

# HISTORY

## CHAPTER-1

### THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

#### **GIST OF THE LESSION**

##### **1. Background and Causes**

###### **1. Social Inequality:**

Estates System: French society was divided into three estates:

>First Estate: Clergy

>Second Estate: Nobility

>Third Estate: Commoners (including bourgeoisie, urban workers, and peasants)

Burden of Taxes: The Third Estate bore the majority of taxes while having the least privileges.

###### **2. Economic Distress:**

Financial Crisis: Due to involvement in costly wars (including the American Revolution) and extravagant spending by the monarchy.

Poor Harvests: Led to food shortages and increased bread prices, causing wide spread hunger.

###### **3. Political Factors:**

Weak Monarchy: King Louis XVI was indecisive and unable to manage the financial crisis.

Enlightenment Ideas: Philosophers like Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu promoted ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity, challenging the traditional order.

###### **4. Calling of the Estates-General:**

May 1789: King Louis XVI called the Estates-General to address the financial crisis, but it led to political conflict as the Third Estate demanded more representation.

##### **2. Key Events**

###### **1. Formation of the National Assembly:**

June 1789: The Third Estate declared itself the National Assembly, claiming to represent the people of France.

Tennis Court Oath: Members of the National Assembly vowed not to disband until they had drafted a new constitution.

###### **2. Storming of the Bastille:**

July 14, 1789: Parisians stormed the Bastille prison, a symbol of royal tyranny. This event is celebrated as France's National Day.

###### **3. The Great Fear:**

Summer 1789: Rumors of aristocratic conspiracy led to peasant revolts, attacking noble estates and prompting the National Assembly to abolish feudal privileges.

###### **4. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen:**

August 1789: Proclaimed the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity, and asserted individual and collective rights.

###### **5. Women's March on Versailles:**

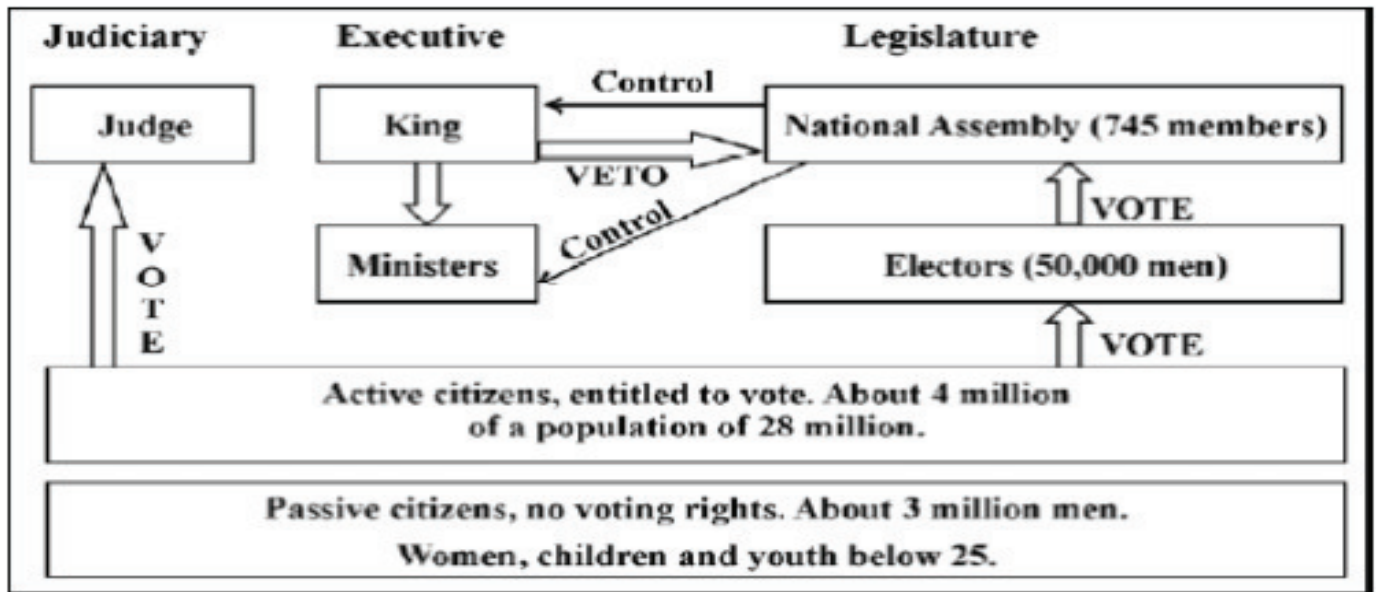
October 1789: Women marched from Paris to Versailles to demand bread and forced the royal family to move to Paris, bringing them under closer scrutiny.

###### **6. Civil Constitution of the Clergy:**

1790: Reorganized the Catholic Church in France, bringing it under state control and alienating many devout Catholics.

###### **7. Constitution of 1791:**

Established a constitutional monarchy, reducing the king's powers and creating a Legislative Assembly.



### 8. Rise of Radical Groups:

Political clubs like the Jacobins and sans-culottes became influential, pushing for more radical changes and the establishment of a republic.

#### Women's Revolution

- From the very beginning, women were active participants in the events which brought about so many changes in French society.
- Most of the women of the third estate had to work for a living.
- Their wages were lower than those of men.
- They demanded equal pay for equal work.
- In order to discuss and voice their interests, women started their own political clubs and newspapers.
- One of their main demands was that women must enjoy the same political rights as men.
- Some laws were introduced to improve the position of women.
- Their struggle still continues in several parts of the world.
- It was finally in 1946 that women in France won the right to vote.

#### The Abolition of Slavery

- There was a triangular slave trade among Europe, Africa, and America.
- In the 18th century, there was little criticism of slavery in France.
- No laws were passed against it.
- It was in 1794 that the convention made free to all slaves.
- But 10 years later slavery was reintroduced by Napoleon.
- It was finally in 1848 that slavery was abolished in the French colonies.

#### Consequences

##### 1. End of Monarchy:

- The Revolution led to the abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic.

##### 2. Social Reforms:

- Feudal privileges were abolished, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen inspired democratic principles and individual rights.

##### 3. Impact on France and the World:

- The Revolution influenced other revolutionary movements worldwide, promoting ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- It led to significant changes in French society, politics, and culture.

#### 4. Napoleonic Era:

- Napoleon's rise to power led to further political and military changes in France and Europe, spreading the revolutionary ideals through his conquests and reforms.

Thinker	Book	Key Ideas
John Locke	"Two Treatises of Government"	Natural rights (life, liberty, property), government by consent
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	"The Social Contract"	General will, sovereignty of the people
Baron de Montesquieu	"The Spirit of the Laws"	Separation of powers
Voltaire	"Candide" (Reflective of his views)	Freedom of speech, religious tolerance, separation of church and state
Mary Wollstonecraft	"A Vindication of the Rights of Woman"	Women's rights, educational and social reforms

#### Conclusion of the French Revolution

The French Revolution, which began in 1789, was a pivotal event in world history that profoundly changed the social, political, and economic landscape of France. The Revolution brought an end to centuries of feudalism and absolute monarchy, establishing the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity that continue to influence modern democratic societies.

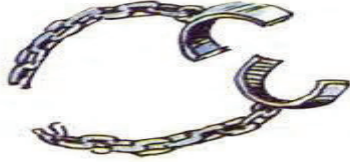
#### Key Outcomes

- Abolition of the Monarchy and Feudal Privileges:**
  - The Revolution dismantled the old feudal structures and abolished the privileges of the clergy and nobility, leading to a more egalitarian society.
- Rise of Republicanism:**
  - The Revolution led to the establishment of a republic, with the National Assembly and later the National Convention playing crucial roles in governance. This shift from monarchy to republicanism marked a significant change in French political history.
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen:**
  - This foundational document asserted the natural rights of individuals and laid the groundwork for modern human rights, influencing future democratic movements worldwide.
- Social and Economic Reforms:**
  - The Revolution brought about significant social and economic reforms, including the redistribution of land, the introduction of a more equitable tax system, and efforts to improve the lives of the common people.
- Impact on Women:**
  - Although the Revolution did not grant equal rights to women, it sparked debates and movements that would eventually lead to greater gender equality in the future.
- Rise of Napoleon:**
  - The political instability and power vacuums created by the Revolution paved the way for Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power. Napoleon's rule further spread the revolutionary ideals across Europe through his conquests and reforms.
  - In conclusion, the French Revolution was a transformative event that reshaped France and had a lasting impact on the world. It marked the end of an old order and the beginning of a new era

characterized by democratic principles and human rights. The Revolution's legacy continues to resonate, reminding us of the power of collective action and the enduring quest for justice and equality.

### PICTURE BASED QUESTIONS -

Q.1.Look at the following symbol, What did they stand for?



**ANSWER - Broken chain** -The symbol of broken chain represents freedom. It signifies Freedom from slavery.

Q2. France is a part of the European Union and thus its currency was the same as that of the Europe. The euro is the currency of France. What was the currency of France before the French revolution and for what time frame did it remain the French currency?



Answer - Livres

### Assertion and Reason Questions -

**Instructions:-For the following questions, choose the correct option:**

- A: Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B: Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C: A is true, but R is false.
- D: A is false, but R is true.

**Question .1Assertion (A):** The Reign of Terror was a period of severe political repression during the French Revolution.

**Reason (R):** Maximilien Robespierre led the Committee of Public Safety, which aimed to protect the Revolution from its enemies.

**ANSWER- (A):** Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

**Question .2 Assertion (A):** The Jacobins were a conservative political club during the French Revolution.

**Reason (R):** The Jacobins supported the idea of a republic and were instrumental in the fall of the monarchy.

**Answer: (C)**A is true, but R is false.

**Question .3 Assertion (A):** The National Convention declared France a republic in 1792.

**Reason (R):** The monarchy was overthrown and King Louis XVI was executed.

**Answer( B)** Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.