

FRENCH REVOLUTION

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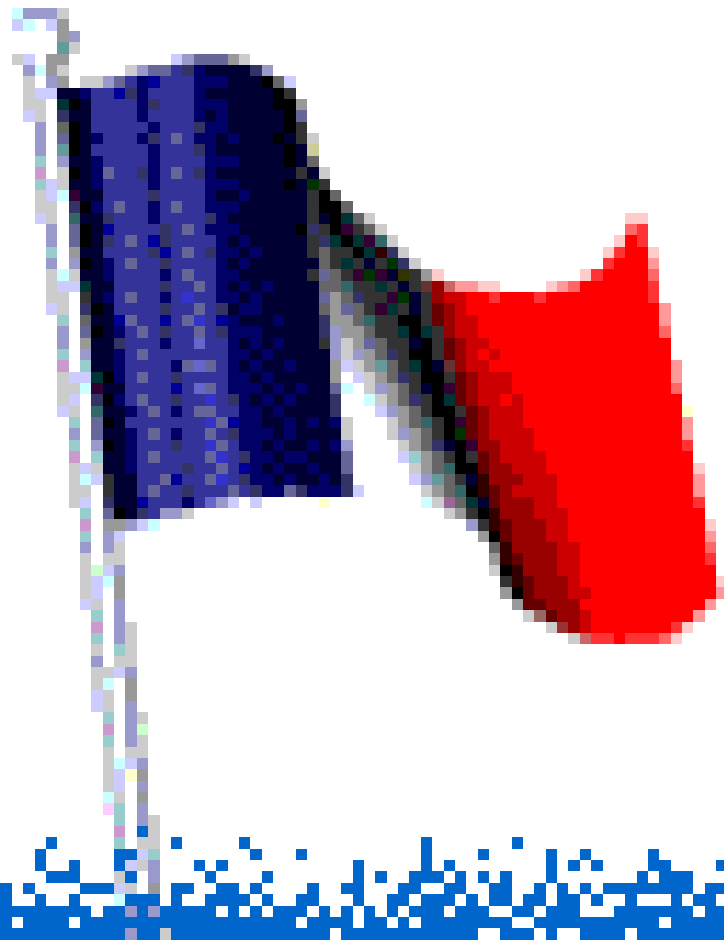
THE FRNCH REVOLUTIN AND NAPOLEON
BONAPARTE

BAISALI GUHA

ASSISTANT PROFFESOR

DEPT OF HISTORY

NARAZOLE RAJ COLLEGE



FRENCH REVOLUTION

OLD REGIME

Prior to the French Revolution, France had a strict class system called the "Old Regime." The first and second estates enjoyed many privileges, that the third estate was denied.



First
Estate

First Estate:

Clergy

Second Estate

Second Estate:

Nobles

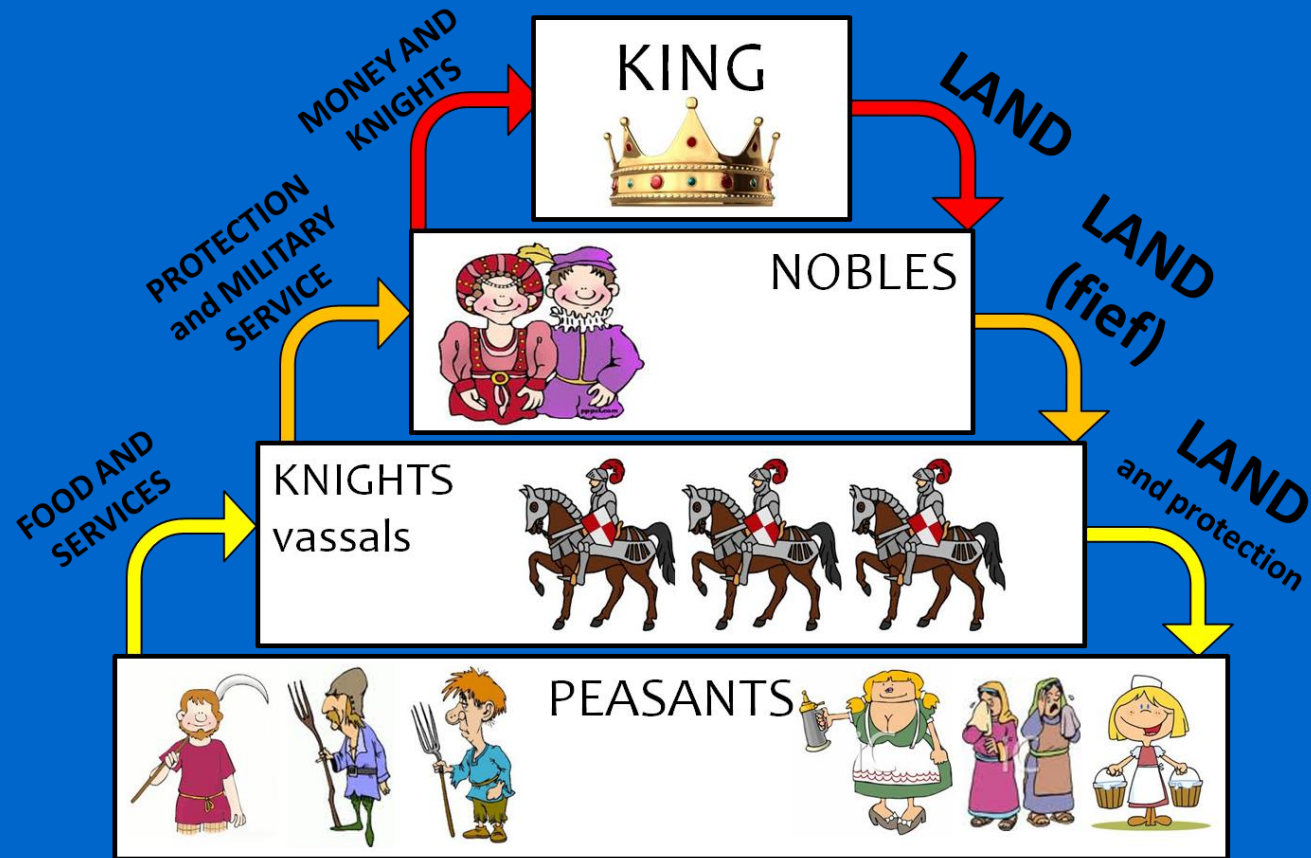
Third Estate

Third Estate:

LACK of Representation!

Bourgeoisie, Peasants,
Workers, and Serfs

System of Feudalism



A social system that existed in Europe during the Middle Ages in which people worked and fought for nobles who gave them protection and the use of land in return



King Louis XVI

- France was an **absolute monarchy** & one of the **strongest** nations in Europe
- France had many colonies abroad
- France had **fought** many **wars** around the world, proving their **military strength**
- **Cost** of fighting these **wars** & extravagant **spending** by the **monarchs** left France in much **debt**
- King **Louis XVI** (the 16th) inherited the **debt** and continued to **increase** it
- King Louis XVI **ignored** the **problems** of the debt proving his **weakness** as a leader
- As a last resort he decided to impose **taxes** on the **2nd Estate**

ESTATES GENERAL MEETING 1789

- In **reaction** to Louis' **decision** to **tax** them, the **Nobles** demand a meeting of the **Estates General**
- The Estates General had not been called for **175** years – it consisted of **members** of all **three** estates meeting together to **advise** and **approve** of actions made by the King
- In the Estates General each estate had **one** vote (**vote by order**)
- The task of the Estates General was to **solve** the **financial crisis**
- Influenced by **Enlightenment** ideas, the **third estate** became upset with the **outdated** method of **voting** and the **proposals** made by the other estates.

The Real Cahiers (demands)

The Third Estate wrote a list of demands that they presented to the Estates General & King.

1. National Assembly will be made up of **elected representatives**.
2. All offices and positions shall be **open** to all estates.
3. There should be three **branches** of government.
4. Property **can not** be taken away without **compensation**.
5. Freedom shall be granted to the **press**.
6. **Jury** system should be used for all cases.
7. **Taxes** should be levied **equally**.
8. All **Nobles privileges** shall be removed.

The Tennis Court Oath

- The Third Estate is disgusted with their inability to make changes to the government and **withdraw** from the Estates General and create the **National Assembly**
- When the Third Estate attempts to meet, their meeting hall is **locked** and they head to a nearby **Tennis Court** to continue their plans
- At the Palace of Versailles Tennis Court, the Third Estate swore an **oath**, “The Tennis Court Oath,” to never disband until France had a new **constitution**.
- They invite members of the **First** and **Second** Estates to join them in their reforms
- Some Clergy and Nobles do join, while others stay loyal to **King Louis XVI**
- King Louis reluctantly **agrees** to accept the National Assembly, but **rumors** spread that the King has secret plans to destroy it.

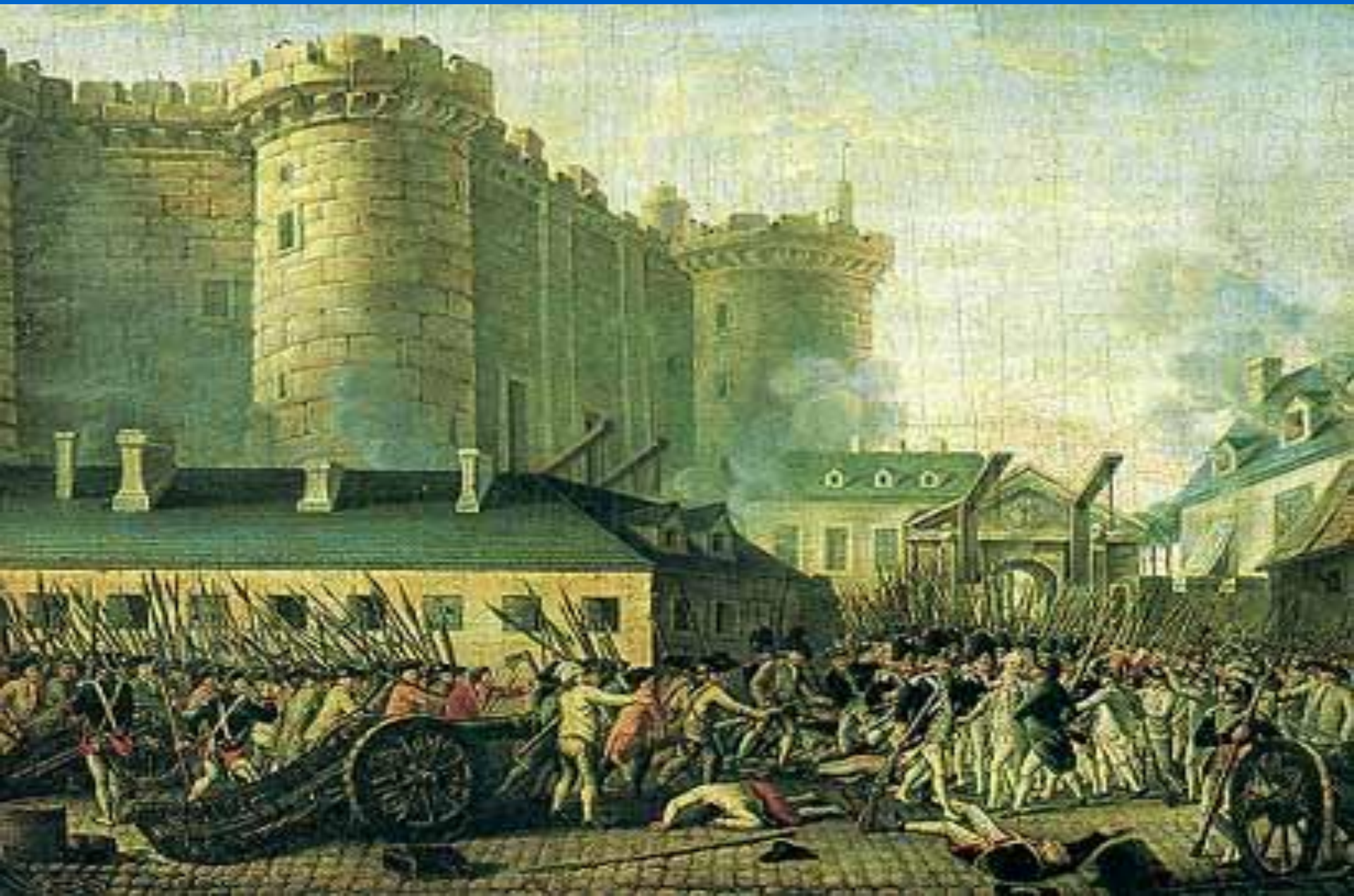
TENNIS COURT OATH - June 20, 1789



Storming of the Bastille

- As rumors spread that King Louis is going to destroy the National Assembly, more and more peasants begin to **starve**
- **Hundreds** of hungry people in Paris **stormed** the Bastille, a **medieval prison**
- They were searching for **gunpowder** to fight off the Kings forces if he decides to **end** the Assembly
- **This signaled the start of the French Revolution and the END of Feudalism!**
- Peasants everywhere began to **revolt**
- Bastille Day (July 14th) is celebrated in France as the Day of French **Freedom** (like the **4th of July** in the United States)

Storming of the Bastille



National Assembly 1789 - 1791

- The National Assembly **ends** the **privileges** of the nobles
- They wrote the **Declaration of the Rights of Man**
- They struggled to solve any **financial** problems because France was involved in too many **wars** (Austria & Prussia) and had too many **political** divisions
- In 1791 a **limited Monarchy** with a **constitution** was created (severely limited King Louis' power and created a new legislative body – the Legislative Assembly)

DÉCLARATION

DES

DROITS DE L'HOMME

EN SOCIÉTÉ.

Par M. l'Abbé SIEYÈS.

A VERSAILLES,

Chez BARDON, Imprimeur de L'ASSEMBLÉE
NATIONALE, Avenue de St. Cloud, n° 69.

1789.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man

- This was the **first** step in writing a Constitution
- It was modeled after the **American Declaration of Independence** (written **13** years earlier) and the American **Bill of Rights**
- It's goals are reflected in the slogan of the French Revolution: "**Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity**"

March to Versailles

- After months of **bread** shortages, **seven** thousand women march 12 miles from Paris to **Versailles** to demand bread
- Marie Antoinette is rumored to have said, “**Let them eat cake!**”
- The king and queen are forced to **leave** Versailles

MARCH TO VERSAILLES

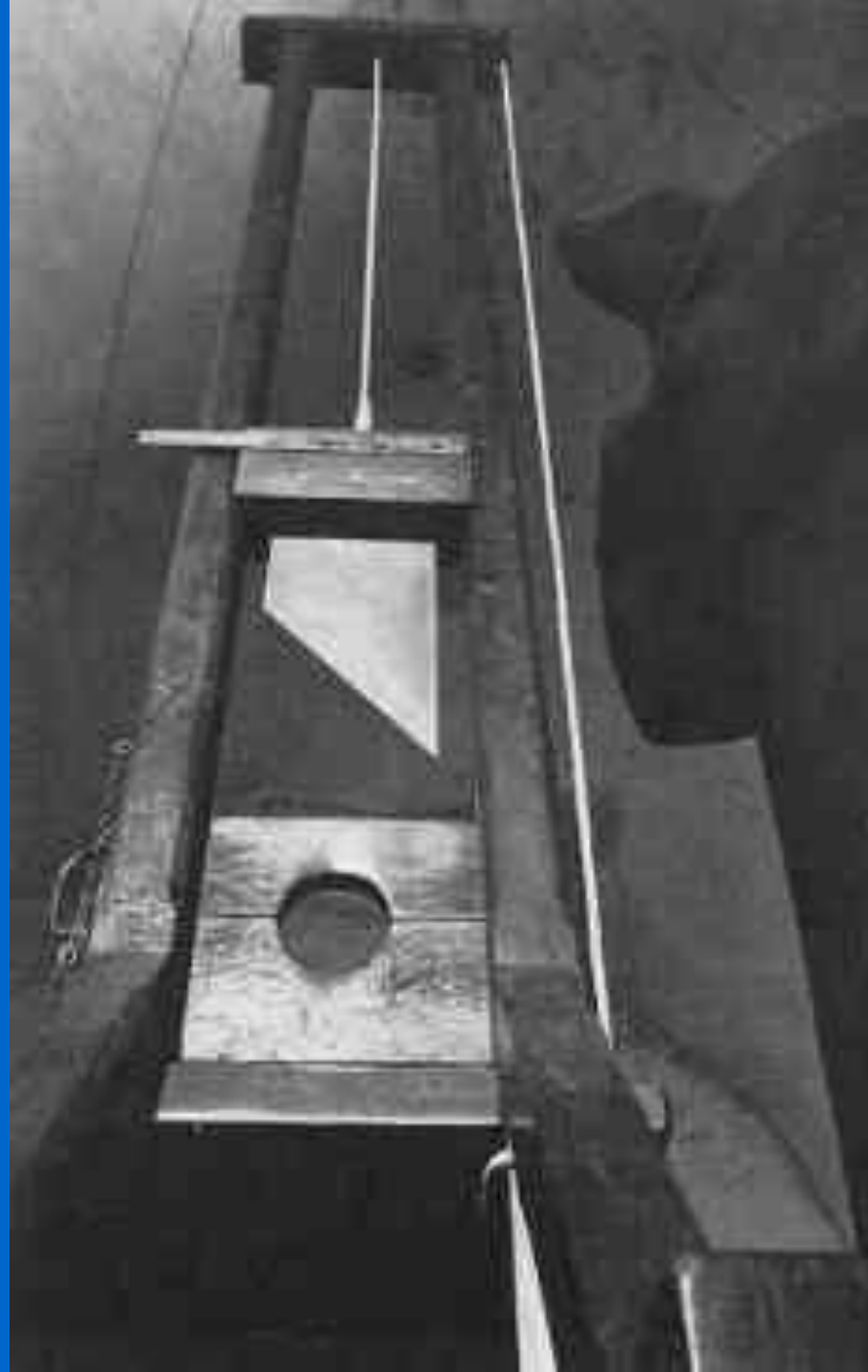
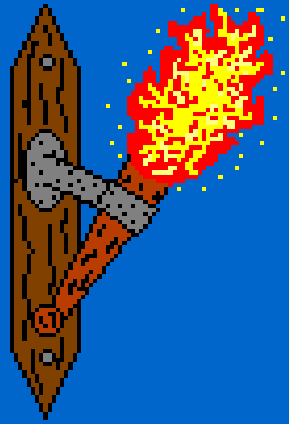


- The King & Queen are forced to go to Paris and are kept under surveillance at the **Tuilleries Palace**.
- The **Assembly Meets** to attempt to create a Democracy...
- Robespierre calls for: **“Liberty, Equality, & Fraternity”**
- Also demands **Universal Suffrage** and...
- **End of Slavery** in the **French West Indies (Haiti)**



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



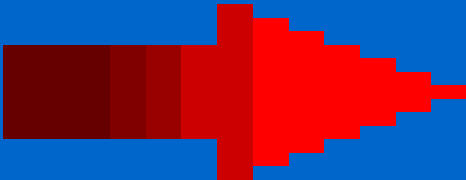
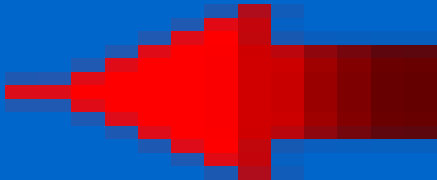
The National Razor!

- Designed to end unnecessary suffering... Really??
- Used on those against the Revolution

Assembly Begins to Fall Apart

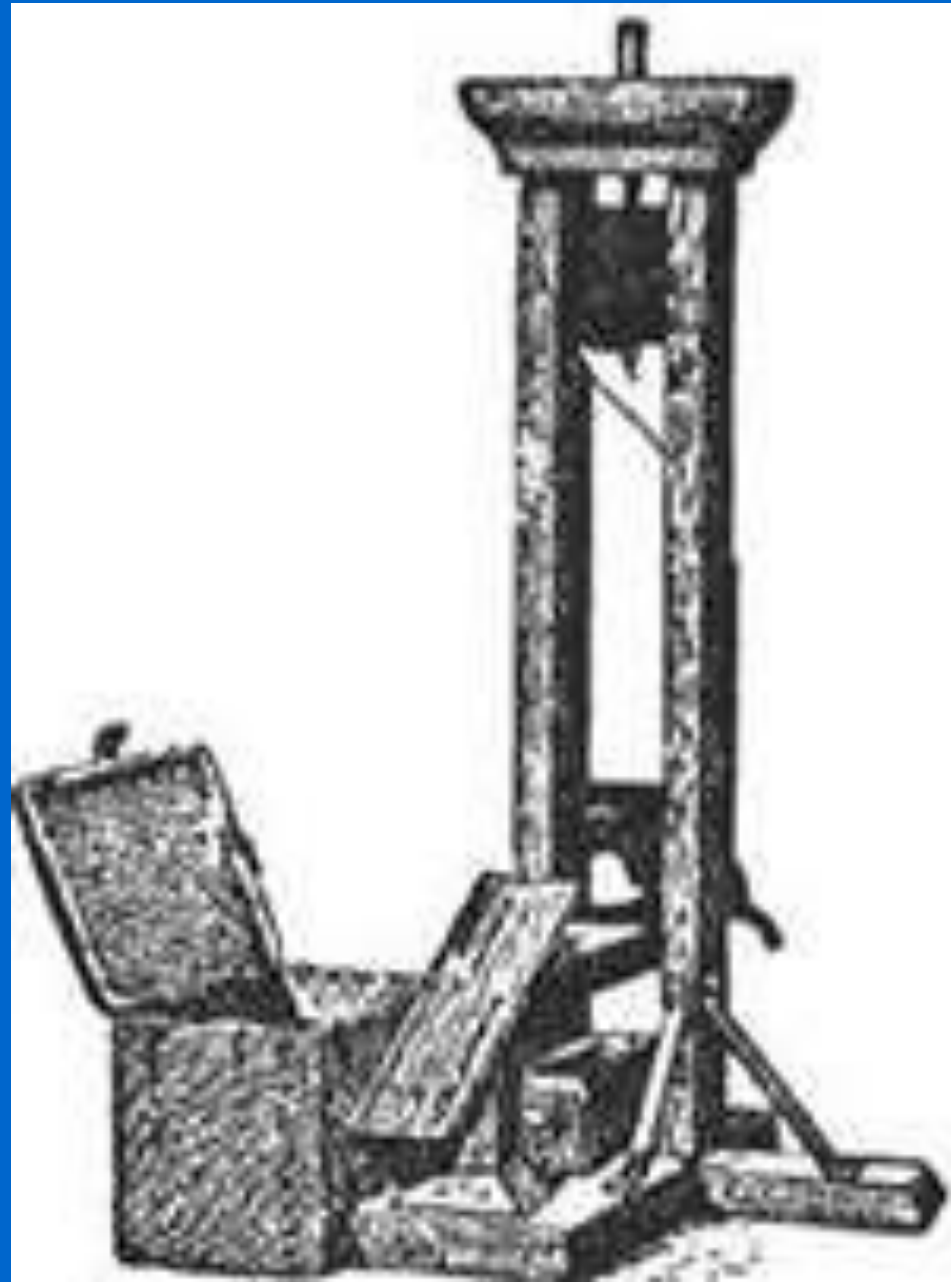
- Assembly Weakened by ...
 - Financial Problems
 - Foreign Wars (w/Austria)
 - Political Divisions

French Political Spectrum

RADICAL	LIBERAL	MODERATE	CONSERVATIVE	REACTIONARY
End the Monarchy & Kill the King (Jacobins)	Republic , King as advisor	King is a figurehead with no power	King has limited powers (limited monarchy)	Restore the monarchy
<p>Third Estate</p> 		<p>First and Second Estate</p> 		

- A group of **radicals** called the **Jacobins**, led by **Robespierre**, took control of the **National Assembly** and created a new legislative body called the **National Convention**.

- The monarchy was **ended** and France was declared a **republic**.



Reign of Terror

- Maximilien Robespierre and other radicals (like Murat), the **Jacobins**, execute **Louis XVI** and **Marie Antoinette**
- Robespierre basically **rules** as a **dictator**



Trial and Execution of Louis XVI



Violence Grows...

- People call for **end of violence**
- **Murat** is murdered –
backfires...becomes a **martyr** for the
Revolution
- **Constitutional rights** are **suspended** by
the convention
- **Anyone** can be investigated as a
potential **traitor** to the Revolution
- **Committee on Public Safety** created
- **Forty** Thousand French people in **two**
years were executed by **guillotine**

- Sought to destroy **Catholic Church** – seen as **enemy** to the **Revolution**
- Robespierre's Terror “saves” the Revolution but goes too far...
- The **National Convention** turned on their leaders and executed **Robespierre** in July 1794
- The Reign of Terror ends when a group of **moderates** creates a new constitution and created a **five** man **Directory** to run the country

