

# A Quick Recap of What We Have Learned Since School Closed:

**1. Absolute Monarchs of Europe**

**2. The English Civil War & Glorious Revolution**

**3. The Scientific Revolution & The Enlightenment**

# Absolute Monarchs of Europe:

- The kings and queens of Europe began to consolidate their power at the end of the Middle Ages (~1200s CE).
- They took power from the nobles by creating large, permanent armies. They no longer needed the protection the nobles once offered through the nobles' knights.
- Kings and queens also consolidated their power by gathering vast amounts of wealth from overseas empires.
  - The Spanish, British, Portuguese, and French had enormous colonies all over the world that made the kings and queens RICH.
- These monarchs began to rule absolutely, meaning they did not share power with anyone. Examples include:
  - Louis XIV of France
  - Maria Theresa of Austria
  - Frederick the Great of Russia
  - Charles I of England
  - Peter the Great of Russia

# The Situation in England before the English Civil War

- **Since the 1200s, England had had some sort of representative body of government, called Parliament.**
- **The original Parliament was more of an advisory board for the king, whom still had the ultimate authority.**
- **The idea was that the people of England would be more willing to pay taxes if the king showed he was taking many ideas and opinions into consideration.**
- **Over the next 400 years, Parliament gained some power or lost power depending on who the king was.**
- **Many kings did not like Parliament, but tolerated it nonetheless.**
- **Another issue that arose and would ultimately lead to civil war, was the issue of Christianity. Some kings were Catholic and some kings were Protestant. Depending on the denomination of the king, they may have disagreements with Parliament over the religious direction of the nation.**
- **Enter Charles I.**

# Timeline: English Civil War & Glorious Revolution

- **1625: Charles I takes the throne.**
- **1628: Parliament makes Charles sign the Petition of Rights--which takes power from the king--in exchange for money. Charles gets his money and ignores the Petition of Rights. He also disbands Parliament out of anger.**
- **1637: Charles tries to force the Scottish to accept the Church of England, thus unifying Scotland and England religiously. Rebels in Scotland form a huge army to resist Charles I. Again, Charles needs money to stop the rebels, so he calls on Parliament.**
- **1641: Parliament passed several laws that take away more power from the king.**
- **1642: Angry, Charles tries to arrest some members of Parliament, but they escape. Charles also has to escape an angry mob in London. He flees to Northern England and builds an army, called Royalists. Parliament builds their own army, too. The English Civil War begins.**

# Timeline: English Civil War & Glorious Revolution

- 1642-1644: After several battles, no side is winning. Oliver Cromwell, a very able general, takes over Parliament's army. He begins to rebuild the army how he wants. His new Parliamentary army is called the New Model Army.
- 1645: The New Model Army begins to beat the Royalists and take control of the war.
- 1647: Charles I is captured by Cromwell and the New Model Army.
- 1649: Charles I is put on trial by Parliament. He is found guilty of treason and executed in public. This was the first time a king had been put on trial and executed in public. This was a revolutionary moment for the world.
- 1649-1658: Oliver Cromwell rules as a military dictator and implements very strict rule over England.
- 1658: Cromwell dies and his government collapses. A new Parliament is elected.
- 1659: Parliament votes to put a king back on the throne.
- 1660: Charles II becomes the new king of England in an event known as the Restoration.

# Timeline: English Civil War & Glorious Revolution

- 1679: Charles II signs a law that makes it illegal to keep someone in jail without proof of a crime, called *habeas corpus*
- 1685: Charles II dies and his son, James II, becomes king. James was Catholic, which made members of Parliament uneasy. They did not want a Catholic king and feared the next king would also be Catholic. And the next. And the next.
- 1688: Seven members of Parliament invite the daughter of James--a Protestant--and her husband, William of Orange, to take the English throne and restore it to a non-Catholic. William builds an army and invades England. Before any blood can be shed, James II flees England to France. William and MARY take the throne as King and Queen of England. This event is known as the Glorious Revolution because, although a king had been deposed, no one died in the revolution.
- 1689: Parliament and William agree to enact the English Bill of Rights, which gives rights to the people of England and was the inspiration for democracies in the near future.

# The Scientific Revolution

- The rediscovery of old documents of the universe led a few people of Europe to start looking at the sky to see if old theories about the Earth and the sun were true.
- The ancient theory accepted by the Catholic Church was that the Earth was at the center of the universe. This is called the geocentric theory.
- In the early 1500s, a genius named Copernicus theorized that the sun was at the center of the universe. About a hundred years later, another genius named Galileo proved Copernicus right. The theory that the sun was at the center of the universe is called the heliocentric theory.
- The work of Copernicus and Galileo and other scientists birthed an era of independent thought and experimentation known as the Scientific Revolution.
- Scientists were interested in understanding the world around them and developed many theories that are still taught and believed to this day, For example, Sir Isaac Newton of England developed the theory that an invisible force called gravity causes objects to fall to the Earth.
- Another important development of this time was the Scientific Method, which is a step by step method to performing an experiment. The Scientific Method is still used to this day.

# The Enlightenment

- Around the time of Absolute Monarchs and the Scientific Revolution, a group of philosophers began to publish their ideas about how society would best function.
- They used the Scientific Method, but instead of experimenting on nature, they used the method on society.
- The answers these philosophers developed challenged the ideas of Absolute Monarchy and the Divine Right of Kings. For example:
- John Locke believed that all people are born with Natural Rights that a government cannot take away, like the right to life and liberty.
- Voltaire believed no one or thing was above reason, and that all religions should be tolerated. He also believed in freedom of speech.
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau believed that there should be a contract between the government and its people that says the government should only exist to protect the right of the people. He called this a social contract.
- Montesquieu believed that government should be separated into 3 parts, so no one part has too much power.
- The beliefs of these philosophers would be the basis for many revolutions that were about to consume the world in the 1700s. The first revolution we will study is:





# Look at the Image:

*Write your answers in the chat section*

- **Who are the 3 people on top?**
  - *The 3 people on top are...*
- **Who is the man at the bottom?**
  - *The man on the bottom is...*



**The Clergy!  
(Catholic Church)**

**The King!**

***In other  
words, the  
people in  
charge!  
They ruled  
France.***



**The Nobility!**





How about this poor man? He was a *peasant* farmer. He represents 80% of the population of France in the 1700s. His life was hard and difficult and he paid all of the taxes while the other members of French society lived on his labor.

*There is only so much turmoil and pain and suffering that people can take. Soon, the anger of the peasant class would boil over into REVOLUTION!*

A similar cartoon showing the upper classes exploiting the poor peasants of France. This cartoon is the most famous of the class cartoons before the French Revolution.



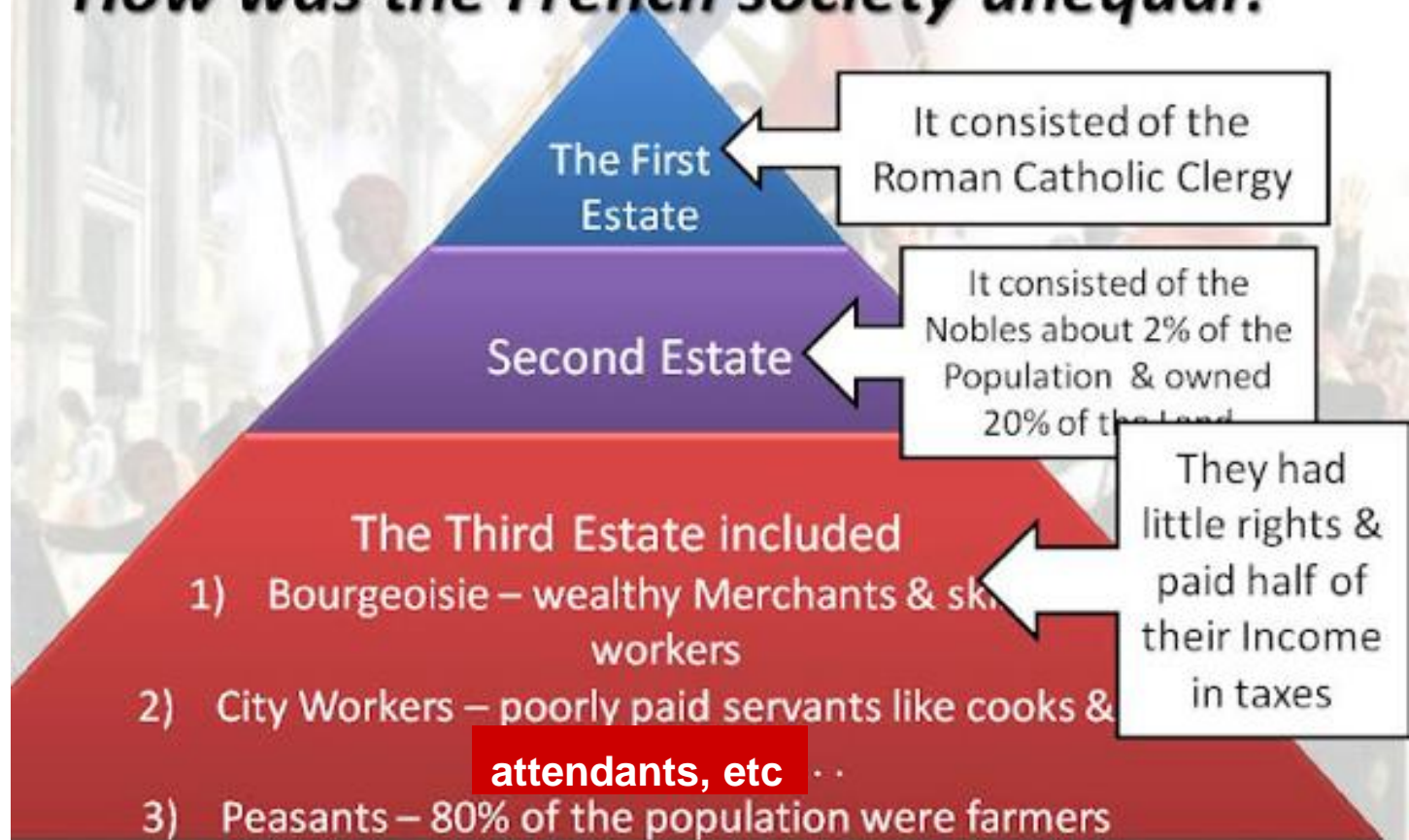
## The Causes of the French Revolution:

- **The following slides will discuss the causes of the French Revolution.**
- **The assignments for you will be to write the causes down on the document on the website.**
- **A copy of this PowerPoint will be made available to you on the website, too.**

# Reason # 1: The Structure of French Society:

- **French society was divided into 3 classes called Estates:**
  - **1st Estate was the clergy. The clergy is the name of those people who worked for the Catholic Church: priests, bishops, archbishops, etc. The clergy were very powerful. The clergy did not pay taxes.**
  - **2nd Estate was the nobility. These were the old, wealthy families of France. The nobility had power, but the king was the ultimate authority. The nobility also did not pay taxes.**
  - **3rd Estate was the common people of France. Most of the common people were extremely poor peasant farmers, but some of the common people were highly educated, somewhat middle-class people living in larger cities. The common people paid ALL OF THE TAXES!**

# How was the French society unequal?





# So What's the Problem?

- **The 3rd Estate did not share the same rights as the 1st and 2nd Estate, most notably, the 3rd Estate paid all of the taxes, when they were the least capable Estate to do so.**
  - **In times of war, some peasants starved to death because, after paying their taxes, they had nothing left.**



## Reason #2: Enlightenment Ideas

- **Some Enlightenment ideas were circulating France in the years before the French Revolution.**
- **These ideas found their way into a document called the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, which was written by leaders of the French Revolution.**
- **These ideas included:**
  - **Natural Rights (John Locke)**
  - **The Social Contract (Jean-Jacque Rousseau)**
  - **Freedom of Speech and Separation of Church and State (Voltaire)**
  - **Separation of Powers (Montesquieu)**
- **Revolutionaries used these ideas to justify overthrowing the French government.**

## Reason #3: Economic Crisis

- **Just in the 1700s alone, France was involved in 8 wars.**
- **Some of these wars took place on the other side of the world.**
- **All of these wars cost tremendous amounts of money that the 3rd Estate was expected to pay.**
- **By the 1780s, France was out of money because the taxing system (only the 3rd Estate) was broken.**

## Reason #4: The American Revolution:

- **Less than 20 years before the French Revolution, the American Revolution was fought and the United States became a new country free from rule by king.**
- **The American Revolution inspired those in France who sought to overthrow the king.**
- **The American Revolution was also paid for by France. So the taxes of the 3rd Estate helped to fund a war for the freedoms that French people themselves did not enjoy.**

## Reason #5: Bad Leadership

- **King Louis XVI of France wanted nothing to do with being king. He hated it.**
- **As a result, he often times ignored his advisors and let the problems of France grow worse because of his lack of decision-making.**
- **The problems of France grew like a cancer until the old way of doing things killed the absolute monarchy.**

When you mix all of these reasons together, you get:

**REVOLUTION!**

## ASSIGNMENT:

- **Use the PowerPoint notes to help you finish the assignment.**
- **The PowerPoint is included as a file on my website.**