



SALTORA NETAJI CENTENARY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
U.G.History -Honours
Semester- IV
Course Code: AHHST401 C-8
History of Europe (1789-1945)

Topic
Causes of
The French Revolution of 1789

Presented by

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French Revolution 1789

Old regime-before 1789

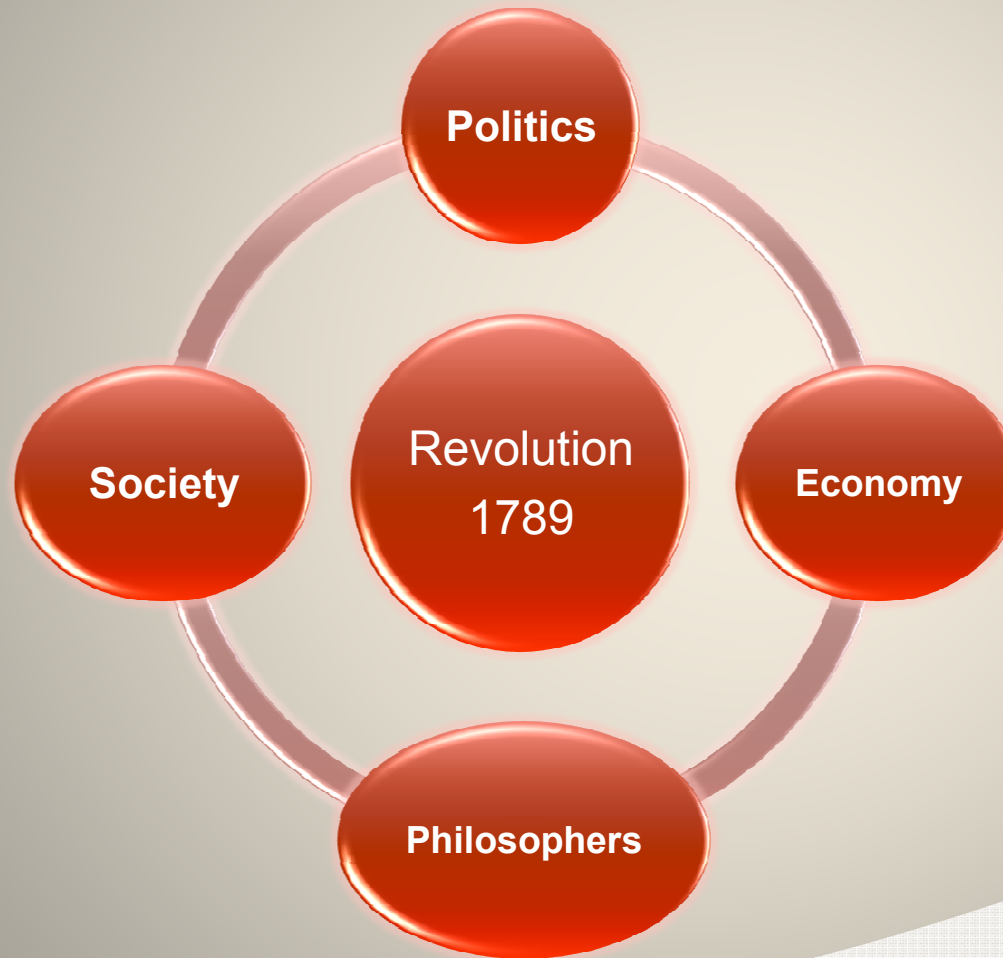
Monarchy-Administration- Politics-
Society- Economy

King: Louis- XVI

Started with demolition of Bastille fortress-
prison by the people on 14 July 1789

Ideas of the Revolution:
Liberty, fraternity, equality.

CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION 1789



Social causes of the Revolution

**SOCIAL
INEQUALITY**

**THREE
ESTATES**

**FIRST
ESTATE
The
Clergy**

**SECOND ESTATE
The Nobility
(Administration)**

**THIRD ESTATE
The Commoners**

First Estate- The Clergy (Privileged class)

- ❑ The clergy, which included priests, was in charge of the Catholic church and certain other facets of the nation. Apart from maintaining birth, death, and marriage records, the clergy also held the authority to impose a 10% tax known as the tithe.
- ❑ The First Estate possessed a substantial quantity of French land and was granted many rights and privileges.
- ❑ Tax Exempted.

Second Estate- The Nobility

(Privileged class)

- The French nobility, including members of the royal family, comprised the Second Estate, with the exception of the King.
- Exemption from paying taxes.
- Members of the Second Estate also obtained taxes from the Third Estate.

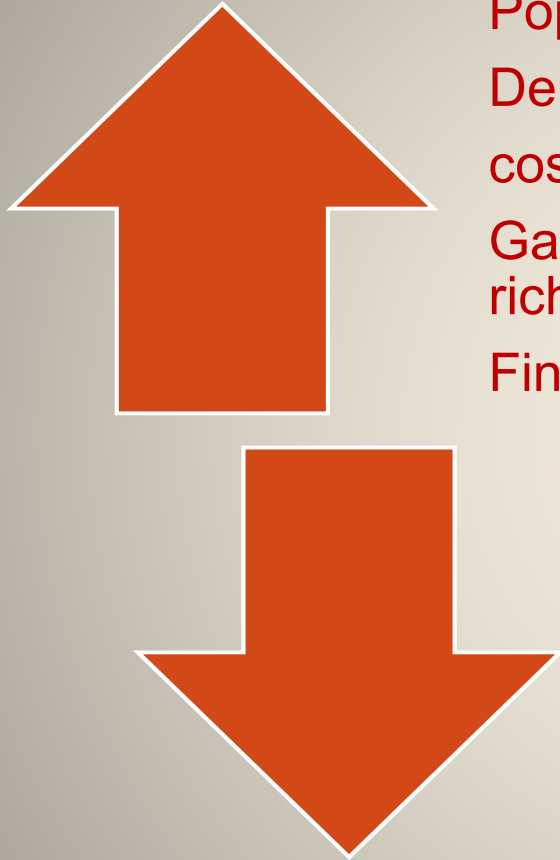
Third Estate

The Bourgeois

(Un-privileged class)

- Upper- wealthy merchants, Businessmen
Middle-educated bourgeoisie, professionals, skilled artisans
- Lower- peasants (80 percent of the population), working classes, city workers, servants, beggars, *the sans-culottes*
- Roughly 96% of France population belonged to the Third Estate
- Required to pay a huge range of direct and indirect taxes, received no privileges.
- denied social equality and political rights.
- taxation reform was a critical and sensitive issue

Economy in 1789



Population

Demand of food grains

cost of bread

Gap between poor and rich

Financial crisis

Production of grains

Wages of working class

The problems with the Monarchy

Empty treasury
Restricted
mercantilism

Involvement in
Wars incurred
debt

Extravagant
Palace of
Versailles

Rising taxes to
meet Expenses

Power and
prestige of
Monarchy
declined

Tax levied on Third Estate

Taille (land tax)

Capitation (poll tax)

Vingtième (income tax)

Tithe (Church tax)

Corvée (forced road work)

Gabelle (salt tax)

**Feudal dues for use of local manor's
winepress, oven, etc.**



Popular cartoon:

" The Third Estate carrying the Clergy and the Nobility on its back."

French Revolution: The role of Philosophers

- ❑ Jean Jacques Rousseau- **Social Contract**
- ❑ Montesquieu - **The Spirit of the Laws**
The Persian Letters
- ❑ Voltaire – **Candid**

d'Alembert and Diderot – Encyclopedie

Physiocrats

- Influence of other successful revolutions
 - England's Glorious Revolution
 - American Revolution

Estates-General

May, 1789

Summoned by King LouisXVI
Propose solutions to France's financial problems
Taxation issues
Conflict regarding Representation of Estates

Abbé Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès - **"What is the Third Estate?"**

THE TENNIS COURT OATH

June 20, 1789

◇ **First Estate** + ◇ **Second Estate** - vs. - ◇ **Third Estate**

“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.”



The Storming of the Bastille, 14 July 1789

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution

George Lefebvre, Coming of the French Revolution.

Albert Soboul- A short History of the French Revolution -1789-1799, July 1977

E.J. Hobsbawm: The Age of Revolution.

Prafulla Kumar Chakrabarti, Pharashi Biplab.

Subhas Ranjan Chakrabarti, Europeer Itihas.

Thanks