

## CHAPTER 23 SECTION 1 NOTES

### I. The Old Regime

#### A. The Privileged Estates

1. Two of the estates had privileges
  - a. The Roman Catholic Church who's clergy formed the First Estate
    1. Contributed about 2 percent of income to the government
  - b. The Second Estate was made up of rich nobles that paid not taxes

#### B. The Third Estate made up about 98% of the people had three groups and paid all the taxes

1. The first group the bourgeoisie were merchants and artisans
  - a. Well-educated and believed strongly in the Enlightenment ideas of liberty and equality
2. City workers, cooks, servants, and others formed the second group of the Third Estate
3. Peasants formed the third group and were 80% of Frances 26 million people

### II The Forces of Change

#### A. Enlightenment Ideas

1. Poor began questioning Frances structure of society
2. Began to use words like equality, liberty, and democracy
  - a. Enlightenment thinkers like Jean Jacques Rousseau, and Voltaire gave new radical ideas to the poor

#### B. Economic Woes

1. Heavy burden of taxes affected trade and production
2. Crop failures of 1780's
  - a. Grain in 1789 caused bread to double in price, caused starvation
3. Extravagant spending by king and queen
4. France borrowed heavily to help the American Revolution

#### C. A Weak Leader

1. Louis XVI paid little attention to his government advisors
2. Louis XVI had married Marie Antoinette, a Hapsburg (unpopular)
3. Waited to France was bankrupt before calling the Estates General to meet

### III. Revolution Dawns

#### A. In the past the top two estates could dictate to the third estate

#### B. The National Assembly

1. The Third Estate insisted that all three estates meet together and that each delegate cast a vote
2. Louis orders the Assembly to follow the old rules of the Middle Ages
3. The Third Estate declares itself The National Assembly
  - a. Leading spokesman Abbe Sieyes
  - b. First act of the Revolution June 17<sup>th</sup> 1789
  - c. Pledge called the Tennis Court Oath

#### C. Storming the Bastille

1. Louis tries to smooth over the situation by ordering the clergy and the

- Nobles to join the Third Estate they refuse
2. King calls his Swiss guard to protect him people see the guard as foreign  
Troops coming to massacre the French population
  3. July 14, 1789 citizens storm the Bastille a French armory/prison kill the mayor

#### IV. A Great Fear Sweeps France

- A. Started as a rumor that the nobles were hiring outlaws to torment the peasants
- B. Instead the outlaws were the peasants killing and plundering the nobles farms and Homes
- C. Parisian women rioted over the price of bread and marched on Versailles where  
They captured the king and queen and brought them back to paris