

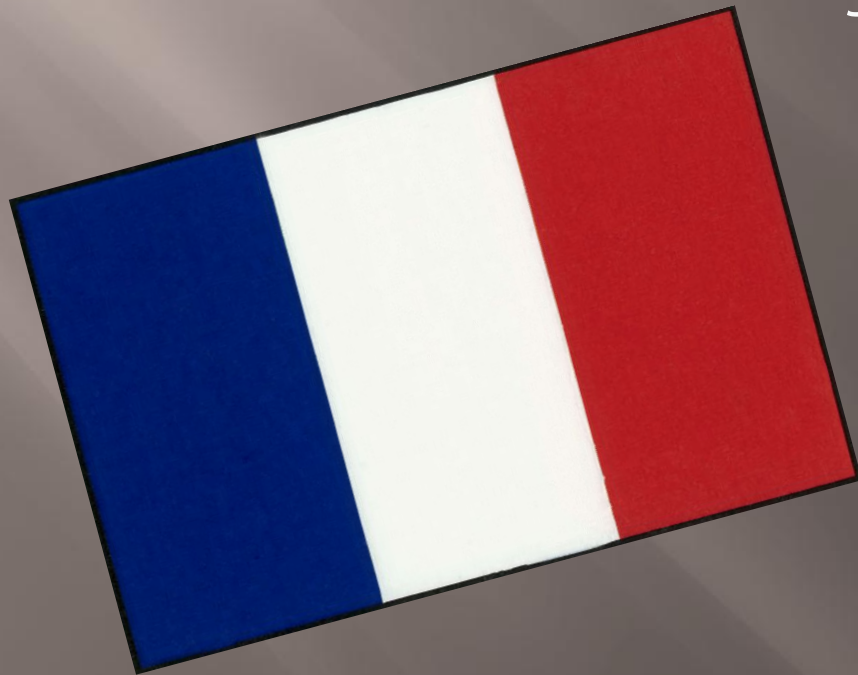


*THE FRENCH  
REVOLUTION*

# The French Revolution:

## Backstory

- French Successes
  - Cultural capital of the world
  - Extreme wealth
  - Most powerful monarch in Europe (King Louis XVI)



But...Anger, Despair  
Unhappiness Ruled Due to...

1. **The “Old Order”** – social hierarchy
2. **Financial Debt & Disaster** – economic issues
3. **Enlightenment Inspiration** – political knowledge

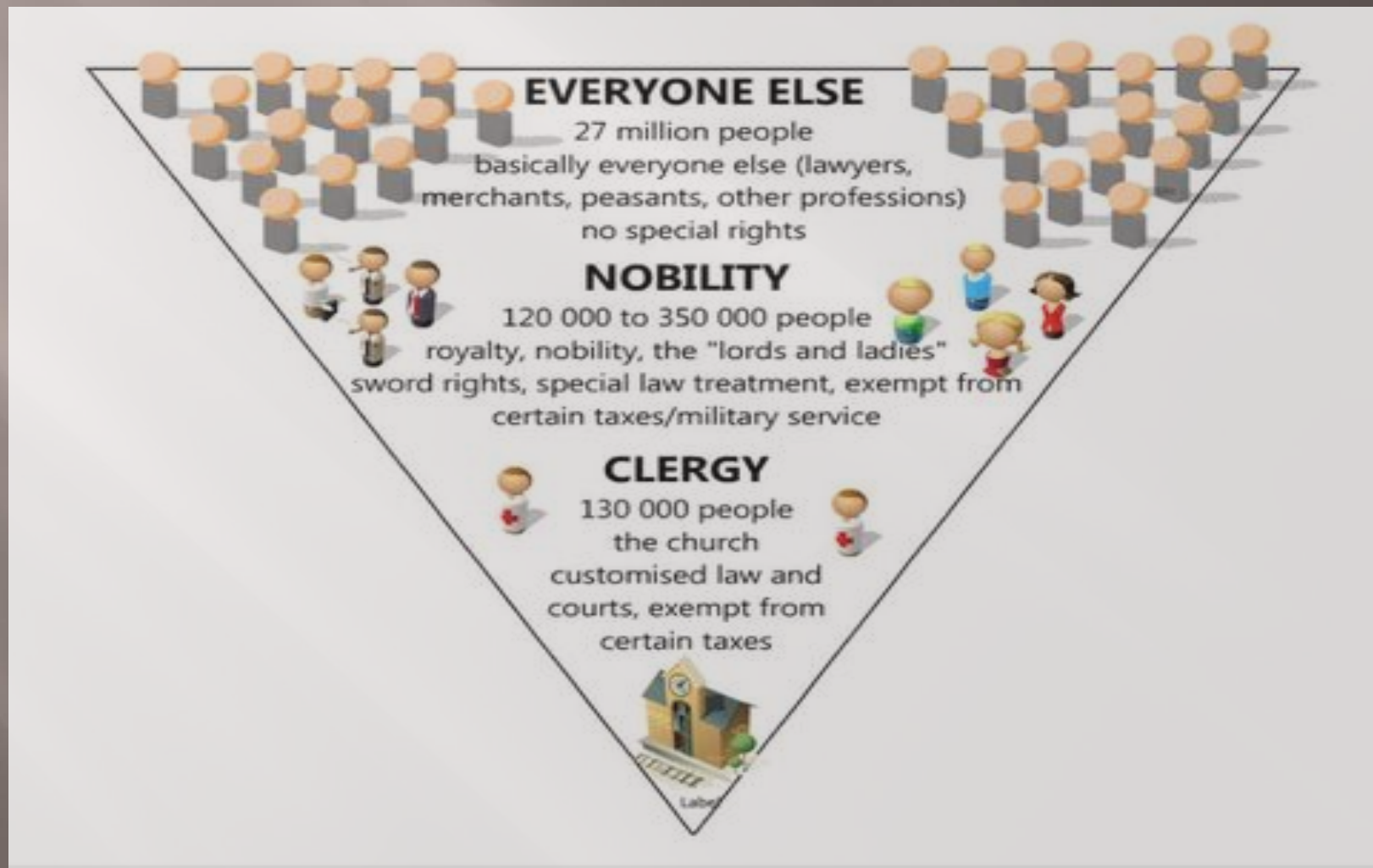
# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

- Absolutism under King Louis XVI
  - Divine Right of King
  - Made all laws
  - Appointed those who carried out his laws
  - Controlled justice system
  - Controlled military
  - Issued blank warrants of arrest
  - Levied all taxes
  - Determined spending of all money
    - Marie Antoinette (*GREEDY*)



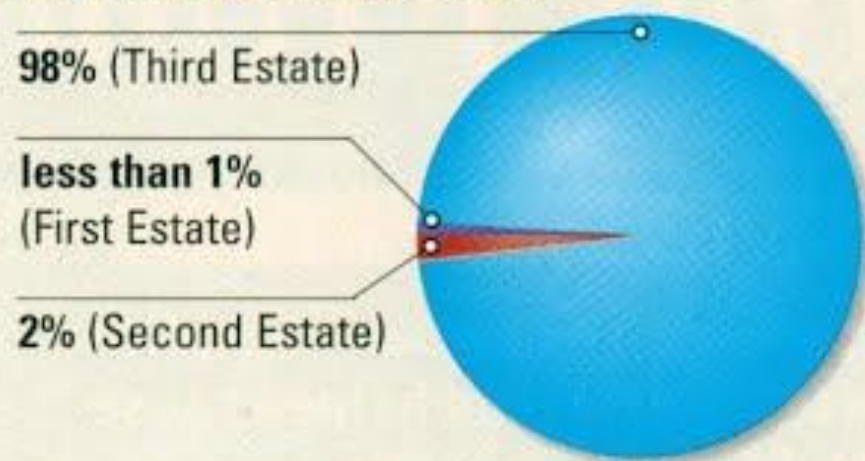
# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

Underneath King – 3 Estates (Estates General)



# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

## Population of France, 1787



## Percent of Income Paid in Taxes



Separated the privileged from those who are not privileged via a feudalism. What is the issue?

# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

1st Estate:  
Roman Catholic Church



## Power

- All CHURCH Officials (priests, bishops, etc.)
- Catholic Faith=State Religion
- 1% Population
- Owned 10% of Land

- Collected tithes - which are....
- Censored press
- Moral Obligation: education, health, state records, etc.

- Tried in religious courts (didn't follow same rules, laws, & regulations as "common" folk)
- Paid no taxes
- 1 vote in Estates General Meetings

## Social Power

## Privileges

Why is church so highly honored?

# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

*2nd Estate:  
Rich Nobles*

## Powers

- NOBILITY (government officials & high-ranking military)
- 2% Population
- Owned 20% of land

Inherited Power

## Social Power

- Collected taxes/tolls in form of feudal dues
- Supported monarchy to gain monopoly in military & state

*wanted greater political power b/c had "better blood"*

- Little to no taxes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> estate worked for them
- 1 vote in Estates General Meetings

## Privileges

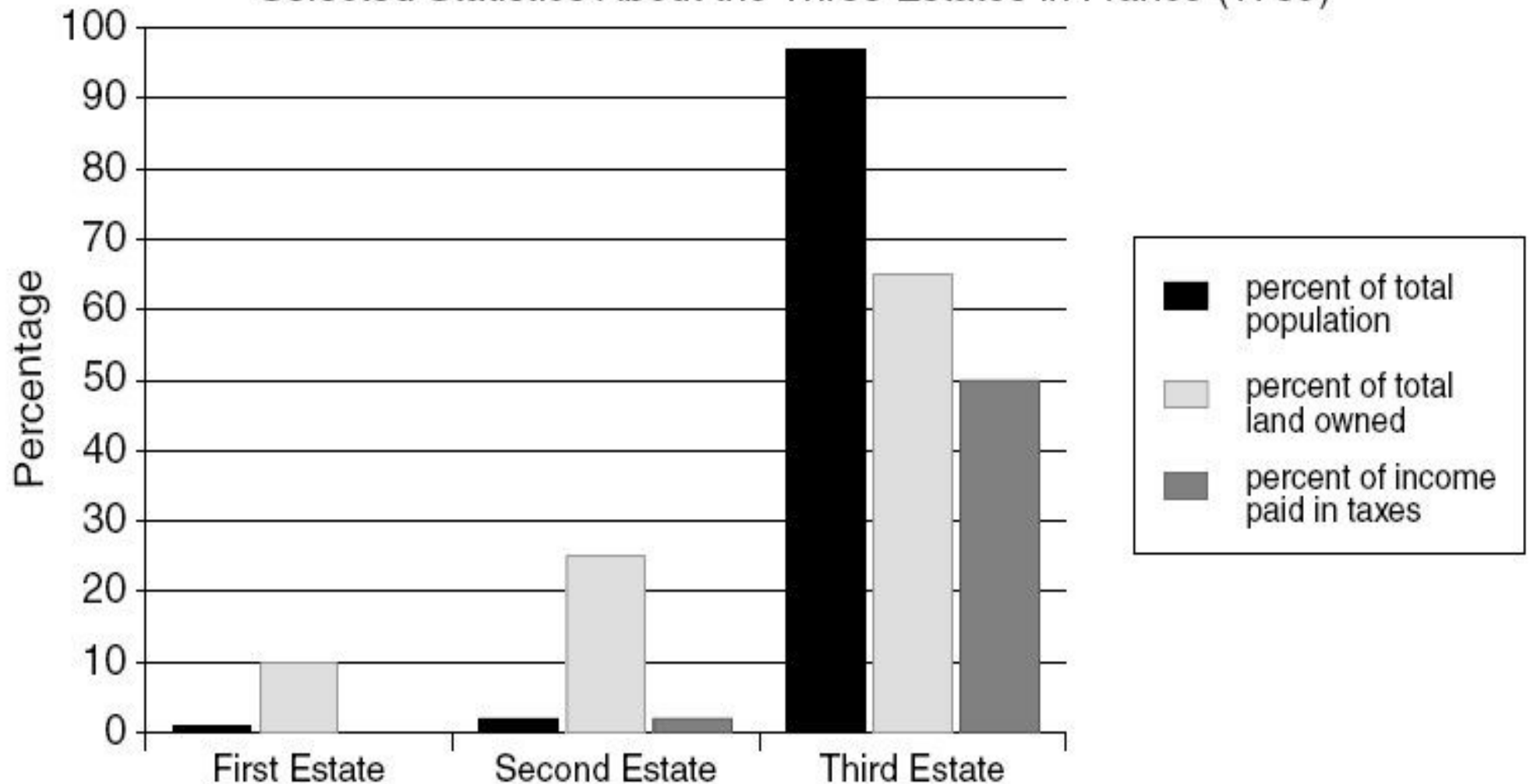
# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*





# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*

Selected Statistics About the Three Estates in France (1789)



# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*



## *CLASS ANALYSIS:*

*How does the cartoon show the social inequalities between the three estates during the old order in France?*

# The Causes of the French Revolution: *The Old Order*



## *CLASS ANALYSIS:*

*How does the cartoon show the social inequalities between the three estates during the old order in France?*

# The Causes of the French Revolution: *Economic Turmoil*

## Debt Plagued Country

- Borrowed Money
- Costly Wars
- Lavish Royal Spending
- Taxes – those taxed couldn't pay

**King's Budget:**

• Interest	50%
• Army	25%
• Versailles	25%
• Coronation	10%
• Loans	25%
• <u>Admin.</u>	25%
• <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160%</b>



## Deficit

- France was spending more money than it had...

## Economy based on agriculture

- Peasant farmers bore burden of taxes – bad harvest meant no pay
- Recent natural disaster ruined economy
  - Shortage of food = starving population

Poor Economic Planning

What would help solve this problem?

# Debt Plagued Nation...



The French helped the Americans during the Revolution and “heard the shots”. How could those events influence French society?





# The Causes of the French Revolution: *Enlightenment*

New thoughts related to government & people's rights, Example set by American colonists...

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate Inspired:
  - General Will
  - Unequal Distribution of Wealth Causes Corruption
  - Equality for all with Unalienable Rights
  - Government Instituted Among Men
  - Representative Voting = Popular Sovereignty
  - Overthrow a Corrupt Government – WHEN?

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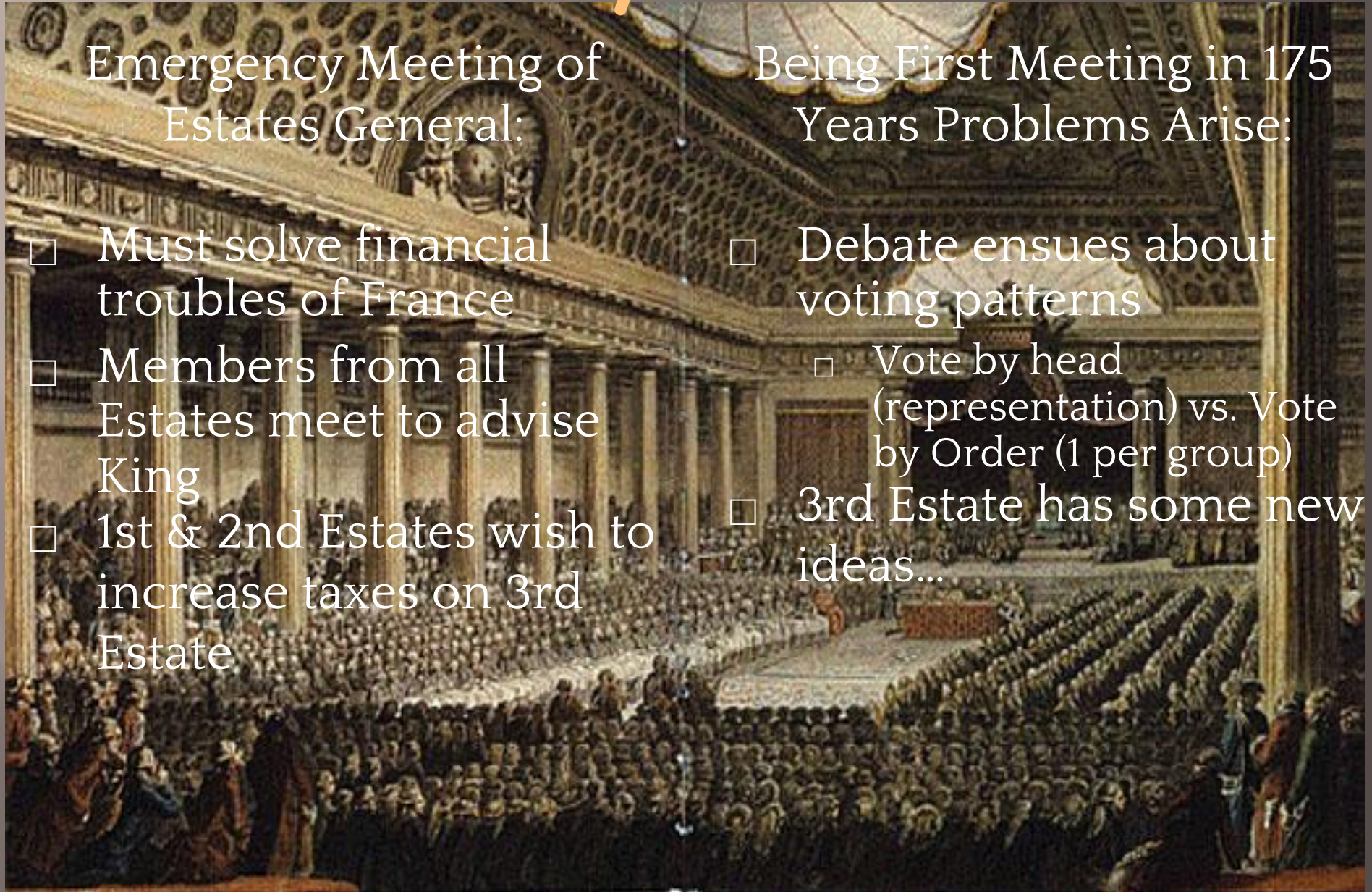
# The King Takes Action in May 1789

Emergency Meeting of Estates General:

- Must solve financial troubles of France
- Members from all Estates meet to advise King
- 1st & 2nd Estates wish to increase taxes on 3rd Estate

Being First Meeting in 175 Years Problems Arise:

- Debate ensues about voting patterns
  - Vote by head (representation) vs. Vote by Order (1 per group)
- 3rd Estate has some new ideas...



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate Seeks Change: Why?

What is the Third Estate? By Abbe Sieyes

1. What is the Third Estate?
  - **EVERYTHING**
2. What has it been until now in the political order?
  - **NOTHING**
3. What does it want to be?
  - **SOMETHING**
4. What is the Third Estate?
  - **IT IS EVERYTHING**

Third Estate rallied to exert their power. They believe that they should have a vote by head not estate. Believe their rights are being violated - WHY?



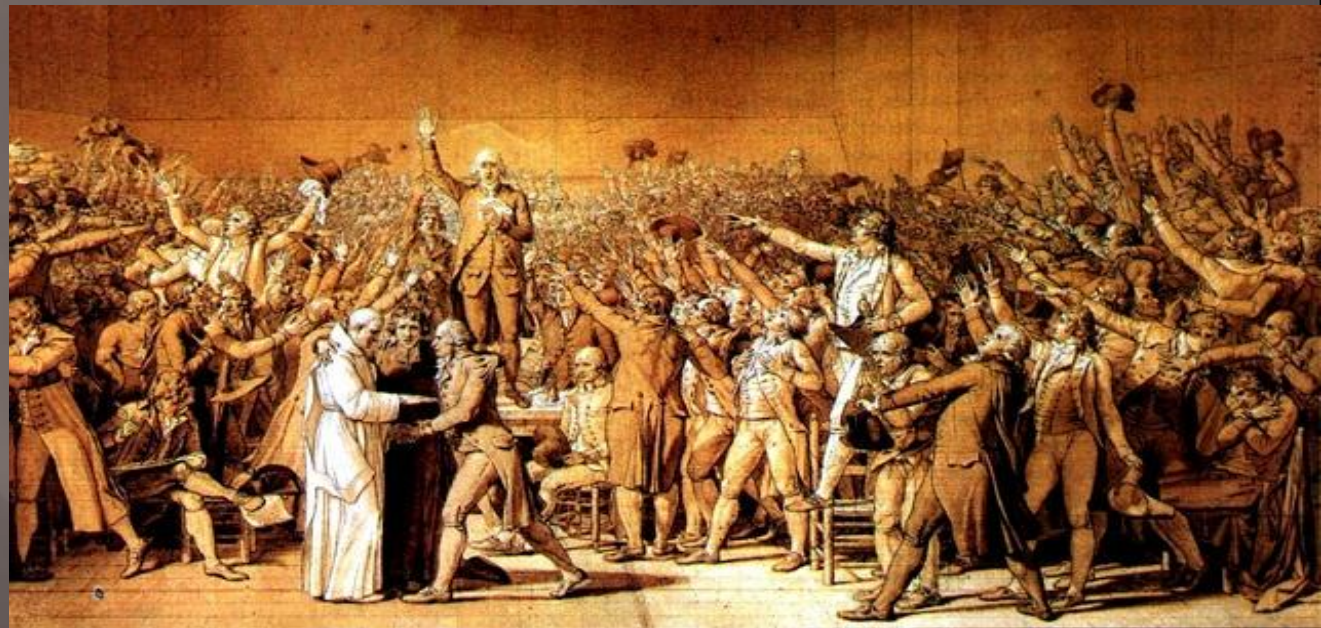
# The Tennis Court Oath 1789

- The 3rd Estate forms a National Assembly
  - Declares self true parliament (representation of French people)
  - Make laws for the French people

*"We are here at the will of the people, . . . and . . . shall not stir from our seats unless forced to do so by bayonets."*

## The Oath:

- Promise a new constitution for the people of France
- Promise limitations on the king's power
  - King is unwilling to use force & eventually informs others to join



# The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

The Representatives of the French people...

Laid out principles of French Revolution:

Freedom  
Equality  
Life  
Liberty  
Security

Security from Oppression

Equal Justice

Law is Expression of General Will (Majority)

Innocent until Proven Guilty

Freedom of Opinions (religious & otherwise)

Tax based on property value NOT social class



# The Revolution Goes Off...

## The Economic Crisis Continues...

- People are starving
- Angry protesters in Paris demand reform

## Storming of the Bastille (July 4, 1789)...

- Rumors circulate that the king is sending troops to Paris
- Attack prison for weapons
  - Release prisoners & kill guard



## King Louis Accepts Change (1791)...

- Agrees to new constitution that limits powers (limited monarchy)
- Failed to work with National Assembly allowing problems to continue



- Prussia & Austria attack to restore monarchy (fear the spread of radical ideals)

# National Assembly to National Convention (Radical Phase Begins)

- ❑ Overthrows the Monarchy & Created REPUBLIC
- ❑ Tried & executed royal family of treason
- ❑ Abolished special privileges
  - ❑ 1st Estate Especially
- ❑ Equality before law = no more Estates
- ❑ Taxes based on pay
- ❑ State controlled church = sold land to pay debt
- ❑ Public education
- ❑ Increased military
- ❑ Declaration of war on Austria & Prussia (draft)



# The Revolution Continues

Dissension among the ranks leads to radical revolution

- Revolutionary Government
  - Reign of Terror with Robespierre (fear “enemies” of revolution will overthrow power)
  - Guillotine all against revolution mission (40,000 traitors killed)
  - Leads to uncertainty & a need for stability
- Revolution Ends in 1795
  - Economic Problems continue
  - War with Prussia & Austria grows
  - New government (Directory) takes hold...corrupt with Great Fear
- Napoleon Gained Power
  - Makes needed reforms & defeated foreign armies
  - Builds a massive French Empire (becomes mad with power)
  - Exiled ... TWICE
- Monarchy restored ...All for not??
- Congress of Vienna 1815
  - Fix the mess caused by Napoleon