

# The French Revolution Begins Answer Key

## Chapter 23, Section 1: The French Revolution Begins

Use your *Modern World History: Patterns of Interaction* textbook to read chapter 23.1 and answer the sections below. DO NOT copy your answers directly from the textbook. Instead, put your answers into your own words and in complete sentences so you can be sure to comprehend the historical material.



### Terms and Names

For each term or name, write a brief description explaining their significance to the chapter's reading.

Term or Name	Brief Description
Old Regime	
estate	
Estates-General	
National Assembly	
Tennis Court Oath	
Great Fear	

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION BEGINS ANSWER KEY OUTLINES THE PIVOTAL MOMENTS, KEY FIGURES, AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT LED TO THE REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR IN FRANCE DURING THE LATE 18TH CENTURY. THIS ARTICLE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF THE CAUSES, COURSE, AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, WHICH NOT ONLY TRANSFORMED FRANCE BUT ALSO HAD A LASTING IMPACT ON THE WORLD.

## BACKGROUND OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, WHICH BEGAN IN 1789, WAS A SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT IN FRENCH AND WORLD HISTORY. A CONFLUENCE OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DISCONTENT AMONG THE FRENCH POPULACE, PARTICULARLY THE THIRD ESTATE, WHICH CONSISTED OF COMMONERS, PEASANTS, AND THE BOURGEOISIE.

## SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN FRANCE

BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, FRENCH SOCIETY WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE ESTATES:

1. FIRST ESTATE: THE CLERGY - MADE UP OF CHURCH OFFICIALS, THIS ESTATE ENJOYED MANY PRIVILEGES AND PAID LITTLE TO NO TAXES.
2. SECOND ESTATE: THE NOBILITY - COMPRISING THE ARISTOCRACY, THIS GROUP ALSO ENJOYED SUBSTANTIAL PRIVILEGES AND WEALTH WHILE BEING LARGELY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION.
3. THIRD ESTATE: THE COMMON PEOPLE - THIS ESTATE INCLUDED PEASANTS, URBAN WORKERS, AND THE BOURGEOISIE. THEY MADE UP ABOUT 98% OF THE POPULATION AND BORE THE BURDEN OF HEAVY TAXATION, LEADING TO WIDESPREAD RESENTMENT.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS

SEVERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES EXACERBATED THE TENSIONS LEADING TO THE REVOLUTION:

- DEBT: FRANCE WAS HEAVILY IN DEBT DUE TO INVOLVEMENT IN WARS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
- TAXATION: THE THIRD ESTATE SHOULDERED MOST OF THE TAX BURDEN, WHILE THE PRIVILEGED CLASSES CONTRIBUTED MINIMALLY.
- FOOD SHORTAGES: POOR HARVESTS IN THE LATE 1780S LED TO SKYROCKETING BREAD PRICES, CAUSING FAMINE AND UNREST

AMONG THE LOWER CLASSES.

## KEY EVENTS LEADING TO THE REVOLUTION

THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION WERE MARKED BY ESCALATING TENSIONS AND A SERIES OF CRITICAL INCIDENTS THAT MOBILIZED THE POPULACE AGAINST THE MONARCHY.

### THE ESTATES-GENERAL AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

IN 1789, KING LOUIS XVI CALLED FOR A MEETING OF THE ESTATES-GENERAL TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. THIS GATHERING MARKED THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1614 THAT THE ESTATES-GENERAL HAD BEEN CONVENED.

- GRIEVANCES: EACH ESTATE PREPARED A LIST OF GRIEVANCES, OR "CAHIERS DE DOLENCES," WHICH HIGHLIGHTED THE INEQUITIES AND INJUSTICES FACED BY THE THIRD ESTATE.
- VOTING BY HEAD VS. VOTE BY ESTATE: A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE AROSE REGARDING HOW VOTES WOULD BE COUNTED. THE THIRD ESTATE DEMANDED VOTING BY HEAD, WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM MORE POWER, WHILE THE FIRST AND SECOND ESTATES FAVORED VOTING BY ESTATE, WHICH WOULD PRESERVE THEIR DOMINANCE.

ON JUNE 17, 1789, FRUSTRATED WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS, THE THIRD ESTATE DECLARED ITSELF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ASSERTING THEIR RIGHT TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE.

### THE TENNIS COURT OATH

ON JUNE 20, 1789, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOUND THEMSELVES LOCKED OUT OF THEIR MEETING PLACE. THEY CONVENED IN AN INDOOR TENNIS COURT, WHERE THEY TOOK THE FAMOUS TENNIS COURT OATH, PLEDGING NOT TO DISBAND UNTIL THEY HAD DRAFTED A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR FRANCE. THIS ACT OF DEFIANCE SYMBOLIZED THE SHIFT OF POWER FROM THE MONARCHY TO THE PEOPLE.

### STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

THE TURNING POINT OF THE REVOLUTION OCCURRED ON JULY 14, 1789, WITH THE STORMING OF THE BASTILLE:

- SYMBOL OF OPPRESSION: THE BASTILLE WAS A FORTRESS AND PRISON THAT SYMBOLIZED ROYAL TYRANNY.
- POPULAR UPRISING: ARMED WITH MUSKETS, REVOLUTIONARIES STORMED THE BASTILLE, SEEKING WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. THE FALL OF THIS FORTRESS BECAME A POWERFUL SYMBOL OF THE REVOLUTION AND IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY IN FRANCE AS BASTILLE DAY.

## THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS

THE REVOLUTION WAS FUELED BY ENLIGHTENMENT IDEALS THAT EMPHASIZED LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND FRATERNITY. KEY FIGURES EMERGED WHO SHAPED THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION.

### INFLUENTIAL PHILOSOPHERS

1. VOLTAIRE: ADVOCATED FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.
2. ROUSSEAU: PROMOTED THE IDEA OF THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND THE BELIEF THAT SOVEREIGNTY RESIDES IN THE PEOPLE.

3. MONTESQUIEU: HIS IDEAS ON THE SEPARATION OF POWERS INFLUENCED THE STRUCTURE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

## DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN

ON AUGUST 26, 1789, THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN, WHICH OUTLINED FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR ALL CITIZENS:

- EQUALITY: ALL MEN ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN RIGHTS.
- LIBERTY: INDIVIDUALS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY, PROPERTY, SECURITY, AND RESISTANCE TO OPPRESSION.
- FRATERNITY: EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY AMONG CITIZENS.

## THE ESCALATION OF THE REVOLUTION

AS THE REVOLUTION PROGRESSED, TENSIONS ESCALATED, LEADING TO MORE RADICAL ACTIONS AND THE EVENTUAL RISE OF EXTREMIST FACTIONS.

## THE MARCH ON VERSAILLES

IN OCTOBER 1789, WOMEN, DRIVEN BY HUNGER AND ANGER OVER BREAD SHORTAGES, MARCHED FROM PARIS TO VERSAILLES. THEY DEMANDED TO SEE THE KING AND ULTIMATELY FORCED LOUIS XVI AND HIS FAMILY TO RETURN TO PARIS, EFFECTIVELY BRINGING THE MONARCHY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REVOLUTIONARIES.

## THE RADICAL PHASE OF THE REVOLUTION

THE REVOLUTION TOOK A MORE RADICAL TURN WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC IN 1792. THE MONARCHY WAS ABOLISHED, AND KING LOUIS XVI WAS EXECUTED IN JANUARY 1793.

- THE JACOBS: THIS RADICAL FACTION LED BY LEADERS SUCH AS MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE SOUGHT TO ELIMINATE ALL TRACES OF THE OLD REGIME AND IMPLEMENT RADICAL SOCIAL CHANGES.
- THE REIGN OF TERROR: FROM SEPTEMBER 1793 TO JULY 1794, THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY OVERSAW THE REIGN OF TERROR, DURING WHICH THOUSANDS WERE EXECUTED BY GUILLOTINE, INCLUDING MANY PERCEIVED ENEMIES OF THE REVOLUTION.

## CONSEQUENCES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION HAD FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES THAT TRANSFORMED FRANCE AND INFLUENCED OTHER NATIONS.

## POLITICAL REFORMS

THE REVOLUTION LED TO SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CHANGES, INCLUDING:

- ABOLITION OF THE MONARCHY: THE MONARCHY WAS DISMANTLED, AND FRANCE TRANSITIONED TO A REPUBLIC.
- CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: SEVERAL CONSTITUTIONS WERE ADOPTED, REFLECTING THE CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

## SOCIAL CHANGES

THE REVOLUTION BROUGHT ABOUT PROFOUND SOCIAL CHANGES:

- END OF FEUDALISM: FEUDAL PRIVILEGES WERE ABOLISHED, LEADING TO GREATER SOCIAL MOBILITY FOR PEASANTS AND COMMONERS.
- SECULARISM: THE INFLUENCE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DIMINISHED AS RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS LOST POWER AND LAND.

## GLOBAL IMPACT

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION INSPIRED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE, ENCOURAGING STRUGGLES FOR INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS:

- LATIN AMERICA: LEADERS LIKE SIMÓN BOLÍVAR WERE INFLUENCED BY REVOLUTIONARY IDEALS.
- EUROPE: THE REVOLUTION INSPIRED UPRISINGS AND MOVEMENTS ADVOCATING FOR DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

## CONCLUSION

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION BEGINS ANSWER KEY ENCAPSULATES A TRANSFORMATIVE PERIOD IN HISTORY MARKED BY THE STRUGGLE FOR RIGHTS, LIBERTY, AND EQUALITY. THE REVOLUTION NOT ONLY DISMANTLED THE EXISTING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN FRANCE BUT ALSO SET THE STAGE FOR MODERN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENTS WORLDWIDE. ITS LEGACY CONTINUES TO RESONATE, REMINDING US OF THE ENDURING QUEST FOR JUSTICE AND THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE TO EFFECT CHANGE.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT EVENT IS COMMONLY REGARDED AS THE START OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

THE STORMING OF THE BASTILLE ON JULY 14, 1789.

### WHAT WERE THE MAIN CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

THE MAIN CAUSES INCLUDED SOCIAL INEQUALITY, ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, AND THE INFLUENCE OF ENLIGHTENMENT IDEAS.

### WHAT DOCUMENT WAS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1789 THAT OUTLINED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE REVOLUTION?

THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN.

### WHAT ROLE DID KING LOUIS XVI PLAY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

HE WAS SEEN AS A SYMBOL OF THE MONARCHY'S FAILURES AND WAS ULTIMATELY OVERTHROWN AND EXECUTED.

### WHICH SOCIAL CLASS WAS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION?

THE THIRD ESTATE, WHICH INCLUDED THE COMMON PEOPLE, PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN INITIATING THE REVOLUTION.

## WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ESTATES-GENERAL MEETING IN 1789?

IT MARKED THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1614 THAT THE ESTATES-GENERAL WAS CONVENED, LEADING TO THE FORMATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS.

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## The French Revolution Begins Answer Key

**France** French \_

2[French] It was tantalized close the dawn, therefore he decided to get up and to look far from his French windows. [English] [English]

**FR/EN: guillemets (« ») / quotation marks (" ") - usage & punctuation**

Oct 16, 2015 · The main usage of quotation marks is the same in both languages: quoting or emphasizing words or phrases. The typography rules are however a bit different. When using French guillemets, you should add an (ideally thin) non-breaking space on either side of the quoted text (e.g., « Bonjour ! »), whereas no spaces are used with English quotation marks (e.g., ...

## Español-Français | WordReference Forums

Mar 22, 2005 · Questions en espagnol ou en français sur le sens et la traduction d'une langue à l'autre de mots, expressions ou tournures contextualisés . Aucune autre langue autorisée. Preguntas en español o francés sobre el sentido y la traducción de una lengua a ...

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## 15 all, 30 all (tennis) - WordReference Forums

Jun 5, 2005 · How does one say 'fifteen all' and 'thirty all' in French?

FR: *sur / dans la rue, la route, l'avenue, le boulevard, etc ...*

Feb 6, 2006 · La voiture dans la rue, sur la route, sur l'autoroute, sur la voie de gauche/droite/du milieu, sur le chemin ou sur le trottoir eek: eh oui !..)

Sir - Madam / Monsieur - Madame - Mademoiselle (abbreviations)

Feb 7, 2005 · I am currently in an email conversation with a French speaker who is using abbreviations for Sir and Madame - would someone please let me know what are the correct gender abbreviations? Merci!

## n° /No/Nb - Numéro / Nombre | WordReference Forums

May 25, 2009 · Actually, I would need the abbreviation since it will appear in a little text box, in a

software. For example, in French, we have written: No Page (for page number) and Nb pages (for number of pages). Maybe Nb exists too in English?

#### About us (for a website) | WordReference Forums

Mar 1, 2007 · Hello, on an English website for link we say " about us" can we say in French "A propos de nous" or is there something better. Thanks Moderator note: multiple threads merged to create this one

#### FR: je t'aime / tu aimes / t'aimes - éliision - WordReference Forums

Sep 2, 2008 · I have been told in the French classes when we were doing conjugation (of adorer for example) that there is no liaison in the other pronouns except 'je'. So, it would be like "j'adore -- tu adores (and not t'adores) -- il adore ....etc." Hence I would like to ask, Why in "je t'aime" there is a...

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