

The French Revolution



Turning France upside down
Part I

- *We will get to the French Revolution but first lets go back and think about the American Revolution.*
 - *(What do you remember?)*
- *While watching Crash Course of the French Revolution think about what is different between the French and American Revolutions.*



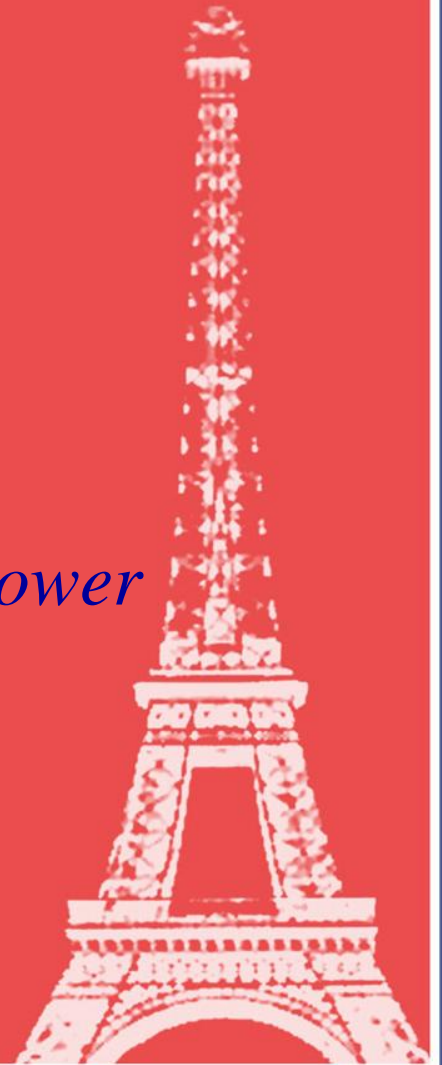
- *The French was different:*

- *More complex*

- *More violent*

- *Far more radical*

- *Attempted to flip the hour glass of power upside down. Did it succeed?*





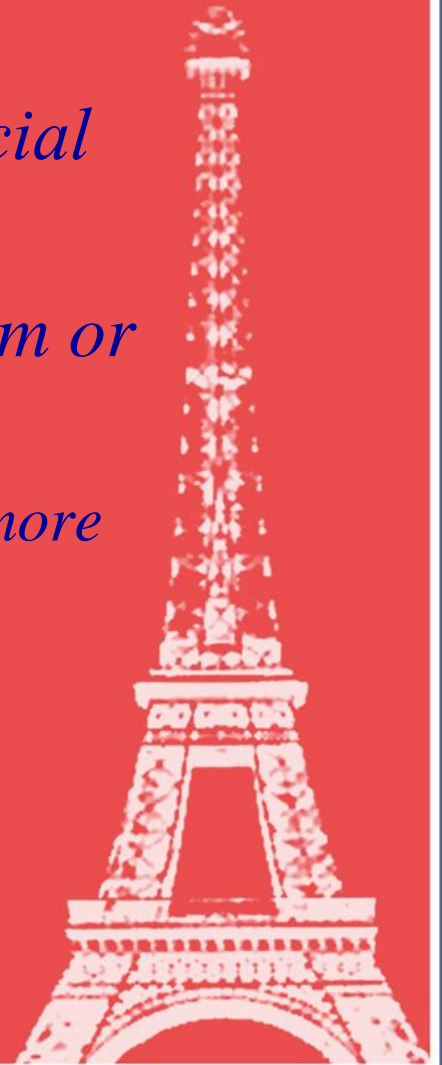
George Washington



- *Financial problems in France:*
 - *High unemployment*
 - *Many poor people*
 - *French government continued to spend lots of \$ on wars and court luxuries...very unnecessary!*
 - *France helped out with American rev.*

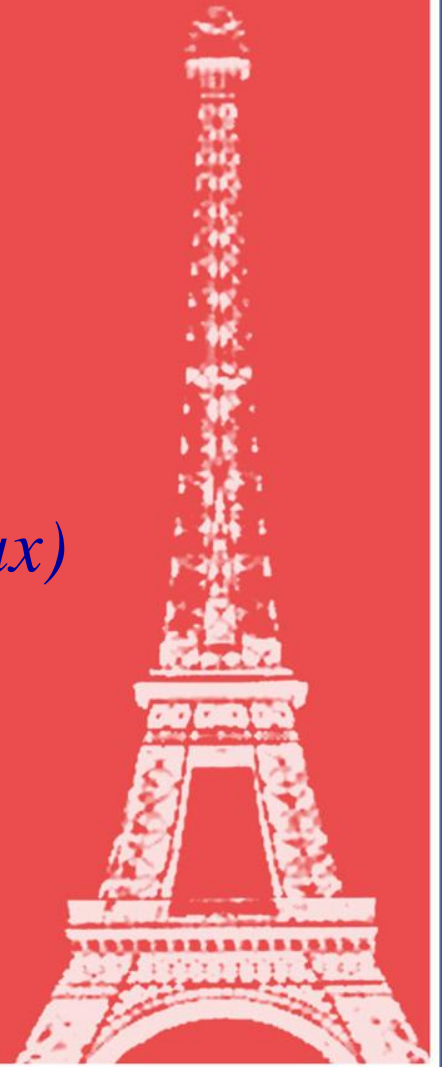


- *What were estates?*
 - *Social orders, based on one's financial status*
 - *Looks something like the caste system or feudalism.*
 - *Only difference? In France, one had more social mobility (could move up)*



The First Estate

- *Clergy 130,000 people*
 - *Higher clergy were wealthy and considered nobility*
 - *Parish priests were quite poor*
 - *Owned 10% of land*
 - *Exempt from taille (major French tax)*



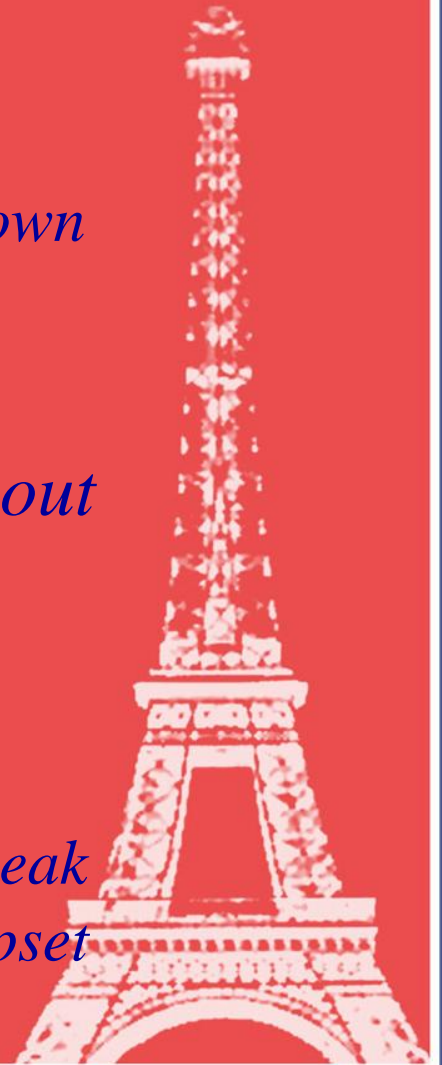
The Second Estate

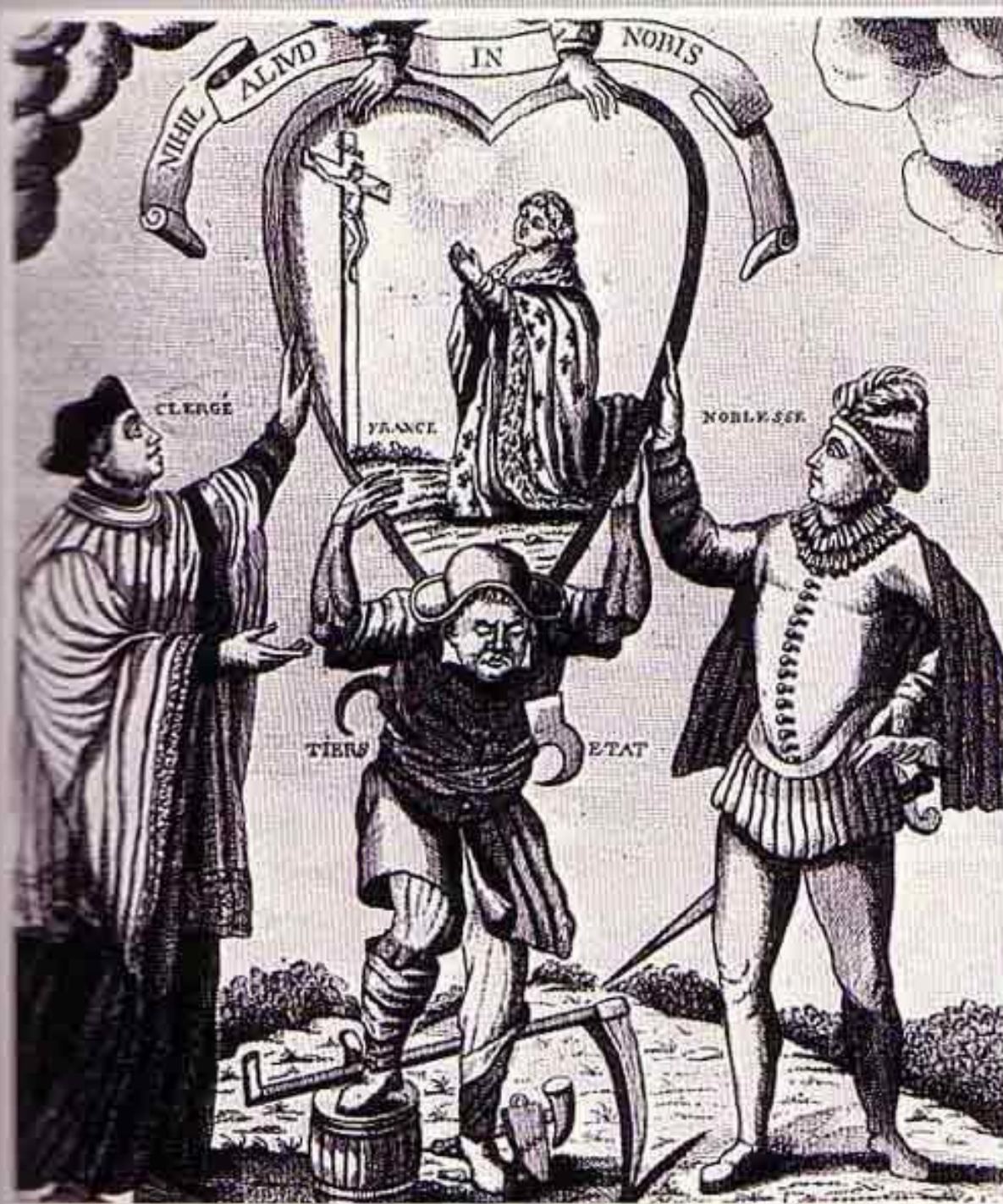
- *Nobility 350,000 people*
 - *Owned 25-30% of land*
 - *Held government, military, law court, and higher church offices*
 - *Sought to keep and extend power*
 - *Some felt for the lower classes, and could potentially be swayed for change*
 - *Exempt from taille*



The Third Estate

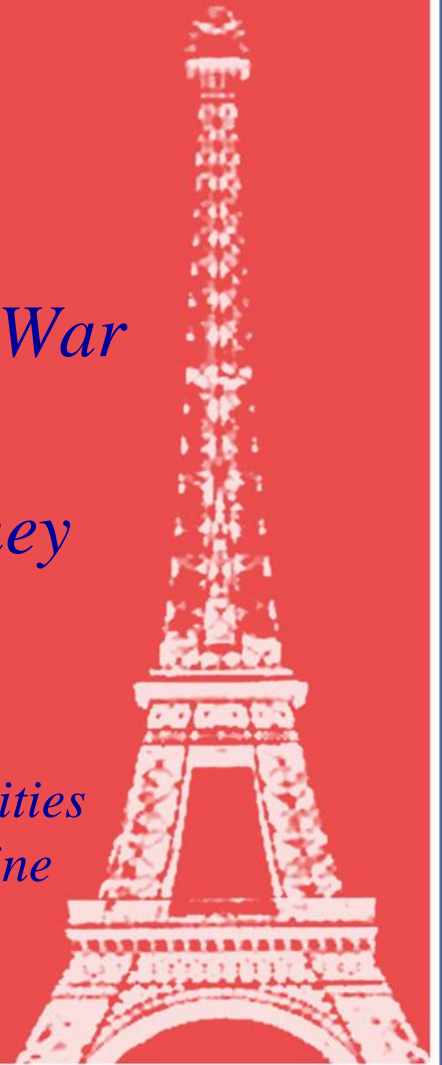
- *Commoners, the majority of people*
- *Peasants 75-80% of total pop.*
 - *Owned 35-40% of land, but most did not own any land*
 - *Had to pay for use of town facilities*
- *Bourgeoisie (middle class) make up about 8%*
 - *Owned 20-25% of land*
 - *Could move up to nobility if desired*
 - *All 3rd estaters faced high inflation, and weak buying power. Many starved, and were upset by arbitrary power held by nobles!*





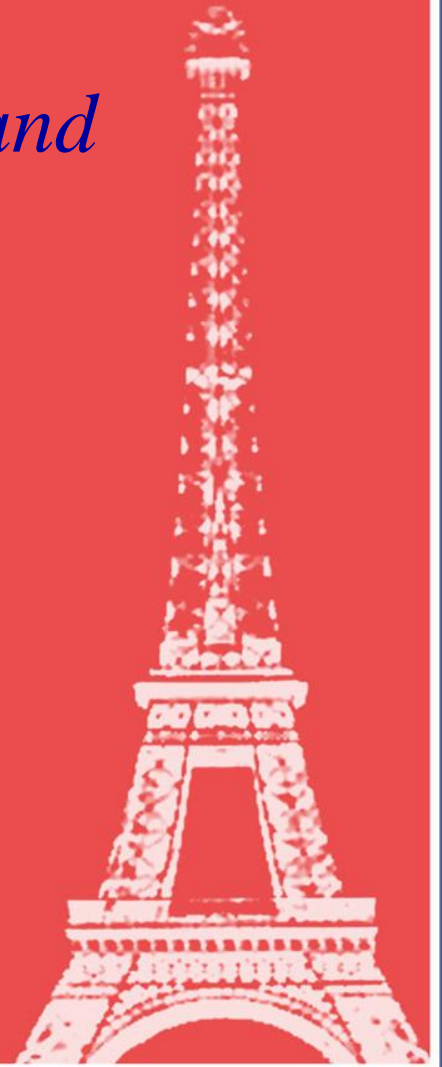
Relics of feudalism

- *Aristocratic Privileges:*
 - *Obligations that survived from an earlier age*
 - *Costs of Wars from before (7 Years War and American Revolution)*
 - *How do they make some of that money back?*
 - *Included:*
 - *Payment of fees for the use of village facilities such as the flour mill, community oven, wine press, pay clergy for services*



Enlightenment ideas' impact:

- *Many French people began to question the king, the old system and the rigid social order*



Estates-General...weak body of reps

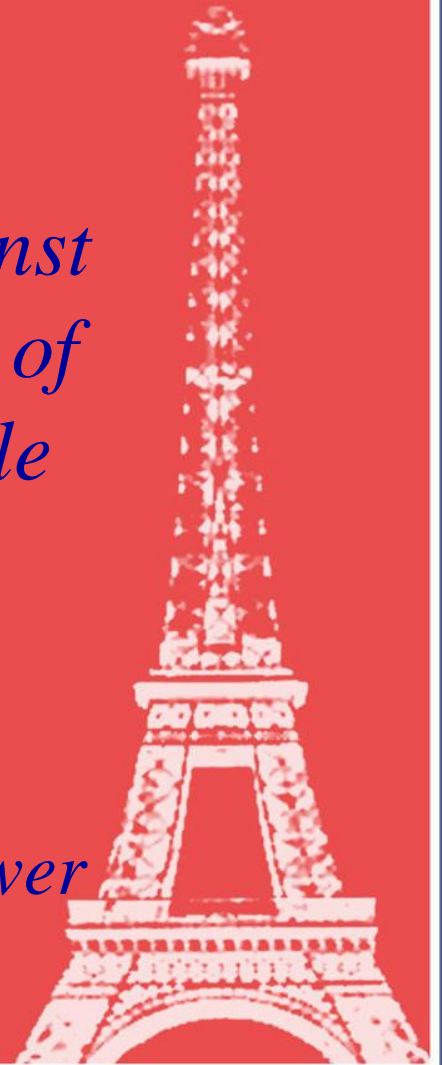
- *Had not been used in almost a hundred years*
 - *Was comprised of 3 major bodies, one for each order*
 - *Each had about 300 reps*
 - *Maintained its power because usually voted 2 to 1 (1st and 2nd always beat out 3rd order)*
 - *3rd order wanted a vote of EACH rep to create a constitution that would abolish unfair tax process*

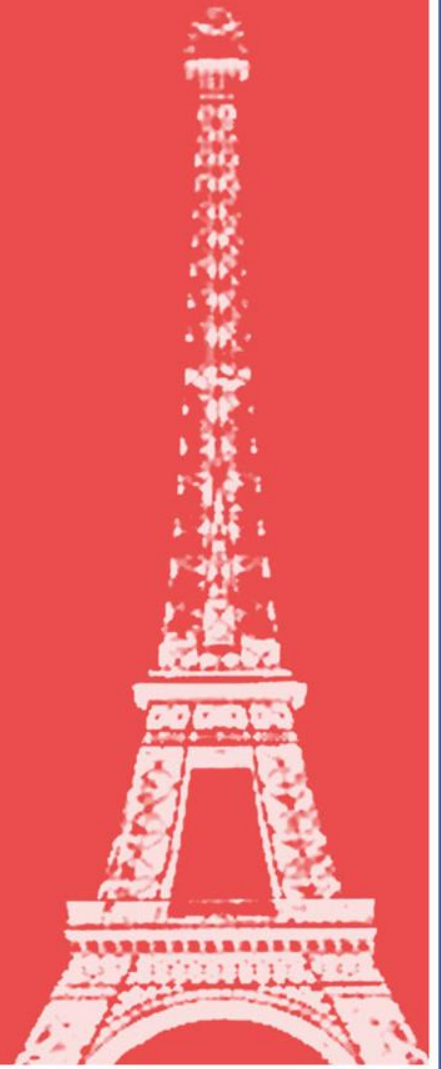




King Louis XVI said NO

- *The 3rd order created “National Assembly” to combat this move*
- *King Louis tried to use force against the National Assembly, but a mob of poor Parisians stormed the Bastille*
 - *Armory and prison*
 - *Showed that the king did not have ultimate power anymore*
 - *National Assembly increased its power*

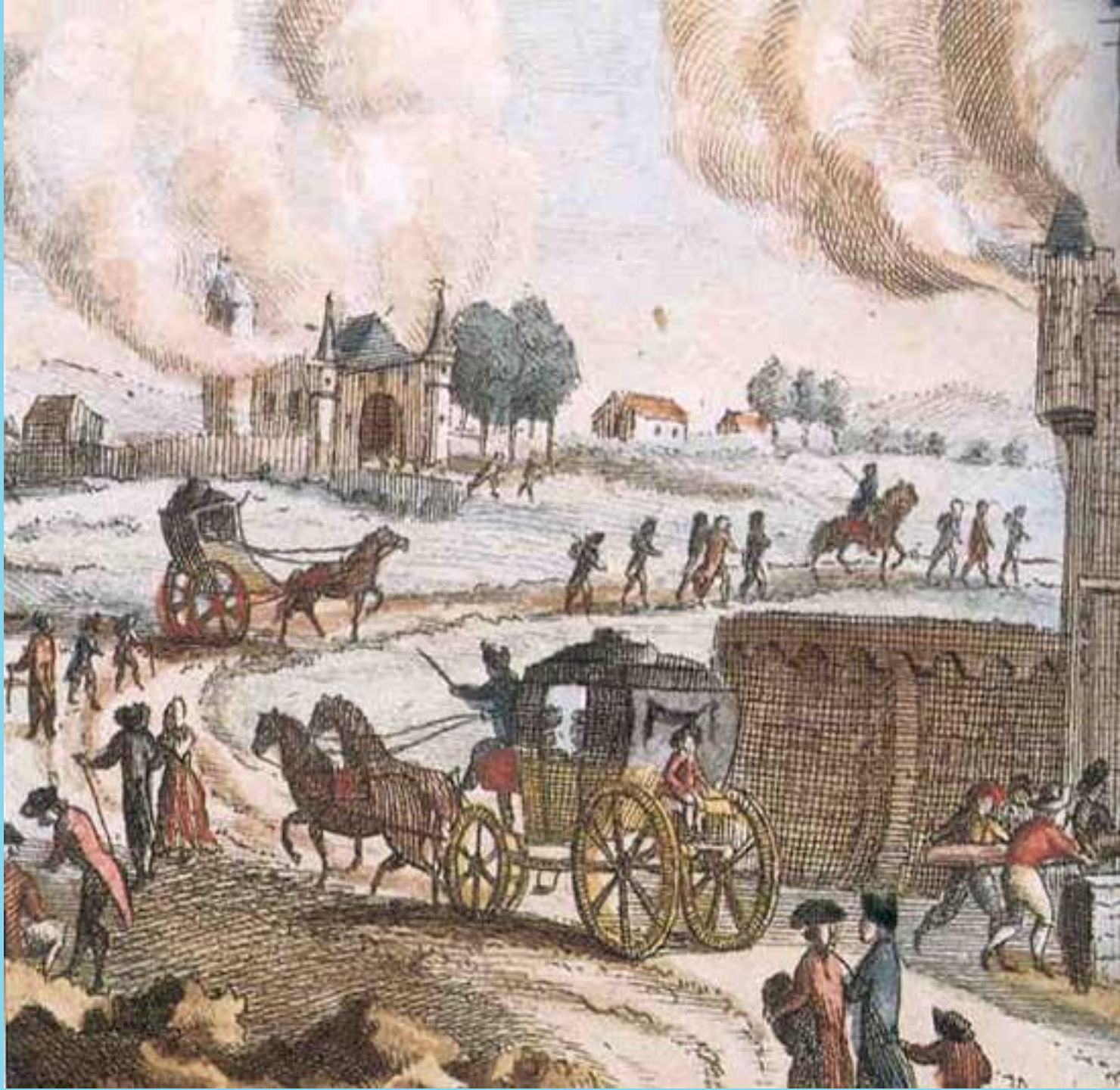




The Great Fear

- *Peasant rebellions against the old system broke out.*
 - *Fear spread in summer of 1789*
 - *Consequence? French people, fearing outside attack, formed militia groups*





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National Assembly

- *Changes:*
 - *Abolished the rights of landlords*
 - *Abolished financial privileges of nobles and clergy*
 - *Wrote Declaration of the Basic Rights of Man (proclaimed basic freedoms)*
 - *Seized the Catholic Church lands, sold for revenue to help France. Bishops and priests to be elected and paid by govt.*
 - *Many Catholics became enemies of the Revolution*





King Louis' response to Revolution?

- *He refused to accept the Declaration of Rights*
 - *Women with brooms and other kitchen weapons stormed his home, and forced him to accept it*
 - *Forced him to return to Paris to show support of the National Assembly*
 - *He and his family had become prisoners*
 - *Citizens would not take no for an answer*
 - *Citizens now questioned the king*





The French Revolution

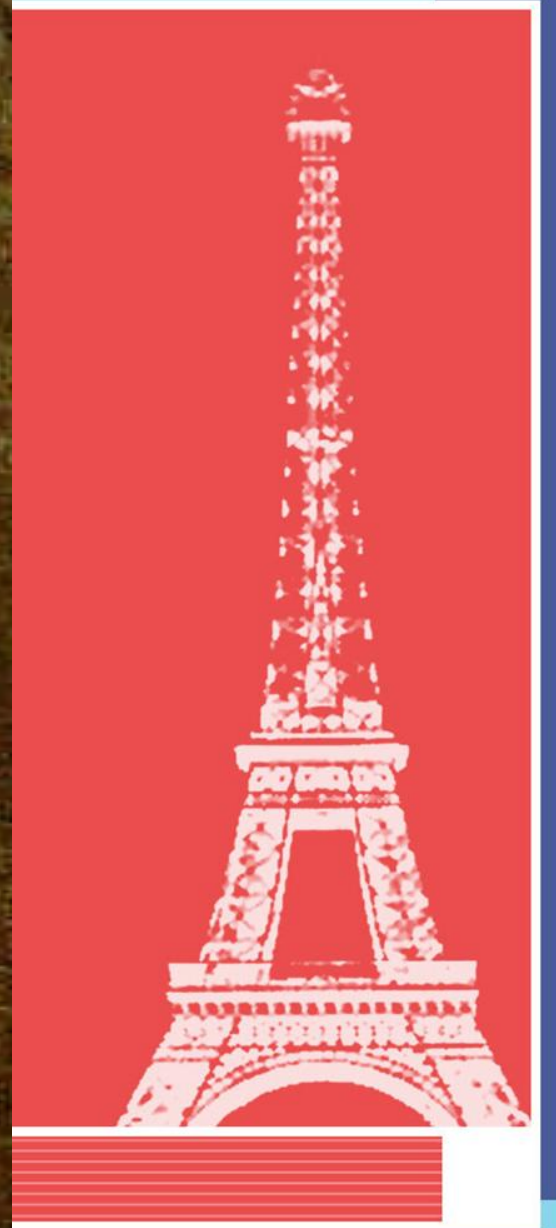


*Turning France upside down
Part II...how will it end?*

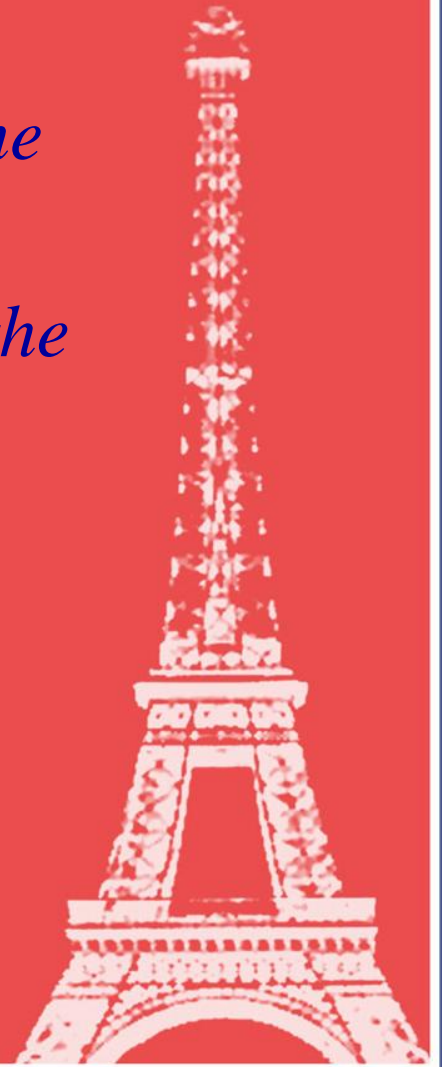
Revolution became radical

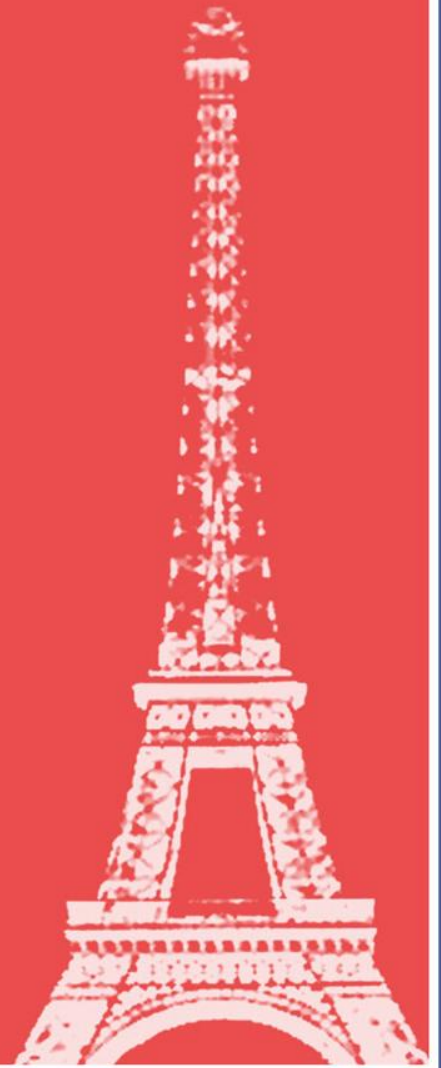
- *Georges Danton, leader of the sans-culottes (without breeches), poor patriots, called for revenge on those who had aided the king*
 - *Thousands of people arrested and massacred*
 - *National Assembly became the National Convention*
 - *Abolished the monarchy/establish French republic*





- *Two new groups of radicals split:*
 - *One group, the Mountain, wanted the King killed, they won*
 - *In 1793, the king was beheaded on the guillotine*
 - *Killed quickly/humanely (if there is a humane way to kill someone)*
 - *His killing brought new chaos*





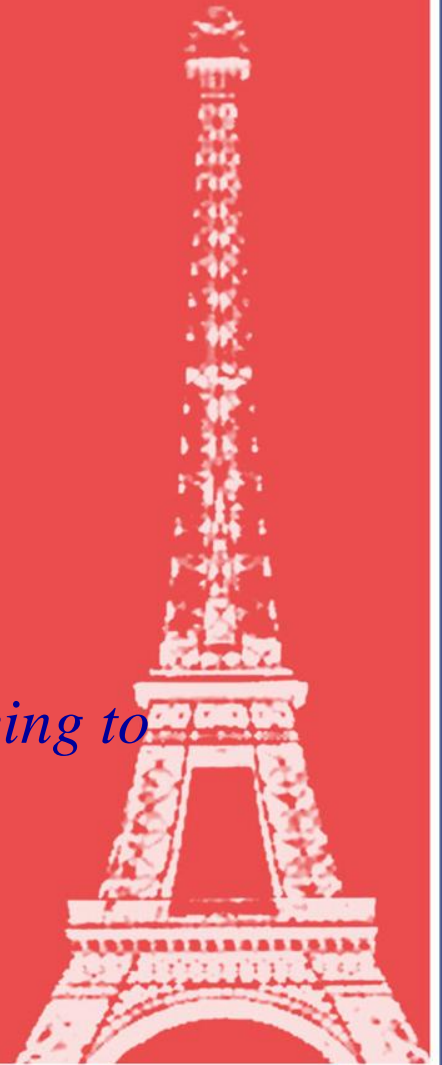
France was under attack

- *A coalition of Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, Britain, etc...were angry and wanted to reestablish the old order*
- *In response, France took matters into their own hands:*
 - *The Committee of Public Safety took control*
 - *Known as the Reign of Terror*



Reign of Terror

- *Revolutionary courts prosecuted “enemies”*
- *40,000 people killed*
- *16,000 of those killed with guillotine*
- *Anyone who opposed the sans-culottes were killed*
- *Massacre in Lyon:*
 - *1,880 citizens were executed for not agreeing to new government form*
 - *Some killed in open graves*
 - *All kinds of people killed, it didn't matter*



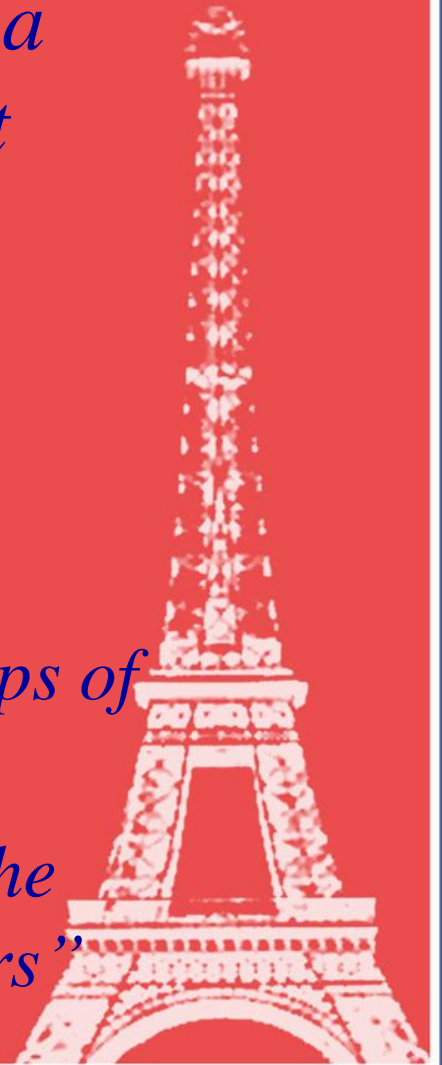
The Committee of Public Safety

- *Claimed that all bloodshed would end as soon as the “crisis” was over*
 - *Said the true “Republic of Virtue” would follow*
 - *Said the Declaration of the Rights of Man would return soon*
 - *Tried to bring “reason” to France, but failed*
 - *Tried to “dechristianize” France*



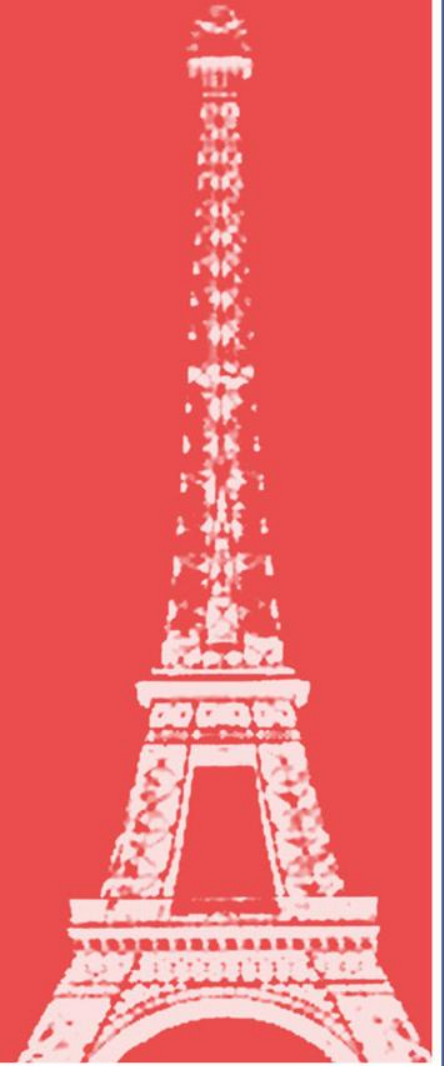
A Nation in Arms, Nationalism

- *In one year, the French govt. had a huge army (over a million, largest yet)*
- *Pushed the coalition out*
- *Rise of Nationalism:*
 - *Previously, wars had been fought between governments by small groups of people of professional soldiers*
 - *Now, the army was the creation of the French government... "People's wars"*



Reign of Terror over

- *Its leader, Robespierre was guillotined*
- *Revolutionary spirit cooled*



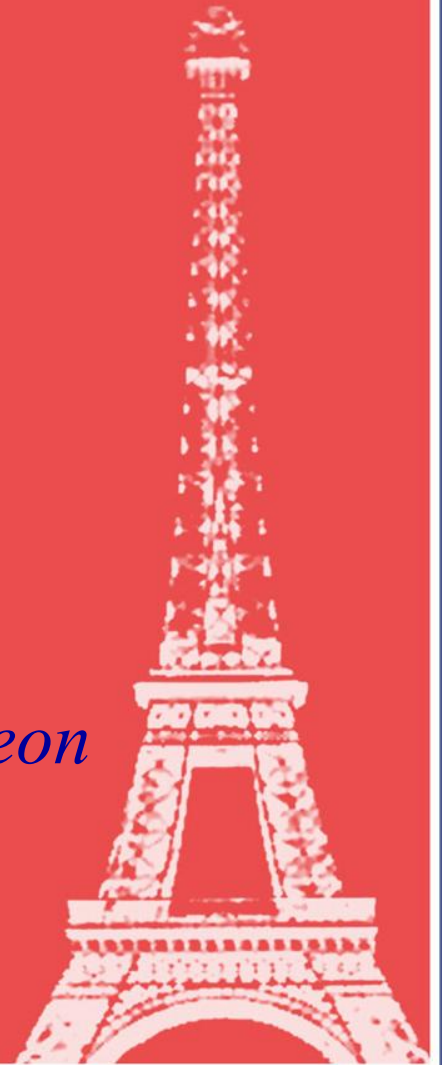
The Directory

- *Committee of Public safety lost power*
- *Churches reopened*
- *New Constitution written*
 - *Established a legislative assembly of 750 people total...looks like our Congress in some ways*
 - *Council of Elders (5 directors)...like our President*
 - *Period of corruption, thanks to the directors*



Political instability leading to...dictatorship

- *The Directory failed to unite the country:*
 - *Still had economic problems*
 - *Some people wanted to bring the monarchy back*
 - *The Directory began relying on the military*
 - *In 1799, a coup d'état led by Napoleon Bonaparte, toppled the directory*



Questions to Ponder...

- *Did the French Republic live up to the revolution's ideals of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity?*
- *Where did the French Revolution go wrong?*
- *Compare power structures at the beginning and at the end...who won?*
- *Was it worth it?*

