determined to create laws.

# The Bastille

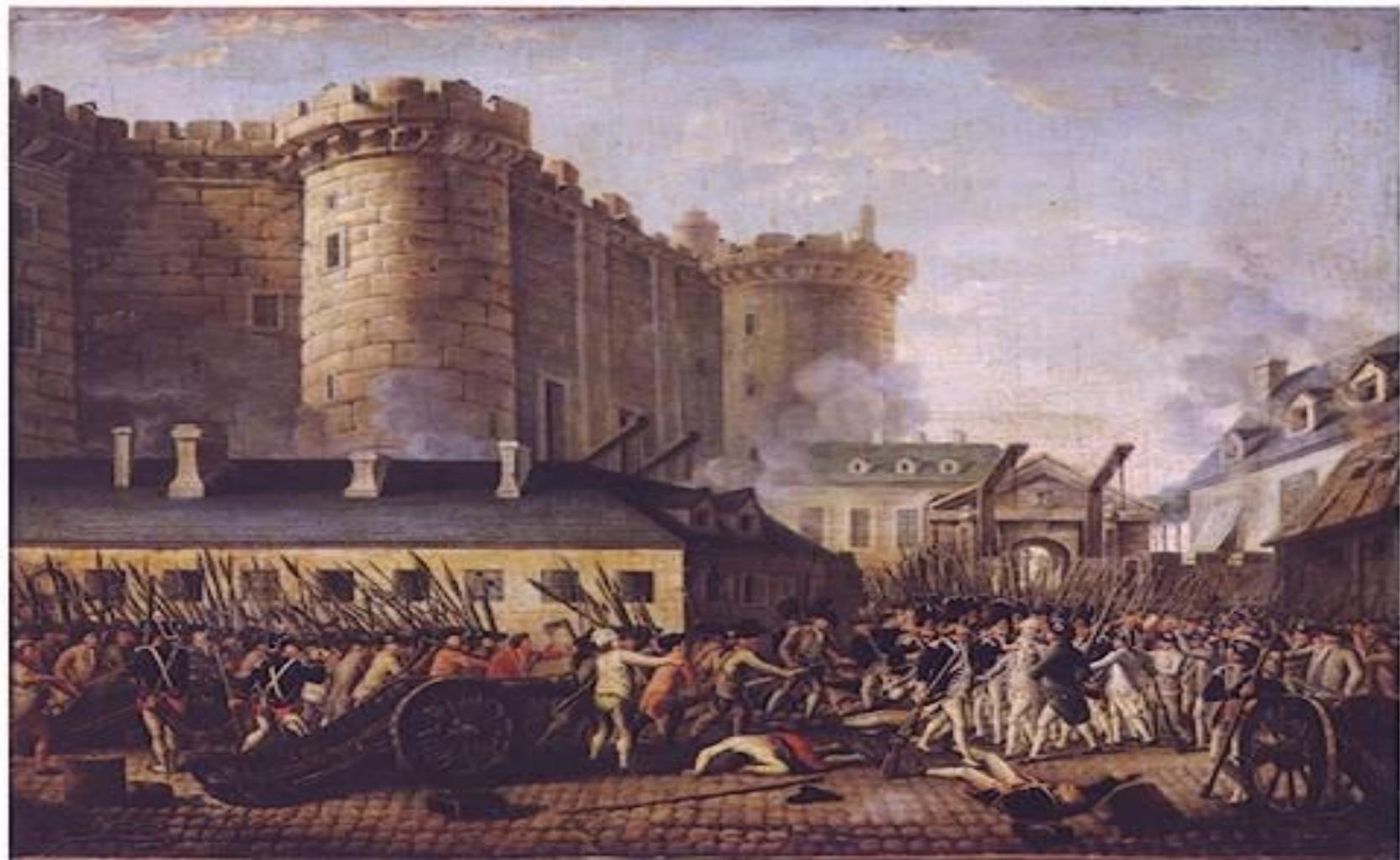
- **Louis XVI accepted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estates demands, but sent a group of Swiss guards to march on Paris to quiet what was becoming a rebellion**
- **In Paris, mobs assembled to get bread and gunpowder and stormed the Bastille, which was an armory and prison in the center of Paris**
- **On July 14, 1789, the Bastille fell, the Parisian mobs were armed and the rebellion was in full force**







**A 1794 rendition of the fall of the Bastille**



# The Great Fear

- **As the National Assembly met to form the basis of new government, the French countryside erupted in violence**
- **Rumors and conspiracies spread about how the nobility were plotting to end the insurrection**
- **Mobs of peasants roamed the countryside burning the houses of nobles and demanding lower prices for bread**
- **In October, a mob made its way from Paris to Versailles, killed three guards and forced the king and his family to go to Paris.**
- **It would be their *last* “family trip”**

# The National Assembly

*In the midst of the great fear, on August 4, 1789 the National Assembly met to form the basis of a new government. This government included:*

- 1) **The Rights of Man:** a document entitled *The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen* made guarantees for equal justice, freedom of speech and freedom of religion
- 2) **Limited Monarchy:** An elected assembly made laws and the king maintained executive power to uphold them
- 3) **Creation of Departments:** Instead of fiefdoms, France was divided into 83 districts called departments. These would be administered by an elected council of local citizens
- 4) **Church controlled by State:** Church land was seized and the Church was no longer politically or legally independent. Furthermore, priests and officials would be elected

# Louis XVI approves

- The king approved of the new constitution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man.
- ...but then he and his family disguised themselves, hopped in a carriage, and headed straight for the Austrian border.
- They were recognized, captured, and brought back to Paris.
- The King's credibility as an honest broker for democracy was ruined—conspiracy theories abounded.

# Control of France...

- **The General assembly handed power over to a legislature in September of 1791.**
- **But just because power changed hands, it did not mean that bread shortages and poor living standard suddenly changed.**
- **The Legislature split into different groups, *conservatives (right)*, *radicals (left; sans-culottes)* and *moderates (center)*.**
- **Meanwhile, nobility who had been ousted lived outside of France and plotted their returns...**

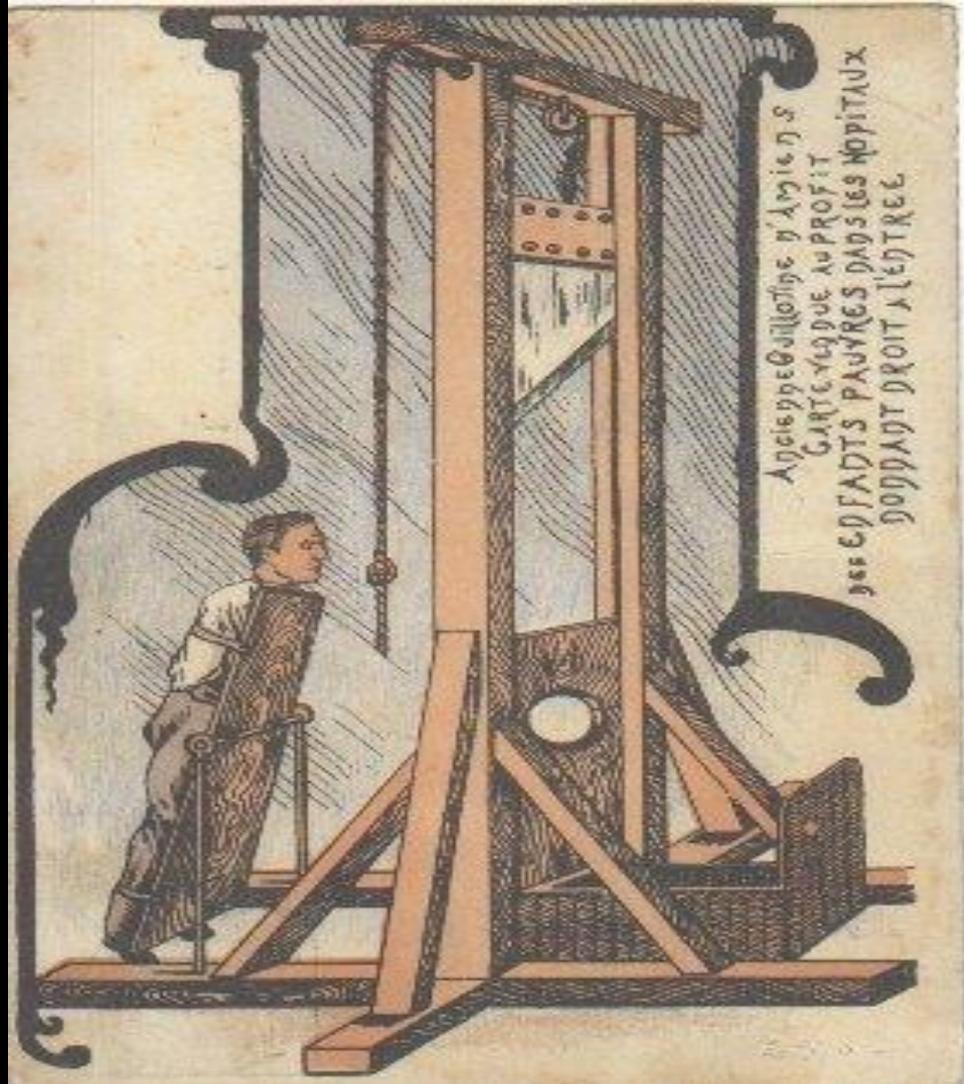
# War with Austria

- The ruler of Austria (Marie Antoinette's brother) threatened war with France
- Instead, France declared war on Austria and Prussia in an attempt to spread revolution through Europe.
- After the Prussians threatened to ruin Paris if the royal family was harmed, mobs stormed the royal palace in Paris and took custody of the royal family
- In 1792, the Legislative assembly put aside the constitution, declared the king deposed and handed complete control over to the National Convention (in which the king had no control)

# Radicals Seize Control

- In the summer of 1792, unruly mobs essentially controlled the country.
- The most radical of the political groups was the Jacobins
- Georges Danton and Jean Paul Marat became two of the more famous of the Jacobin speakers
- These men advocated for execution of enemies... Marat advocated that France needed “five or six hundred heads cut off” to advance the revolution
- After a quick vote on January 21, 1793, Louis XVI was led to the guillotine...





Appieppe Guillotie d'Amiens  
GARTEVQUE AU PROFIT  
DES EFFADTS PAUVRES DAD LES HOPITAUX  
DONNANT DROIT A L'ENTREE

# The Guillotine

**Was designed for “efficient” execution**

**Executions were held in public before large crowds**

**Executioners would hold up the head of the victim face out toward the crowd.**

**This way the crowd could confirm that the right person had been executed, and maybe the victim could get one last glimpse of the crowd cheering their death...**



# France Faces War...

- **In the fall of 1792, Austria, Prussia, Britain Spain and Portugal formed a coalition to fight France.**
- **The French had no way to raise money for an army, recruit soldiers, etc—the government was brand new.**
- **The convention drafted 300,000 men aged 18-40 in February 1793 and another 500,000 by 1794**
- **The army was quite effective because they were all French, and they were dedicated to the defense of their country.**

# ***Levee en Masse***

- **The mass conscription (*Levee en Masse*) created the largest European army ever**
- **This enormous (roughly 800,000) army laid the foundations for Napoleon's domination of Europe**
- **It also marked the beginning of "Total War," or using ALL of society's resources to wage war against an enemy.**

# The Terror

- The Jacobins controlled the government, but they faced many opponents *within* France
- Not all French people were happy about the beheading of the royal family, subjugation of the Church or other moves by the Jacobin-controlled government
- Within the Jacobin party, a man named Maximilien Robespierre “The Incorruptible” gained control.

# Robespierre

- Unlike many of the Jacobins, Robespierre looked the part of a nobleman; He wore a powdered wig and dressed nicely...as you can see
- He was supposedly an honest man who did not use his power for personal financial gain (thus the nickname “The Incorruptible”)
- He and his followers believed that France needed to purge all remnants of the old nobility and clergy.



# Examples...

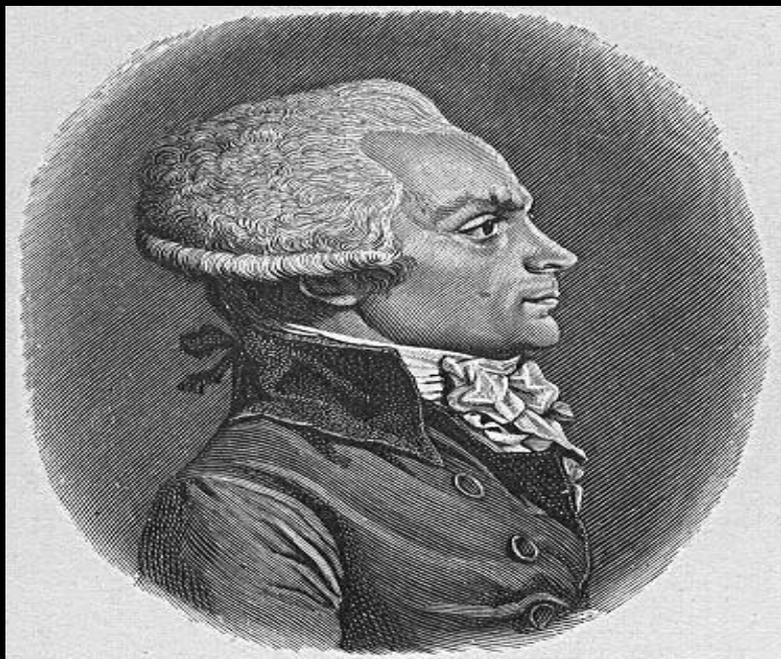
- Churches across the country were closed, damaged, and people stopped praying to God, but instead to the “Supreme Being,” and other secular ideas
- The months of the calendar were replaced with “scientific” or “reasonable” names
- Playing cards no longer used royal face cards
- Any and all celebrations were purely secular, celebrating instead liberte, fraternite, egalite.

# The Left goes too far...

- Unfortunately, Robespierre and his followers took the revolutionary ideals too far.
- Many moderates and other revolutionaries were executed in the reign of terror out of excessive revolutionary zeal... Their crime: They were not radical *ENOUGH*
- Marat was stabbed to death by a radical woman, and Danton was executed on the scaffold
- Others were sent to death for silly, circumstantial purposes—usually accused of not being revolutionary enough
- Some 3000 Parisians were executed and many think that upwards of 40,000 were killed in France.

# The Fall of Robespierre

- Many members of the National Convention started to fear Robespierre, and with good reason
- Danton and others had taught them...
- By July 1794, a group of conspirators called for Robespierre's arrest shouting "Down with the tyrant!"  
on July 28, 1794, Robespierre was sent to the guillotine



**THE DEATH OF ROBINSON**

*Robinson was executed on the guillotine  
 according to his Majesty's orders, after  
 having been first condemned to  
 death, without having had any  
 trial of record.*

**LA MONT DE ROSENPIERRE**

*Robinson was executed on the guillotine  
 according to his Majesty's orders, after  
 having been first condemned to  
 death, without having had any  
 trial of record.*

# The Directory

- **Following Robespierre's execution, people were sick of the terror, and a new constitution was drafted.**
- **the government of France now had a two-house legislature and an executive body of 5 men known as the Directory**
- **These five political moderates brought stability to France, despite some corruption**
- **The appointed a man named Napoleon Bonaparte to be the general of France's military**



# Napoleon Bonaparte

- **Born 1769 on Corsica**
- **He joined the army of the new government after the revolution broke out**
- **He was appointed by the Directory to command the French against Austria and Sardinia in 1796**
- **Marching over the Alps, he conquered much of Northern Italy**
- **Really, France was still experiencing a power vacuum.**
- **In this vacuum, Napoleon soon commanded the respect and loyalty of an army...**

# Napoleon Takes Control

- **By November 9 1799, the Directory had lost the confidence of the French people, and Napoleon seized his opportunity**
- **In a coup d'etat, Napoleon forced the legislature to overthrow the five Directors, and put in place three consuls.**
- **Napoleon appointed himself the First Consul, essentially taking dictatorial powers**
- **Attacked on all sides, France accepted this military leader**
- **From 1799 to 1802, France fought back Italian, Russian and English attackers**
- **In March 1802, Britain and France signed the Treaty of Amiens, bringing peace to Europe...but not for long...**



Jacques-Louis David,  
*Napoleon at St. Bernard*  
1800 (30 Kb)

# Emperor Napoleon

- Initially, Napoleon claimed he had the constitutional right to rule, and had been chosen
- But then in 1800, Napoleon had the French constitution rewritten, which made him Consul
- In 1802, he passed another vote that made him Consul for *life*.
- He had himself coronated Emperor Napoleon I





**The Coronation Ceremony**



**Emperor Napoleon**



**Napoleon, Emperor of  
France**

*Jean-Auguste-Dominique  
Ingres  
1806*

# Real Reforms

- **As emperor, Napoleon, set up a central bank and balanced the nation's budget**
- **By doing this, he slowed inflation and improved his people's economic well-being**
- **He also started to allow traditional religious practice in France. Bishops were still elected, but they could choose priests**
- **He also had the Napoleonic Code written, which was a new set of laws drafted from 1801 to 1804**

# Napoleonic Wars

- **Napoleon continued his military campaigns, and took over northern Italy and Switzerland**
- **In the face of aggression, Britain declared war in 1803**
- **In 1805 Britain persuaded Russia, Austria, Sweden and Prussia to form a coalition to attack France**
- **At a series of brilliant battles, Napoleon dominated his enemies**
- **But at the battle of Trafalgar, the British Navy under lord Nelson dealt a defeat to Napoleon's Fleet.**
- **This destroyed the French fleet and ended Napoleon's dreams of taking England by sea**



**Artist's Depiction of Trafalgar**

...As you can see, France (in blue) dominated all of Europe except for England, Sweden Portugal and Russia



**Napoleon's Empire 1812**

- French Empire
- French satellites
- Major battles

Napoleon's empire and the lands of his satellite kings allied to him stretched across the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, most of modern Germany and Poland

# Instability

- Partly because the empire was so large, it was also unstable
- Napoleon's empire lasted until 1812; at its largest, it only lasted for 5 years
- In 1806, Napoleon tried to cut off all trade to Britain by setting up a blockade—he called this the *continental system*
- This only angered the British, and they responded with their own aggressions at sea.
- This helped drag America into war with England in 1812
- In addition, the people of the conquered lands openly resisted Napoleon's rule—especially Spain
- Finally, in 1812, Napoleon invaded Russia...

# The March to Russia

- In 1812, Napoleon took an army of 400,000 men toward Moscow.
- The Russians simply retreated, destroying anything of value in their retreat so that the French soldiers would not use it (food, shelter)
- Napoleon took Moscow (it too had been abandoned) and occupied it for five weeks.
- He finally decided to return to France, his army half-starved and poorly equipped to deal with the weather
- His troops were mercilessly attacked by the Russians as they retreated
- After he had left Russia, there were only 10,000 fit soldiers left...



# Napoleon's defeat

- **Again, Britain, Sweden, Russia and Prussia joined forces to defeat Napoleon**
- **In 1813, Napoleon met the allies at Leipzig (Germany), where he was dealt a defeat**
- **By January of 1814, his army was crumbling and the allies marched into Paris**
- **Napoleon was exiled to Elba and the brother of Louis XVI, Louis XVIII took control of France**

# Conclusion

- **The new Bourbon king Louis XVIII was unpopular and was chased out of France in nine short months**
- **Napoleon escaped from his exile and returned to France, where he was able to quickly gather an army of volunteers**
- **He marched into Paris to a hero's welcome**
- **The Grand Alliance again had to muster to defend against Napoleon, and the armies of the duke of Wellington (Britain) and Napoleon met at Waterloo on June 18, 1815**
- **After the Prussian army arrived to shore up the British, Napoleon's army gave way**
- **Napoleon was again exiled to a remote island, Helena, where he lived for six years until he died in 1821**