



Intro to French Revolution

Beginning of change!

- I. Key intro terms:
- **1st Estate**= members of the religious clergy (paid no taxes)
- **2nd Estate**= nobility (had government or military positions, wealth (paid no taxes)
- **3rd Estate** = peasants and middle class society, were the largest group of people, paid taxes
- **King Louis XVI**= monarch of France (1774-1792)
- **Marie Antoinette**= wife of the king who was known for her large spending of money.



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- ▶ II. Intro to revolution
- ▶ A. May 1789- The king called members of the Three Estates together to talk about the problem of debt faced by France because of the **American Revolutionary War**. The country had also had a **drought** and **hailstorm**.
- ▶ B. The **3rd Estate** could not outvote the first 2 Estates because they each only had one vote and the First and Second Estate did not want to approve taxes on themselves.
- ▶ C. June 1789- The Third Estate formed their own group- the **National Assembly**
- ▶ D. Third Estate were “locked out” of the Estates’ meeting and moved to an indoor **tennis court**.
- ▶ E. Took the **Tennis Court Oath**- wanted a new **constitution** written up and new rights from the king.



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- III. Beginning of French Revolution
- A. July 1789- **Bastille Prison** was stormed by an angry crowd of people (many without jobs and hungry) **Prisoners** were set free, but little ammunition was gained.
- B. August 1789- The National Assembly approved a new document **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** which stated new rights for individuals.
- C. Motto of French Revolution = **Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality**



Activity and application

- ▶ **Activity:** List below 5 **specific** rights that you would demand in this new Declaration if you were living at this time in France.
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