

May 5, 1789: **Revolution Dawns**

In 1789, King Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General because France was *bankrupt*. It had been 175 years, since the last meeting of the Estates General in 1641. At this meeting:

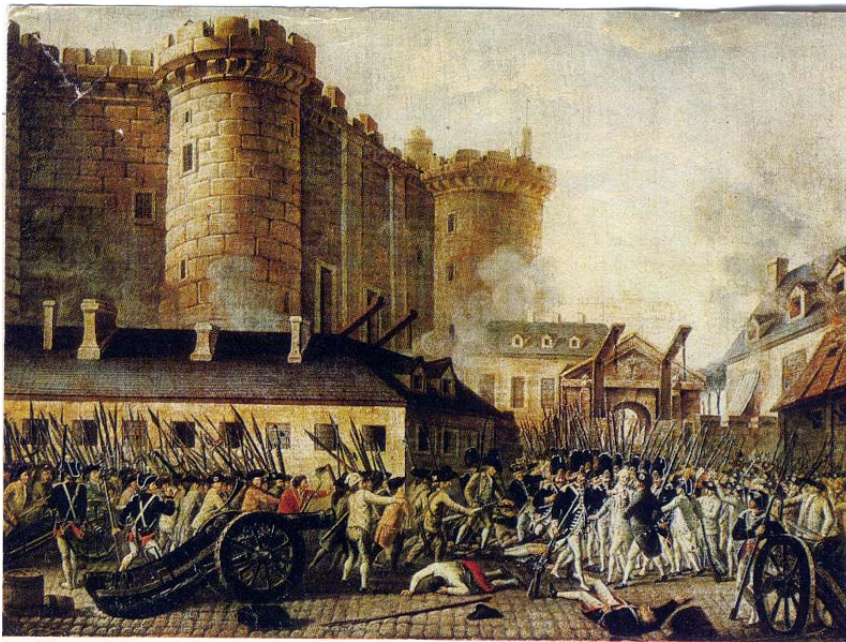
- ◆ Members of the **Third Estate** demanded that *voting be done by person*, instead of by estate.
- ◆ Members of the Third Estate were then locked out of the meeting room of the Estates General.
- ◆ Members of the Third Estate went to the **tennis court**, renamed themselves the **National Assembly**, and pledged to stay together until they had written a new constitution.



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July 14, 1789: **The Storming of the Bastille**

- ◆ Louis XVI felt *threatened* and stationed troops around the Palace of Versailles.
- ◆ Rumors flew that the troops were there to shut down the National Assembly and to kill people who disagreed with the king.
- ◆ July 14, 1789 - French citizens stormed the Bastille (a jail)
in order to get weapons to defend themselves.
- ◆ One guard was killed; 98 attackers died.



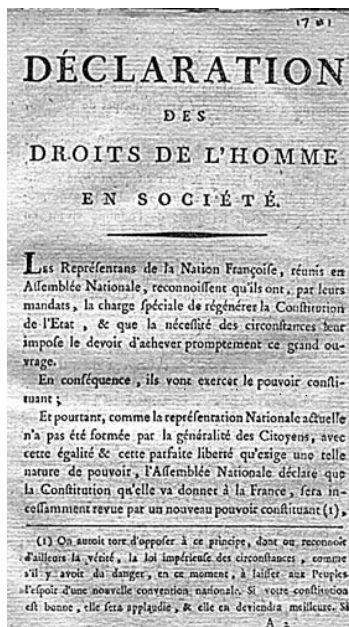
August 27, 1789: National Assembly Reforms France

The **Declaration of the Rights of Man** was signed on August 27, 1789 by the National Assembly (formerly known as the Third Estate).

The declaration was influenced by the American Revolution and its important documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Bill of Rights.

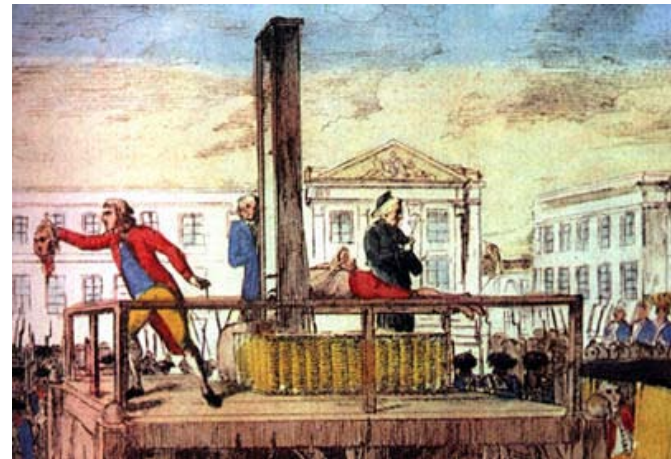
The declaration emphasized legal equality and demanded that *people of any of the three estates should have the same rights.*

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January 21, 1793: **Off with their Heads!**

- ◆ In 1791, King Louis and Queen Marie Antoinette tried to escape to Austria in 1791, but failed!
- ◆ In 1792, the National Assembly wrote a constitution which gave the king limited power.
- ◆ In September 1792, France became a republic (*a government in which people elect representatives*)
- ◆ **Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were executed on January 21, 1793.**



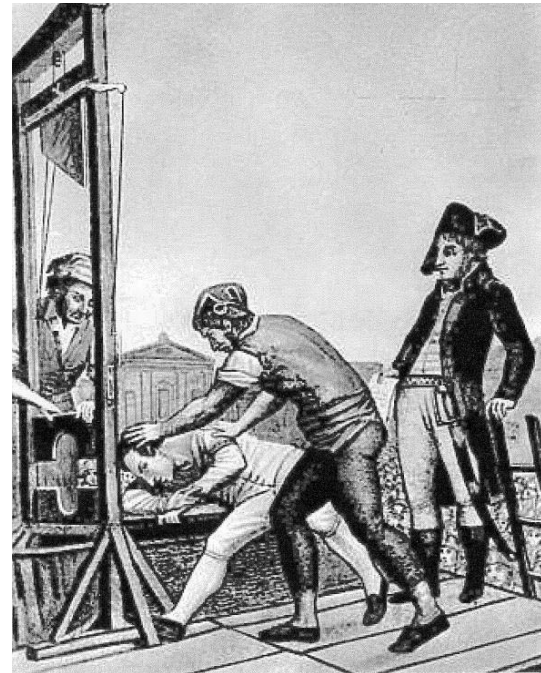
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1793 - 1794: **The Reign of Terror**

- ◆ After the king and queen were executed, *chaos followed*.
- ◆ There was a “power vacuum” in the French government because no one was in charge. Many leaders struggled to gain control of France.
- ◆ Eventually, Maximilien **Robespierre** came to power.



Robespierre ruled as a **dictator** from 1793 - 1794
He ordered the execution of 40,000 people who he considered “enemies of the revolution”.
He was eventually executed himself.



1795 - 1799: **The Directory**

- ◆ From 1795 - 1799, France was ruled by a government called the **Directory**
- ◆ The Directory had *two parliaments* and five “directors”
- ◆ This government was disliked by both **royalists** (people who wanted to bring the monarchy back) and **radicals** (people who wanted to have direct democracy)

The military had to put down many uprisings by these groups.

This led to **Napoleon**
rising to power

**to be
continued**

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