



## The French Revolution and the Origins of Human Rights

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So many revolutions, so little time ...

- Irish Rebellion of 1641
- English Revolution, 1642-1660
- The Naples Revolt, 1647
- The Khmelnytsky Uprising, 1648
- The Fronde (France, 1648-1653)
- Moscow Uprising of Streltsy Regiments, 1688
- The Glorious Revolution (England, 1688)
- The Streltsy Uprising (Russia, 1698)
- The Camisard Rebellion (France, 1702-1715)
- The Rakoczi Uprising (Habsburg Empire, 1703-1711)
- The First Jacobite Rebellion (England, 1715)
- The Fourth Dalecarlian Rebellion (Sweden, 1743)
- Jacobite Rising (Scotland, 1745-1746)
- Pugachev Rebellion (Russia, 1773-1775)
- The French Revolution, 1789-1799
- Saxon Peasants' Revolt, 1790
- The Irish Rebellion, 1798
- Robert Emmet Rebellion (Dublin, 1803)
- Serbian Revolution (Ottoman, 1804-1817)
- The Greek War of Independence, 1821-1829
- Decembrist Revolt (Russia, 1825)
- July Revolution (France, 1830)
- Belgian Revolution, 1830
- November Uprising (Poland, 1830-1831)
- The Bosnian Uprising (Ottoman, 1831-1832)
- June Rebellion (France, 1832)
- Revolutions of 1848-1849 (Italian, German, Danish States; Hungarian; Ireland; Wallachia; Moldavia)
- Herzeegovina Uprising (Ottoman, 1852-1852)
- Second Italian War for Independence (1859)
- January Uprising/Polish Uprising (Russia, 1863-1865)
- The Fenian Rising (Ireland, 1867)
- Spain's Glorious Revolution (1868)
- Paris Commune, 1871
- Herzegovinian Rebellion (Ottoman, 1875-1877)
- Bulgarian April Uprising (Ottoman, 1876)
- First Russian Revolution, 1905
- Albanian Revolution (Ottoman, 1910)
- Easter Rising in Dublin, 1916
- Irish War of Independence (1916-1923)
- February Revolution (Russia, 1917)
- October Revolution (a.k.a. Bolshevik), 1917
- Ukrainian Revolution, 1917-1921
- Finnish Civil War, 1918
- German Revolution, 1918

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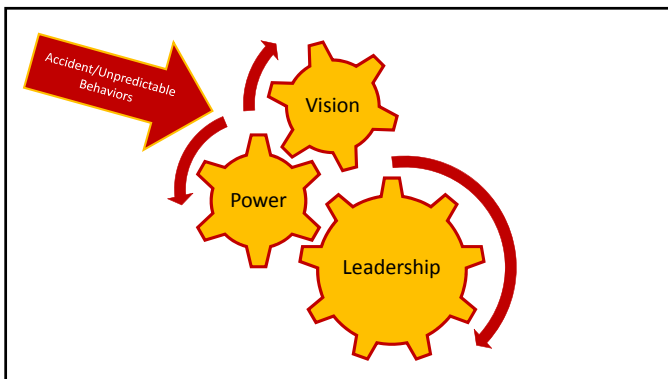
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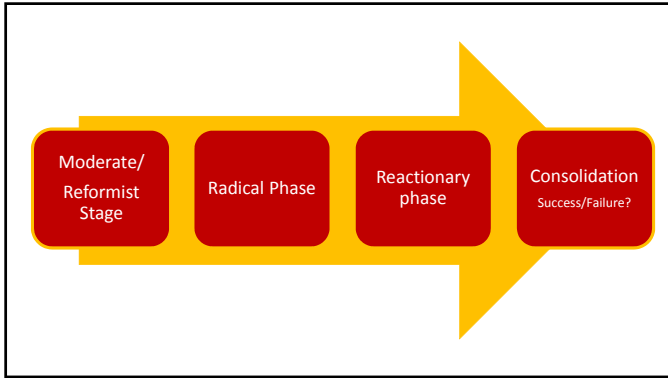
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Enlightenment Vision

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**Cahiers de doléances**

List of **grievances** drawn up the by Three Estates in preparation for the Estates General (especially the Third Estate)



Examples at: <http://www.historyguide.org/intellect/cahiers.html>

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**Enlightenment Authors**



**John Locke (1632-1704)**  
*Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1689)  
*Two Treatises of Government* (1690)

- Sum total of the human being is nurtured, not innate.
- Experience shapes the person, abilities and flaws
- Government should be to protect "life, liberty and estate"



**Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)**  
 Declaration of Independence (1776)

- "all men are created equal"
- "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"
- Right to rebel against destructive governments



**Thomas Paine (1737-1809)**  
*"Common Sense"* (1776)

- Rejected constitutional monarchy
- Advocated representative government

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## Enlightenment Authors



**Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)**  
 Judge on a provincial parlement  
*The Spirit of Laws* (1748)

- Separation of executive, judicial, and legislative
- Monarchy with power limited by a "constitution" that clearly keeps the three branches separate.



**Voltaire (1694-1778)**

- Defended freedom of Christian religions and expression
- Separation of church and state
- Enlightened monarch could bring change, not illiterate masses



**Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)**  
*On Crimes and Punishments* (1764)

- Punishment should fit the crime
- Punishment should be to prevent future crimes
- Due process in investigation and prosecution
- Rejects torture to secure confession
- "greatest happiness of the greatest number"

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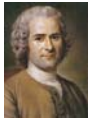
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## Enlightenment Authors



**Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)**  
*A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792)

- Women should have an education
- They should be treated as equals
- Men have a physical superiority, but not intellectual
- Women should be allowed to study medicine, politics, etc.
- Women should avoid being "intoxicated by the adoration" of men



**Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)**  
*Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality Among Men* (1754)  
*The Social Contract* (1762)

- Moral inequality caused by differences in power and wealth
- Free will of individual is guided by natural laws
- Sovereignty should be in the hands of the people
- Sovereign = rule of law
- Individuals make up the "general will" and agree to abide by its laws
- Ideal state would be based on direct democracy

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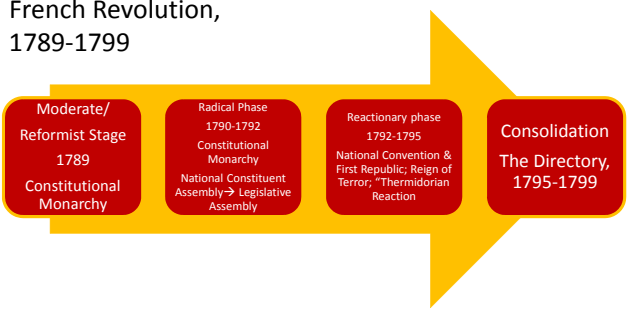
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## French Revolution, 1789-1799




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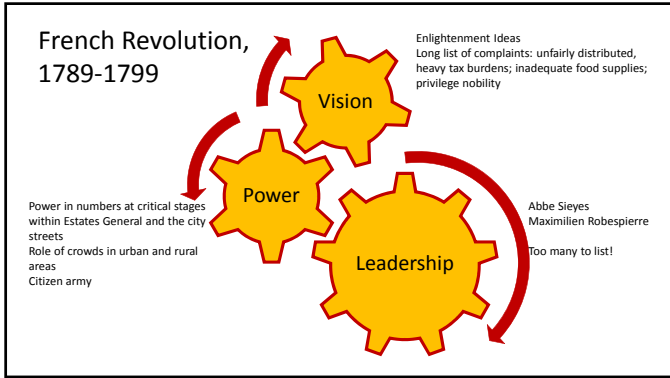
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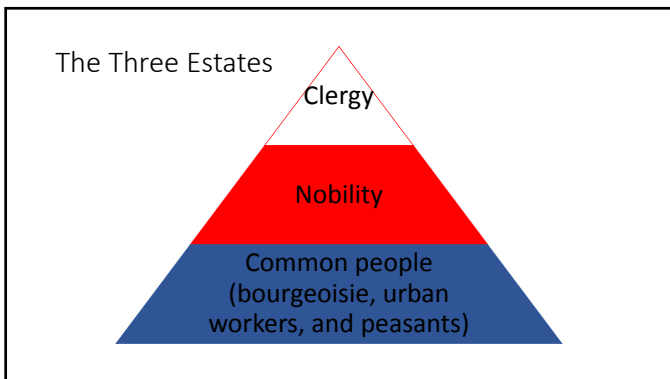
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### The Bourbon Dynasty



Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette

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### Major Causes

- Financial Crisis
- Unfair Tax Burden
- Noble Privilege



In this cartoon from the time, Louis is looking at the chests and asks "Where is the tax money?" The financial minister, Necker, looks on and says "The money was there last time I looked." The nobles and clergy are sneaking out the door carrying sacks of money, saying "We have it."

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Cahiers de **doléances**

### Demand for Reform – Estates General



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### What is the Third Estate?



Abbe Sieyes:

“What is the Third Estate? Everything; but an everything shackled and oppressed. What would it be without the privileged order? Everything, but on everything free and flourishing.”



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### Third Estate at the Tennis Court



“Let us swear to God and our country that we will not disperse until we have established a sound and just constitution, as instructed by those who nominated us.”

-M. Mounier

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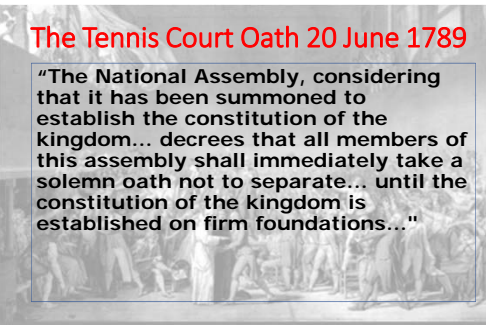
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### The Tennis Court Oath 20 June 1789

“The National Assembly, considering that it has been summoned to establish the constitution of the kingdom... decrees that all members of this assembly shall immediately take a solemn oath not to separate... until the constitution of the kingdom is established on firm foundations...”



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Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

### Storming the Bastille, 14 July 1789




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Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

### The Great Fear, 17 July – 3 August 1789

4 August  
All Feudal dues  
Removed by National  
Assembly




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### Declaration of the Rights of Man, 26 August 1789

- "Men are born free and equal in their rights...These rights are liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression."
- The fundamental source of all sovereignty resides in the nation.
- The law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to take part personally, or through representatives, in the making of the law."

Still in Reformist stage? Or becoming more radical?

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Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

### Women's March to Versailles, 5 October 1789



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### Civil Constitution of the Clergy, 12 July 1790



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### Political Clubs



Jacobins

### Cordeliers



Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

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Sans-Culottes



Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

Without Knee Britches

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King's Flight to Varennes  
20 June 1791



Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

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French Constitution of 1791



- Declaration of Rights of Man is the preamble
- Writing began in July 1789
- Committee compositions and multiple revisions
- 13-14 September 1791 – Louis XVI accepts
- Constitutional monarchy, separation of powers
- Voided when a republic was declared 22 September 1792

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First Attack on the Tuileries, 20 June 1792

Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors



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Second Attack on the Tuileries, 10 August 1792

Accident/Unpredictable Behaviors

Constitutional Monarchy essentially ended



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National Convention, 21 September 1792-26 October 1795

- Elected by all adult men over the age of 25
- Declared a republic
- Wrote a constitution that was approved 23 June 1793

War against Austria starts 20 April 1792

Dramatic Domestic Reforms

Civil War, Revolution e.g. September Massacres (1792)

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### Reign of Terror, September 1793- July 1794

- Committee of Public Safety and Maximilien Robespierre



“Terror is nothing else than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible.” (5 February 1794)

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### The Directory

- 1795 Constitution
- Bicameral Legislature but in reality an ineffective dictatorship
- Executive Directory of Five




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### Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)



- October 1795: puts down a Royalist rising
- March 1796: Command of French Army in Italy
- December 1797: Napoleon returns to Paris as a war hero
- November 1799: Napoleon overthrows the Directory; French readily accept
- August 1802: Made First Consul for life
- 1806: extensive control over Austrian and Prussian territory
- November 1806: Continental System created → foreign policy rooted in an embargo against Great Britain
- December 1812: French army defeated in Russia
- 1813-1814: Prussia, Austria, Britain, and Russia win against French troops
- 4 May 1814: Napoleon is defeated and exiled to Elba
- February-June 1815: Hundred Days → Napoleon escapes Elba and reaches Paris; defeated at Waterloo on 18 June




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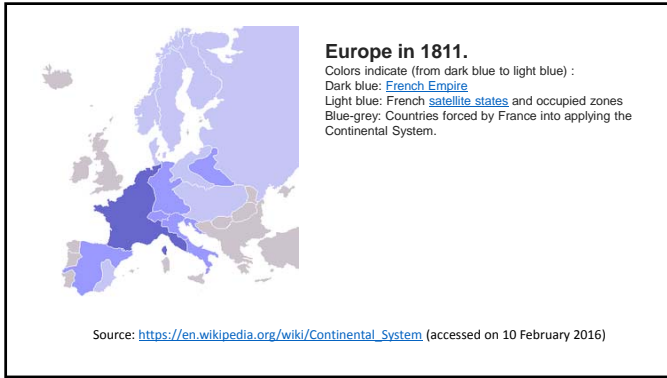
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**Nineteenth-Century France**

- Bourbon Restoration (1814/1815-1830) of Louis XVIII and Charles X
- July Monarch (1830-1848) of Louis Philippe d'Orleans
- Second Republic (1848-1852)
- Second Empire (1852-1870) under Napoleon III
- Third Republic (1870-1940)

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