

# The French Revolution



# Pre-Revolutionary Period: People

- Louis the 14<sup>th</sup> – The Sun King – had created a great kingdom but still an absolute monarchy.

- Louis the 16<sup>th</sup> had been a very poor leader and had led to the ultimate downfall of Absolute Monarchies.  
-heavy taxation and rising costs of wheat

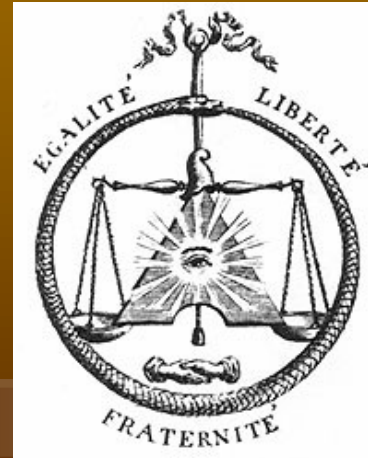
## THE ESTATES

- First Estate : The Clergy (exempt from taxes);

- Second Estate: The Nobility (exempt from taxes);

- Third Estate: The middle class and peasants.

- The Estates-General was a gathering of the Estates that had the right to vote on taxes and veto a tax raise.



# Pre-Revolutionary People: cont'd

## The Intelligentsia

### **Maximilien-Robespierre:**

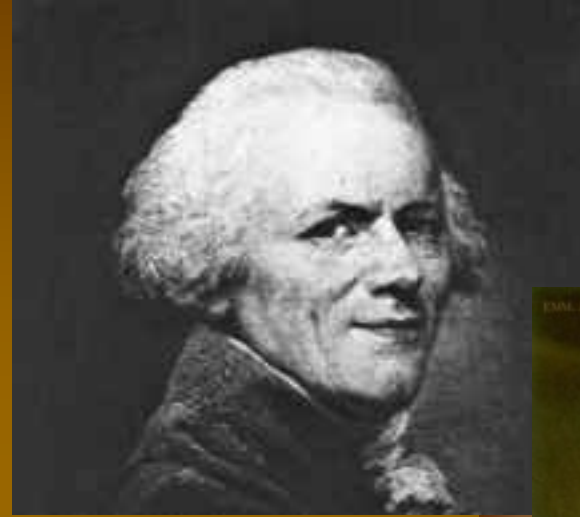
Leader of the Jacobins and major instigator of the French Revolution

-elected deputy of the Estates-General

### **Emmanuel Joseph Sieyes:**

created literary work on ideals of the revolution and stated: "What is the Third Estate? Everything."

-**Mirabeau:** a man who had dreamed of a French Constitutional Monarchy – much like Britain had during this era.



# The Salons

- These were places where all people were welcome to discuss political issues openly and comfortably

- Women played a large role in the salons and this way were assistants to the revolution

- This is where people were able to find such people as Voltaire, Mme. Geoffrin, and many others

- The first encyclopedia ever was made among these salons



# The People Rise Up: The Tennis Court Oath and....

- First two Estates called upon the old and classic way of voting: each party gets one vote; this left the nobility with the upper hand at all times

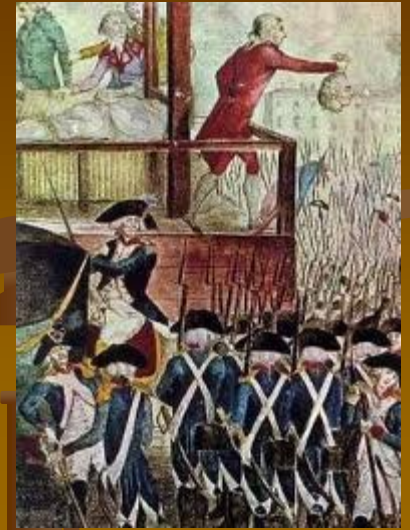
- Third Estate representatives were outraged and called for a new system

- The Tennis Court Oath: on June 17<sup>th</sup>, the first two estates decided to proclaim themselves the national assembly. The third estate was locked out of the vote. They gathered in the Tennis Court and proclaimed themselves the National Assembly on June 20<sup>th</sup>—true representatives of France.



# Leaders of the Revolution

- The Triumvirate
- Robespierre – led Committee of Public Safety – State Terror
- Jean-Paul Marat – argued that the Revolution had to be defended at all cost, including violence - “No mercy”. Killed in a bathtub by his servant.
- Georges Danton – leader of the Jacobin Party, argued for the death of King Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette and raising an army to defend the Republic. Executed by guillotine, on order of Robespierre.



# The Storming of The Bastille

The Bastille was a large fortress which doubled as a prison; to the revolutionaries it was a "sign of oppression."

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1789 the people and some soldiers stormed the fortress looking for prisoners to free (of which there were only seven) and weapons to fight back against the Kings army.

This had become the turning point where reform turned into the full forced revolution.

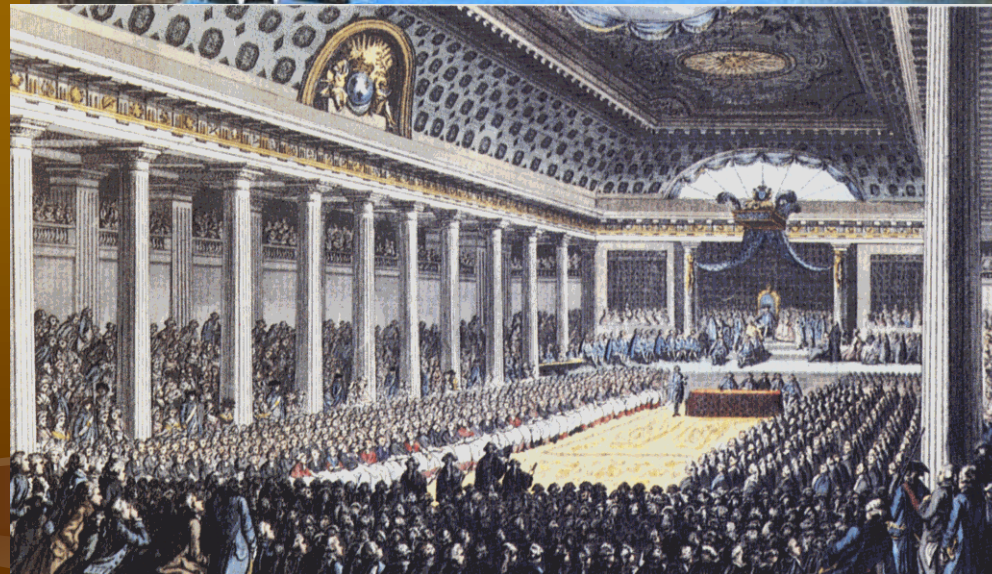


# During the Revolution

The political spectrum was changing: the nobility became afraid of the escalating violence and one by one turned to join sides and put an end to the feudal system on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1789

Near the end of August, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of Citizen was created and carried through reluctantly by Louis the 16<sup>th</sup> on Sept. 14, 1791

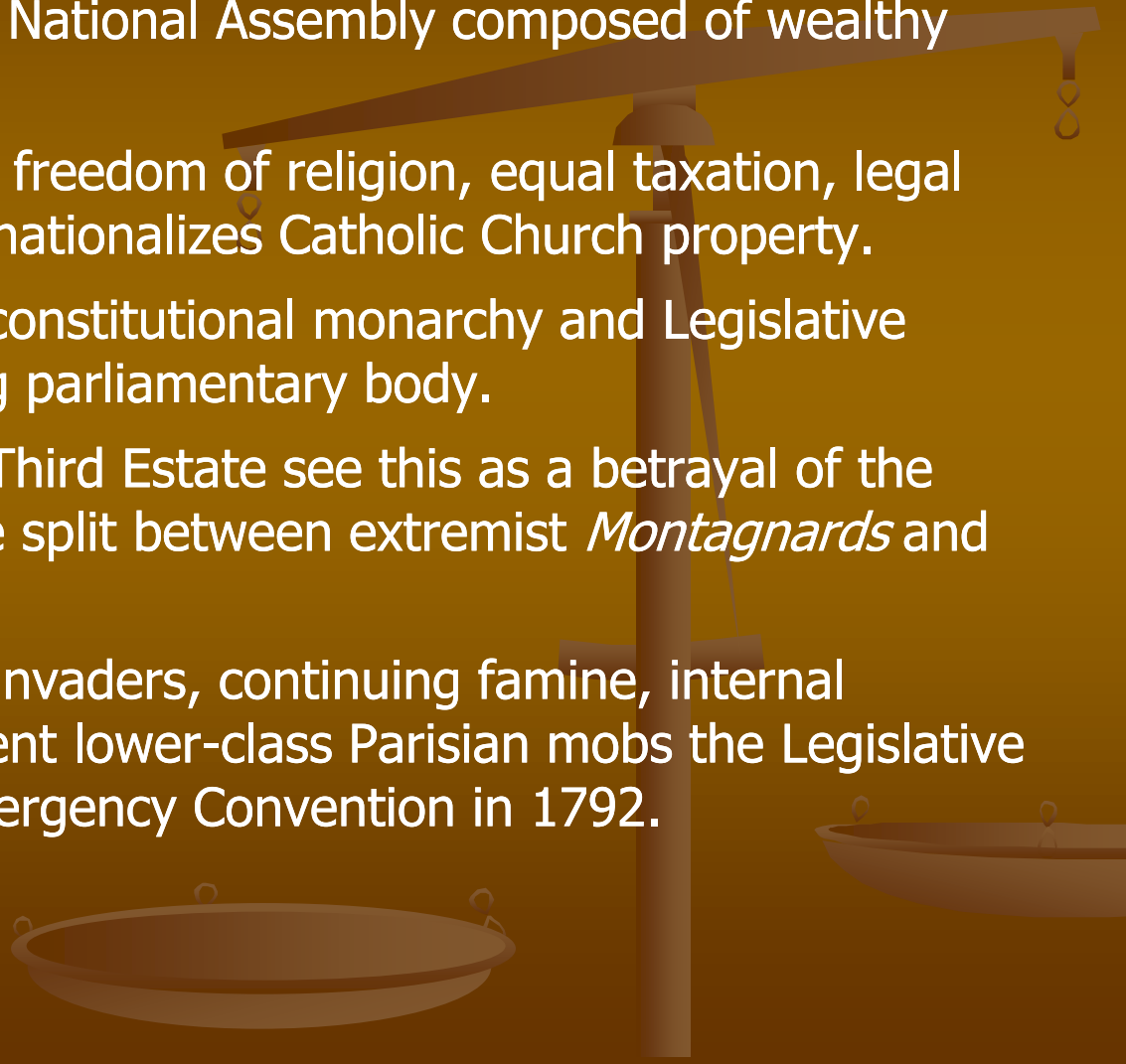
France was divided into 83 districts called departments where one person was elected to take care of laws, taxes, education and poor relief





# Rule of Moderates - National and Legislative Assemblies

- The Third Estate created the National Assembly composed of wealthy bourgeois – the *Jacobins*.
- National Assembly introduces freedom of religion, equal taxation, legal equality, freedom of press, nationalizes Catholic Church property.
- National Assembly sets up a constitutional monarchy and Legislative Assembly as the law-making parliamentary body.
- Lower class members of the Third Estate see this as a betrayal of the Revolution, the *Jacobins* are split between extremist *Montagnards* and moderate *Girondists*.
- Under pressure from foreign invaders, continuing famine, internal Royalist rebellions, and violent lower-class Parisian mobs the Legislative Assembly is replaced by emergency Convention in 1792.



# Rule of Extremists – Reign of Terror

- Robespierre led the mob to Versailles, and ended up killing not only all of the guards, but most of the noble family in October, 1792. The king and queen are “properly arrested”.

- Louis was executed by guillotine, Jan. 21, 1793, Marie Antoinette soon follows.

- Starting in Sept. 1793, Robespierre and Danton – leaders of the *Montagnard* faction started the reign of terror

- 20 000 to 40 000 people executed within the next ten months

- Because of his radical positions, Robespierre was arrested and beheaded in mid-1794 – Thermidore Reaction

- Convention is replaced by the Directory controlled by Girondists.



# Revolutionary Wars

- Monarchies of Europe were horrified by the French Revolution and death of the royal family.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition formed to put down the Revolution: Britain, Holland, Spain, Naples, Austria.
- Internal rebellions by Royalists, and peasants upset by taxes, conscription, and Revolutionary anti-Catholicism.
- France surrounded and invaded on all side, yet ultimately wins against the 1<sup>st</sup> Coalition.
- French leaders come up with a revolutionary way of fighting the war: Levée en masse – universal conscription, armies raised on massive scale.



# Napoleon

- Napoleon was a French Corsican, studied in France to be an artillery officer.

- Enlisted in the Republican Army, he was the most successful of French generals

- After winning great victories in Italy and Egypt, Napoleon returned to France after the Thermidore Reaction to restore order.

- In the 1799 coup d'état, Napoleon gained power and created a new regime – the consulate – which he ruled over as a consul (Emperor after 1804).

- Napoleon, although a dictator, worked for more liberal causes than any other dictator of this time – Enlightened despot.

- He consolidated all the rights which those of the revolution asked for: justice and liberty, meritocracy, and brought the ideals of French Revolution and nationalism to the rest of Europe.



# Napoleon's Wars & Legacy

- Victory over Austrians in Italy against the First Coalition, 1793 - 1797
- Invasion of Egypt in 1798 was initially a great success for Napoleon, but was ultimately a loss due to British naval power.
- Loss of land in Italy against Second Coalition, 1799 – Russia, Austria, Britain.
- Victory over Northern Italy, Germany (Munich), and Austria (Linz), 1800- 1802
- Britain was at peace with France for only one year - 1805.
- Fierce fighting in Spain: France vs. Britain, Portugal and Spanish *guerilla* (means “little war” in Spanish) resistance.
- French and Spanish navies decisively crushed by Britain at Trafalgar.



# Napoleon's End

- Napoleon's wars were successful until he attempted to invade Russia in 1812 – his *Grande Armée* of half a million soldiers were shattered by weather, disease, hunger, and Battle of Borodino
- Britain and Portugal defeat France in Spain and invade France in 1813. By March 1814 Paris had fallen.
- Napoleon's generals force him to surrender and abdicate. He was exiled on April 11, 1814 to island of Elbe.
- Napoleon escaped back to France in 1815 and attempted to raise support – Hundred Days.
- June 18, 1815 – Battle of Waterloo: Napoleon is decisively defeated by alliance of Britain, Prussia, Hanover, and the Netherlands.
- Exiled again to the island of St. Helena where he died in 1821



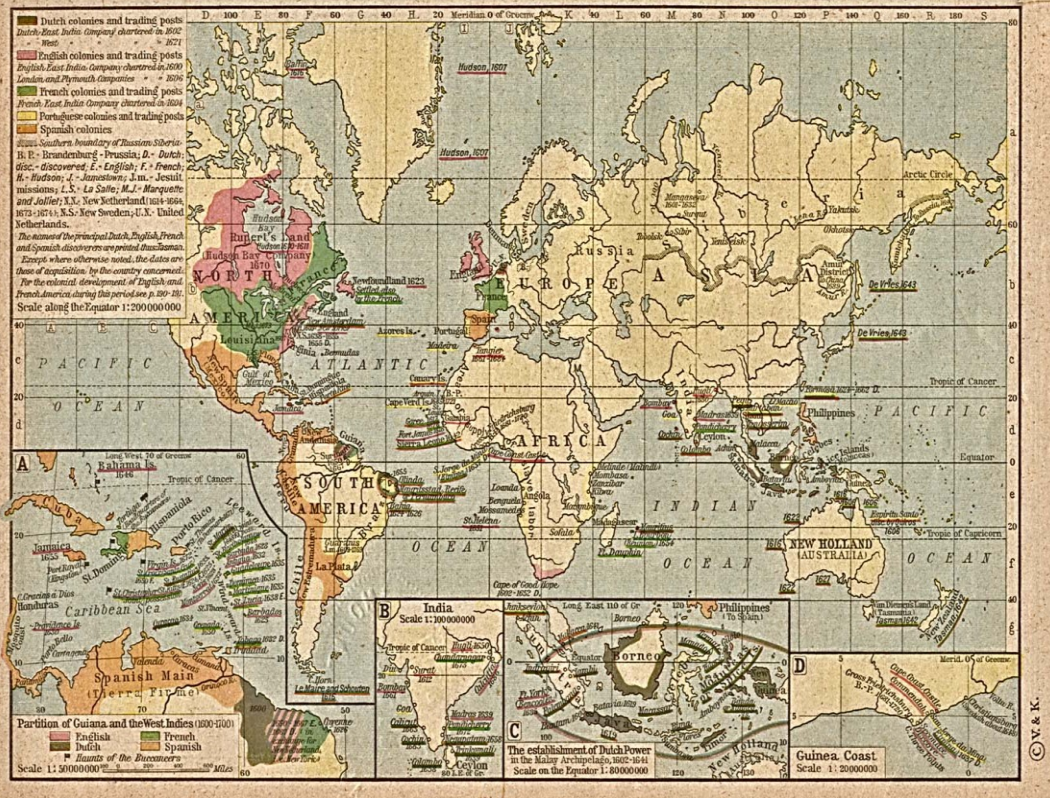
# Legacy of Napoleon

- After Napoleon, the Great Powers of Europe established Congress of Vienna to balance power in Europe and prevent major war.
- Nationalism and republicanism – new political forces and nations in Europe and Americas.
- Napoleonic Code of Laws and meritocracy
- Great changes in military thought and organization
- Symbols of Napoleon still exist all over France – the Arch De Triumph, Legion of Honour, Metric System.



# Overview of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

The Spread of Colonization, 1600-1700.



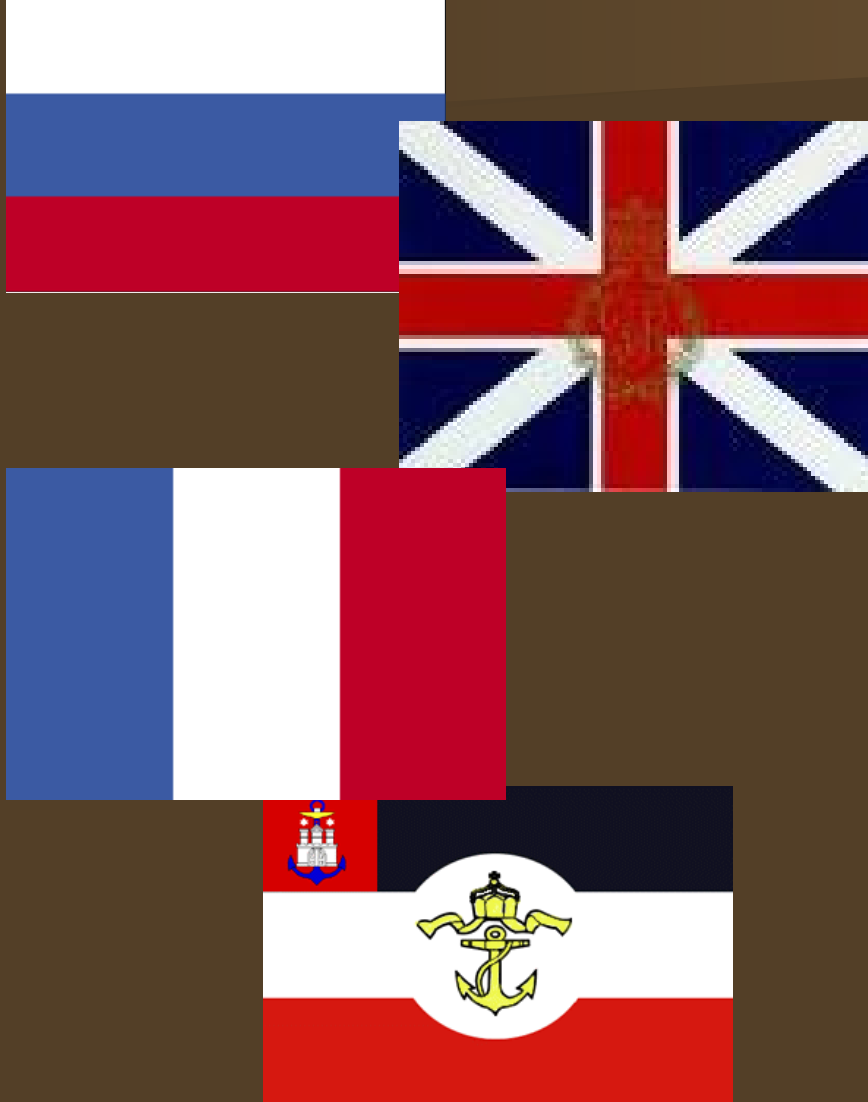
Modernization Theory: change of countries' political movement from traditional to modern societies, and political ideals. Some countries were left behind

vs.

Dependency Theory: The creation of third world nations in which labour can be kept cheap to fuel a separate country's economic growth

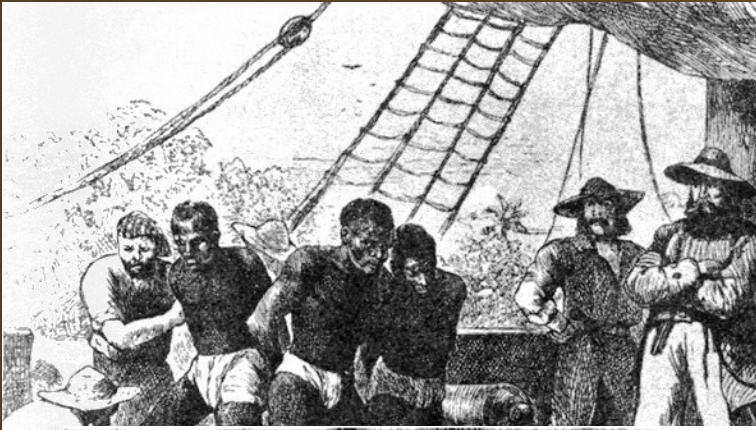


# Major Players in this Century



- Russia, Britain, France and Prussia (Austria-Germany) were the major powers
- Britain controlled most land overseas and beat France in multiple battles securing the West, including the Maritimes and many parts of Africa
- Russia expanded south-east and defeated parts of the Ottoman Empire

# Africa

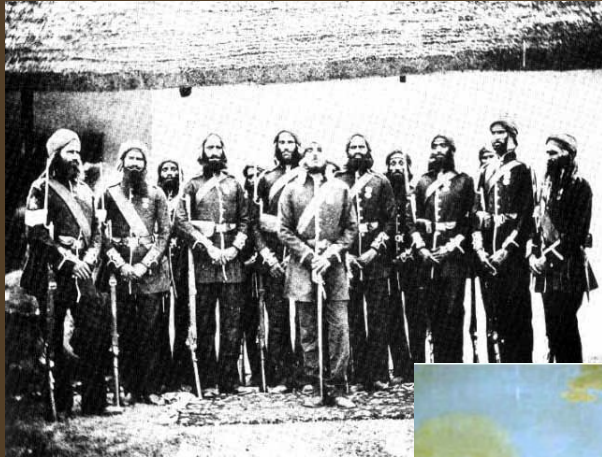


- The intrusion of the British and French and Spanish on Africa forever changed the continent.
- Slave trade mostly ended by 1800's
- "White Man's Burden"
- Dutch colonies remain in South Africa and their effects on life there
- Destruction of many native African kingdoms, and rise of new ones (Zulus)



THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.—*The Journal, Detroit.*

# India



- Because of the East India Trading Company, trade with India flourished
- British provincial governors ruled over local land owners (*zamindars*), and used local elites.
- British used a lot of local soldiers (*sepoys*)
- Citizens were taxed heavily to fund British armies (especially salt)

# China

- Demand in silver rose and trade with Britain began – tea, fine china, silk, cultural artifacts.
- Demand became too high for Britain to sustain. Britain turned to opium as a source of Chinese trade. This drug became a major source of addiction and forever changed China - Opium Wars throughout 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- After 18<sup>th</sup> century Chinese power weakened and European colonies and influence in China increased.

