



**NOTES**

# **SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**(HISTORY)**

## **THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**



**REVISION NOTES  
CHAPTERWISE &  
TOPICWISE**

## Chapter 1: The French Revolution

### Concepts Covered:

#### 1. French Society during late 18th Century

- French Society during late 18th Century
  - What happened in 1774?
  - Reasons for empty treasure in France
  - French division of society in 18th Century
  - Types of Taxes
- The Struggle to survive
  - Subsistence Crisis
- A growing middle class envisages an end to privileges
  - Emergence of Middle-class
  - Role of Philosopher's
  - Impact of their Ideas

#### 2. The Outbreak of the revolution

- Meeting of Estate General
  - Meaning of Estate General
  - Meeting at Versailles
  - Outcome of the meeting
- Events at the Countryside
  - Impact and result of the events
- France becomes a Constitutional Monarchy
  - Elections
  - Constitution
- Political Symbols

#### 3. France Abolishes Monarchy and Becomes a Republic

- War against Prussia and Austria
  - Impact of war
  - Emergence of Jacobin club
  - Incidents in the summer of 1792
- The Reign of Terror
  - Steps taken by Robespierre's Government
  - Result
- A Directory Rules France

#### 4. Did Women had a Revolution

- Role of women in the revolution and their demands
- Steps taken by Government to improve the Conditions of women

#### 5. Abolition of Slavery

- Reasons for Slavery
- Slave Trade
- Abolition of Slavery

#### 6. The Revolution and Everyday Life

- Abolition of censorship
- Conclusion

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 7. | <b>Mind Map</b><br>➤ (Colourful & Interactive/ Complete All Concept Covered) |
|    | <b>Practice Questions (All Topics Available)</b>                             |



# Fukey Education

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY****FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY****French Society during late 18th Century****What happened in 1774?**

In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family, 20 years old and married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette, ascended the throne of France. Upon his accession the new king found empty treasury.

**Reasons for empty treasure in France**

The five causes for the empty treasury in France under Louis XIV were:

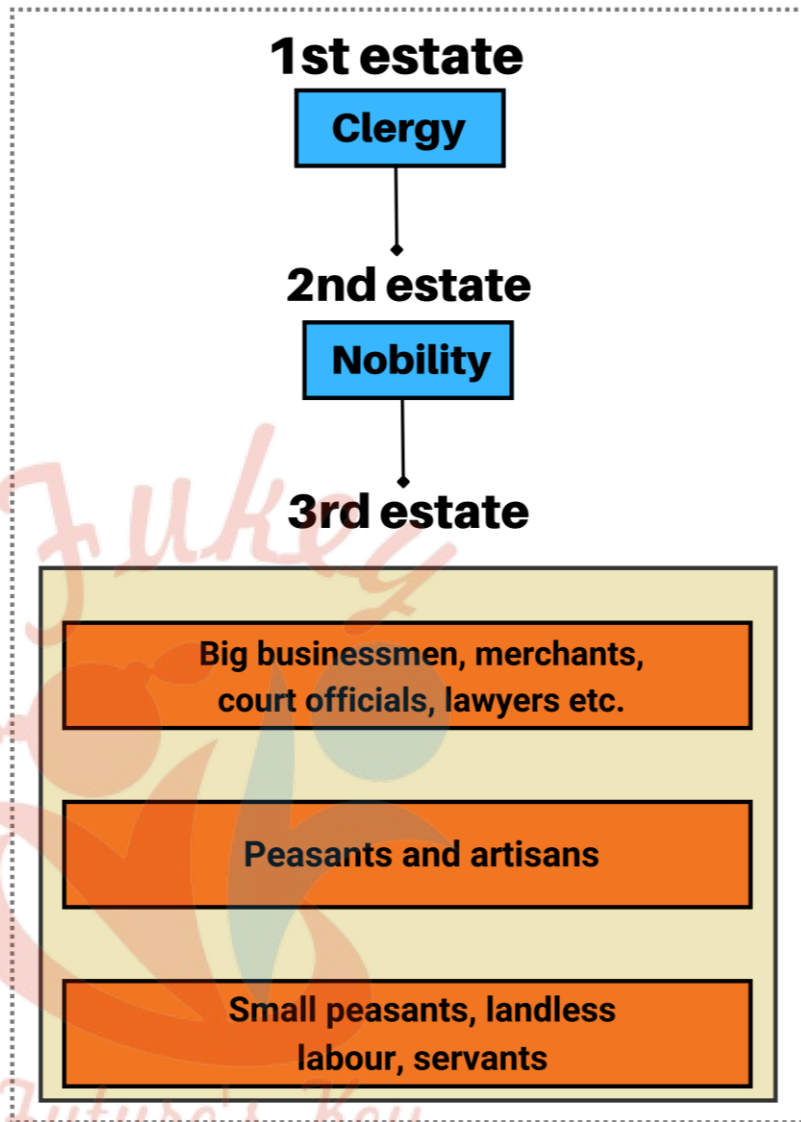
1. long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
2. High cost of maintenance of immense palace of Versailles and court.
3. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.
4. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain which added more than a billion livres to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion livres.
5. Lenders who gave the state credit, now began to charge 10 percent interest on loans.

**French division of society in 18th Century**

- **1st Estate:** Clergy (Group of persons involved in church matters)
- **2nd Estate:** Nobility (Persons who have high rank in state administration)
- **3rd Estate:** (Comprises of Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, lawyers, Peasants and artisans, landless labour, servants)

First two classes were exempted from paying taxes. They enjoyed privileges by birth. Nobility classes also enjoyed feudal privileges. Only the members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state.



**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY****Types of Taxes**

There Were Two Types of Taxes in France

1. **Tithe:** tax lived by the church comprising one - tenth of the agricultural produce.
2. **Taille:** indirect tax paid by the members of third estate to the state.

**The Struggle to survive****Subsistence Crisis**

An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are endangered is called Subsistence Crisis.

**Reasons:**

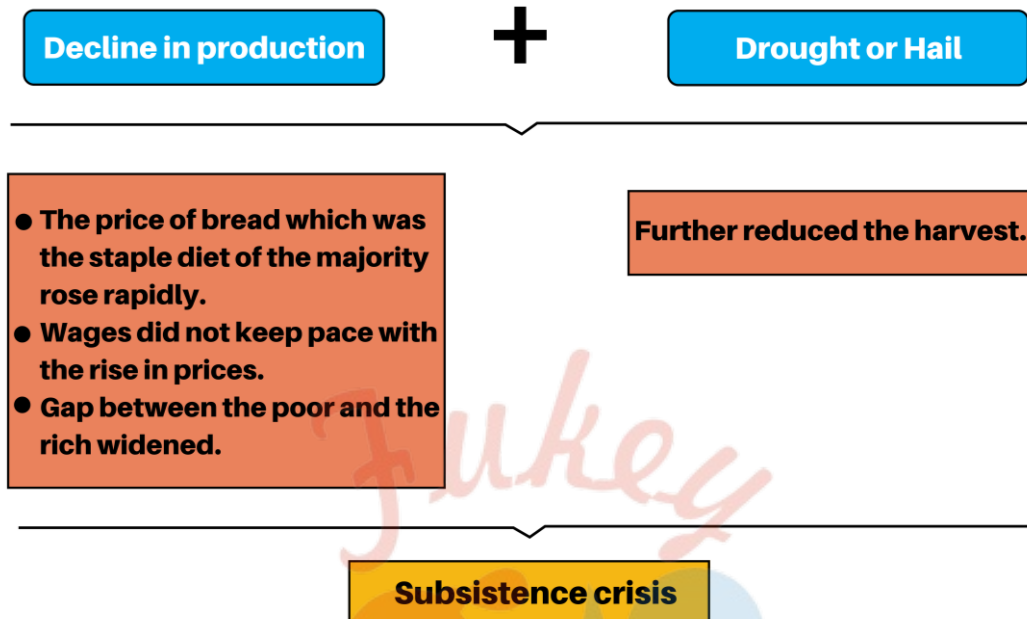
1. Rapid increase in the demand for foodgrains.
2. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand.

01

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY

Impact:



**A growing middle class envisages an end to privileges.**

Peasants and Workers Participated in revolt against increasing taxes and food scarcity. But only a section within the third estate became prosperous and educated.



#### Prosperous

- Merchant, traders, lawyers, manufacturers, etc.
- Overseas trade and from the manufacturing of goods.

#### Educated

- They believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth.
- A person's social position must depend on his merit.
- Society based on freedom and equal laws and opportunities for all.



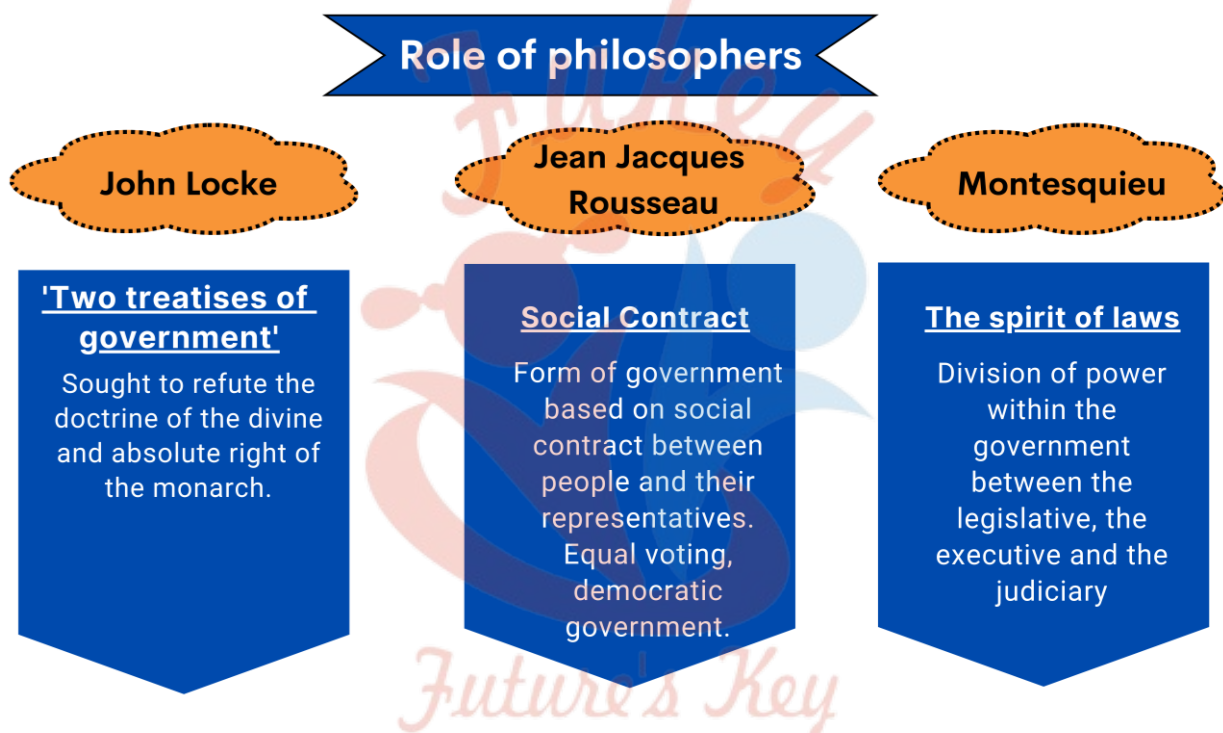
#### Emergence of Middle-class

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY

The 18th century witnessed the emergence of social groups, termed the middle class, who earned their wealth through an expanding overseas trade and from the manufacture of goods such as woollen and silk textiles that were either exported or bought by the richer members of society. In addition to merchant and manufacturers, the third estate included professions such as lawyers or administrative officials. All of these were educated and believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth. Rather, a person's social position must depend on his merit. These ideas envisaging a society based on freedom and equal laws.

#### Role of Philosopher's



#### 1. John Locke

##### 'Two treatises of government'

Sought to refute the doctrine of the divine and absolute right of the monarch.

#### 2. Jean Jacques Rousseau

##### 'Social Contract'

Form of government based on social contract between people and their representatives. Equal voting, democratic government.

#### 3. Montesquieu

##### 'The spirit of the laws'

Division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.



**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****FRENCH SOCIETY DURING LATE 18TH CENTURY****Impact of their Ideas****Impact of these enlightened ideas**

- The ideas of these philosophers were discussed intensively in salons and coffee-houses. and spread among people through books and newspapers.
- These were frequently read aloud in groups for the benefit of those who could not read and write.



**Connect with  
other events**

**Consequences**

Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes to be able to meet the expenses of the state generated anger and protest against the system of privileges.

Fukey Education

## THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION

### Meeting of Estate General

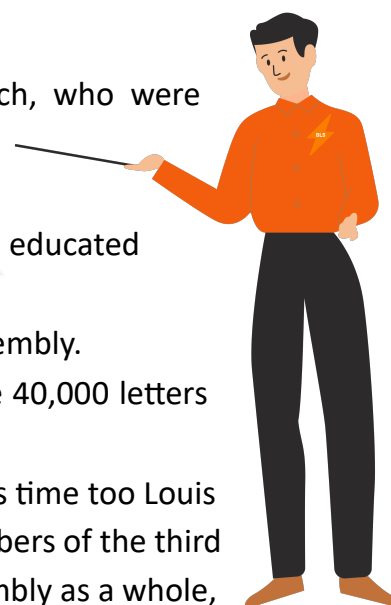
For increasing taxes, Louis XVI had to call a meeting of the Estates General which would then pass his proposals for new taxes.

#### 1. Meaning of Estate General

The Estates-General was an assembly comprising of the clergy of the French nobles and the middle class. It was in 1614 that the Estates-General was last called. Before the French Revolution, which took place in 1789, the general assembly was recognized as the Estates-General.

#### 2. Meeting at Versailles

- The first and second estates sent 300 representatives each, who were seated in rows facing each other on two sides.
- The 600 members of the third estate had to stand at the back.
- The third estate was represented by its more prosperous and educated members.
- Peasants, artisans, and women were denied entry to the assembly.
- However, their grievances and demands were listed in some 40,000 letters which the representatives had brought with them.
- According to the principle that each estate had one vote. This time too Louis XVI was determined to continue the same practice. But members of the third estate demanded that voting now be conducted by the assembly as a whole, where each member would have one vote.



#### 3. Outcome of the meeting

The king rejected this proposal. Members of the third estate walked out of the assembly in protest. The representatives of third estate assembled in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the ground of Versailles. They declared themselves a National Assembly. Swore not to disperse till they had drafted a constitution for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.

### Events at the Countryside

In the countryside rumours spread from village to village that the lords of the manor had hired bands of brigands who were on their way to destroy the ripe crops. Caught in a frenzy of fear, peasants in several districts seized hoes and pitchforks and attacked chateaux. They looted hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues. A large number of nobles fled from their homes, many of them migrating to neighbouring countries.



## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION

#### Impact and result of the events

- Louis XVI finally accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the constitution.
- On the night of 4 August 1789, the Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes.
- Members of the clergy too were forced to give up their privileges.
- Tithes were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated.



#### France becomes a Constitutional Monarchy

National Assembly Completed the draft of the constitution in 1791. Its main object was to limit the powers of the monarch. These powers instead of being concentrated in the hands of one person, were now separated and assigned to different institutions – the legislature, executive and judiciary. This made France a constitutional monarchy.

#### 1. Elections

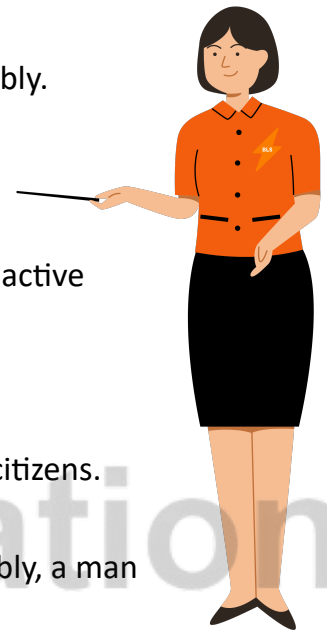
- National assembly was indirectly elected.
- Citizens voted for a group of electors, who in turn chose the Assembly.
- Not all citizens, however, had the right to vote.

##### **a) Active Citizens**

- Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizens.
- They were entitled to vote.

##### **b) Passive Citizens**

- The remaining men and all women were classed as passive citizens.
- They were not entitled to vote.
- To qualify as an elector and then as a member of the Assembly, a man had to belong to the highest bracket of taxpayers.



#### 2. Constitution

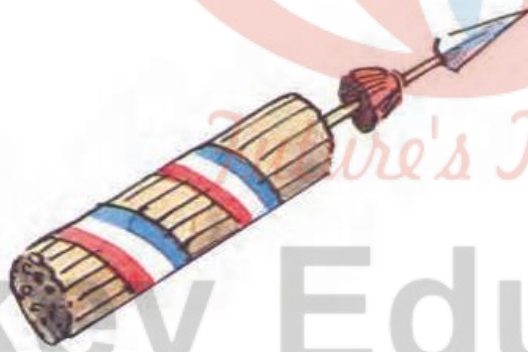
- The Constitution began with a "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen".
- Rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, equality before law, were established as 'natural and inalienable' rights.
- They belonged to each human being by birth and could not be taken away.
- It was the duty of the state to protect each citizen's natural rights.

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION****Political Symbols**

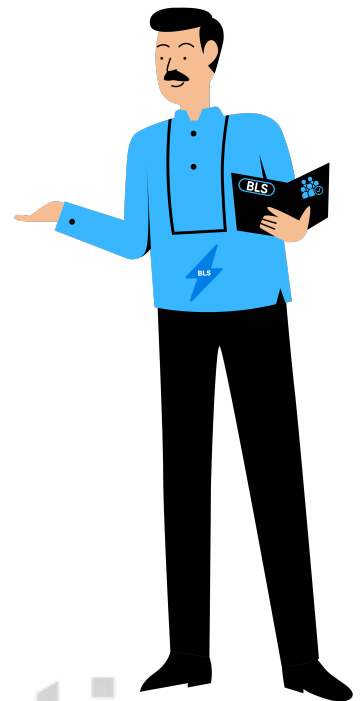
The majority of men and women in the eighteenth century could not read or write. So, images and symbols were frequently used instead of printed words to communicate important ideas. The painting by Le Barbier uses many such symbols to convey the content of the Declaration of Rights.

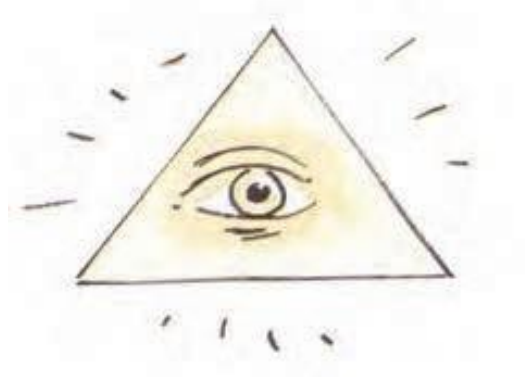
**1. The broken chain**

- Chains were used to fetter slaves.
- A broken chain stands for the act of becoming free.

**2. The bundle of rods or fasces**

- One rod can be easily broken, but not an entire bundle.
- Strength lies in unity.

**3. The eye within a triangle radiating light.**

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION**

- The all-seeing eye stands for knowledge.
- The rays of the sun will drive away the clouds of ignorance.

**4. Sceptre**

- Symbol of royal power.

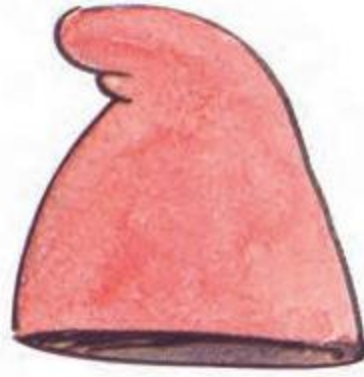
**5. Snake biting its tail to form a ring.**

- Symbol of Eternity.
- A ring has neither beginning nor end.

**6. Red Phrygian cap**

Fukey Education

01

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION**

- Cap worn by a slave upon becoming free.

**7. Blue-white-red**

- The national colours of France.

**8. The winged woman**

- Personification of the law.

**9. The Law Tablet**

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE OUTBREAK OF THE REVOLUTION**

- The law is the same for all, and all are equal before it.



# Fukey Education



**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****FRANCE ABOLISHES MONARCHY AND BECOMES A REPUBLIC****FRANCE ABOLISHES MONARCHY AND BECOMES A REPUBLIC****War against Prussia and Austria****Impact of war**

Thousands of volunteers thronged from the provinces to join the army.

- They saw this as a war of the people against kings and aristocracies all over Europe.
- Among the patriotic songs they sang was the Marseillaise, composed by the poet Roget de Lisle.
- It was sung for the first time by volunteers from Marseilles as they marched into Paris and so got its name.
- The Marseillaise is now the national anthem of France.
- While the men were away fighting at the front, women were left to cope with the tasks of earning a living and looking after their families.
- Large sections of the population were convinced that the revolution had to be carried further, as the Constitution of 1791 gave political rights only to the richer sections of society.

**Emergence of Jacobin club**

01

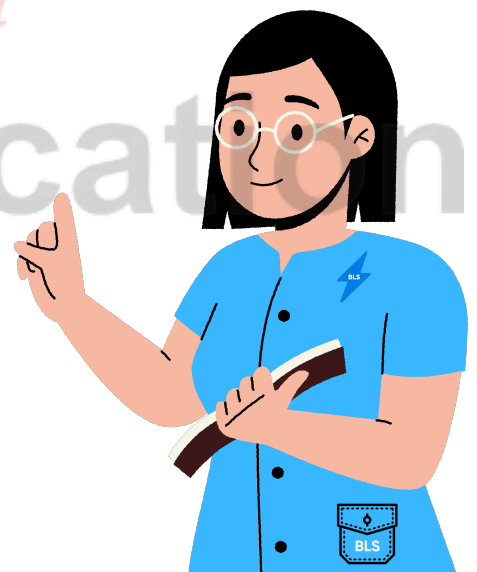
## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

FRANCE ABOLISHES MONARCHY AND BECOMES A REPUBLIC



- Political clubs became an important rallying point for people who wished to discuss government policies and plan their own forms of action.
- The most successful of these clubs was that of the Jacobins, which got its name from the former convent of St Jacob in Paris.
- Women too, who had been active throughout this period, formed their own clubs.

### Jacobin club



- The members of the Jacobin club belonged mainly to the less prosperous sections of society.

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### FRANCE ABOLISHES MONARCHY AND BECOMES A REPUBLIC

- They included small shopkeepers, artisans such as shoemakers, pastry cooks, watchmakers, printers, as well as servants and daily-wage workers.
- Their leader was Maximilien Robespierre.
- A large group among the Jacobins decided to start wearing long striped trousers similar to those worn by dock workers.
- These Jacobins came to be known as the sans-culottes, literally meaning 'those without knee breeches'.
- Sans Culottes men wore in addition the red cap that symbolizes liberty. Women however were not allowed to do so.



#### Incidents in the summer of 1792

- The Jacobins planned an insurrection of a large number of Parisians who were angered by the short supplies and high prices of food.
- On the morning of August 10, they stormed the Palace of the Tuileries, massacred the king's guards, and held the king himself as hostage for several hours.
- Later the Assembly voted to imprison the royal family.
- Elections were held.
- From now on all men of 21 years and above, regardless of wealth, got the right to vote.

### The Reign of Terror

- The period from 1793 to 1794 Robespierre followed a policy of severe control and punishment.
- All those whom he saw as being 'enemies' of the republic – ex-nobles and clergy, members of other political parties, even members of his own party who did not agree with his methods, were arrested, imprisoned, and then tried by a revolutionary tribunal.
- If the court found them 'guilty' they were guillotined.

#### Steps taken by Robespierre's Government

- Robespierre's government issued laws placing a maximum ceiling on wages and prices. Meat and bread were rationed.
- Peasants were forced to transport their grain to the cities and sell it at prices fixed by the government.
- Equality was also sought to be practised through forms of speech and address.
- Instead of the traditional Monsieur (Sir) and Madame (Madam) all French men and women were henceforth Citizen and Cito Yenne (Citizen).





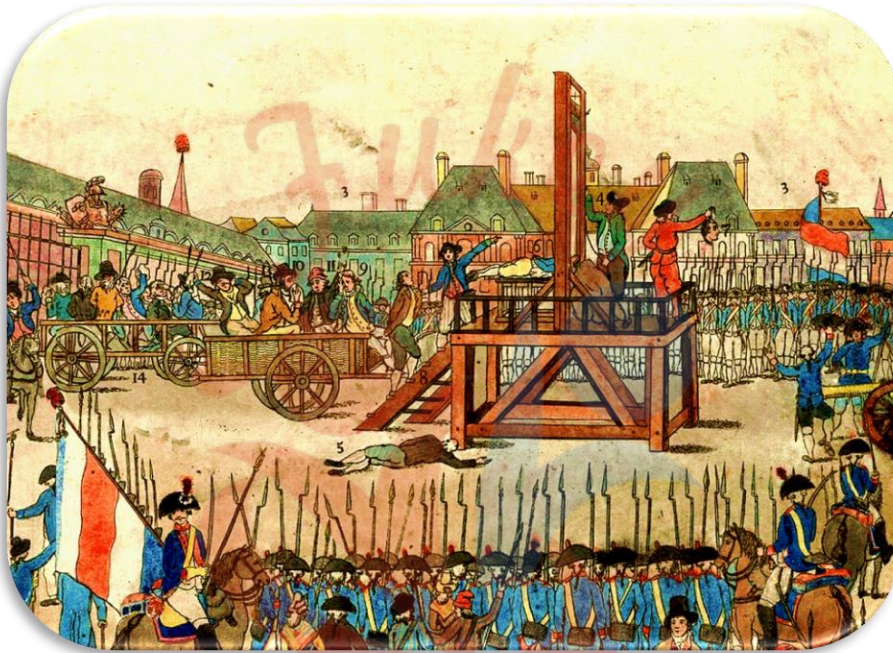
## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### FRANCE ABOLISHES MONARCHY AND BECOMES A REPUBLIC

- Churches were shut down and their buildings converted into barracks or offices.

#### Result

- Robespierre pursued his policies so relentlessly that even his supporters began to demand moderation.
- He was convicted by a court in July 1794.
- Arrested and on the next day sent to the guillotine.



#### A Directory Rules France

- Denied the vote to non-propertied sections of society.
- It provided for two elected legislative councils.
- These then appointed a Directory, an executive made up of five members.
- This was meant as a safeguard against the concentration of power in a one-man executive as under the Jacobins.



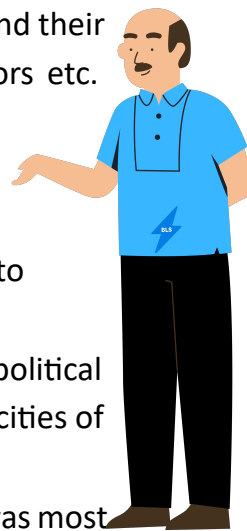
## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### DID WOMEN HAD A REVOLUTION

### DID WOMEN HAD A REVOLUTION?

#### Role of women in the revolution and their demands

- Women played a very significant role in the French Revolution.
  - Most of the women belonging to the third estate worked for a living and their occupations included dress makers, laundry workers, flowers vendors etc. Sometimes worked as maid servants in the houses of the rich.
  - Women in France were disappointed with the Constitution of 1791, which reduced them to passive citizens who had no political rights. They demanded political rights viz, right to vote, to be elected to Assembly and to hold political office.
  - To express their own views and demand women started their own political clubs and newspapers. About 60 women's Clubs came up in different cities of France.
  - Amongst them The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was most famous. Their demand was that women enjoy the same political rights as men.
- Nature of Management Principles



#### Political situation of the women

- Women demanded same political rights as men.
- In order to discuss and voice their interests' women started their own political clubs and newspapers.
- The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women was the most famous of them.
- Women were disappointed that the Constitution of 1791 reduced them to passive citizens.



## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### DID WOMEN HAD A REVOLUTION

- They demanded the right to vote, to be elected to the Assembly and to hold political office.

#### Steps taken by Government to improve the Conditions of women

- With the creation of state schools, schooling was made compulsories for all girls.
- Their fathers could no longer force them into marriage against their will.
- Marriage was made into a contract entered into freely and registered under civil law.
- Divorce was made legal and could be applied for by both women and men.
- Women could now train for jobs, could become artists, or run small businesses.
- Women's struggle for equal political rights, however, continued.
- During the Reign of Terror, the new government issued laws ordering closure of women's clubs and banning their political activities.
- Many prominent women were arrested and a number of them executed.
- They were denied voting rights and equal wages.



## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

## ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

### Reasons for Slavery

- The colonies in the Caribbean - Martinique, Guadeloupe, and San Domingo – were important suppliers of commodities such as tobacco, indigo, sugar, and coffee.
- But the reluctance of Europeans to go and work in distant and unfamiliar lands meant a shortage of labour on the plantations.
- So, this was met by a triangular slave trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

### Slave Trade

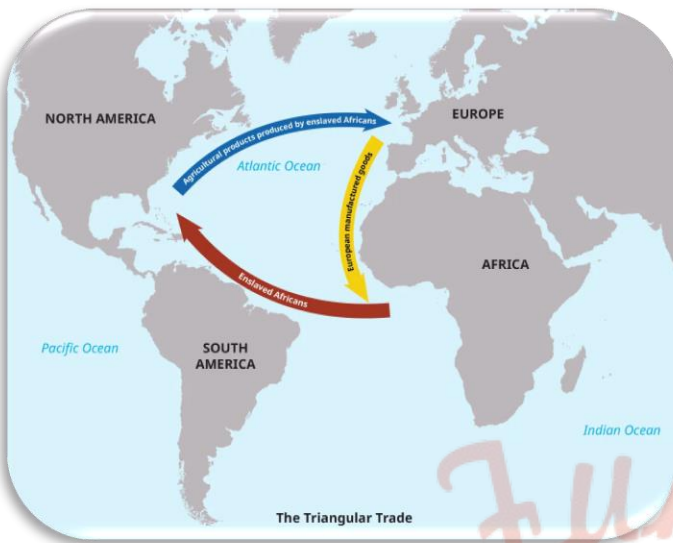


- The slave trade began in the seventeenth century.
- French merchants sailed from the ports of Bordeaux or Nantes to the African coast, where they bought slaves from local chieftains.
- Branded and shackled, the slaves were packed tightly into ships for the three-month long voyage across the Atlantic to the Caribbean.
- There they were sold to plantation owners.
- The exploitation of slave labour made it possible to meet the growing demand in European markets for sugar, coffee, and indigo.
- Port cities like Bordeaux and Nantes owed their economic prosperity to the flourishing slave trade.



## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

### ABOLITION OF SLAVERY



## Abolition of Slavery

### Old regime

- Throughout the eighteenth century there was little criticism of slavery in France.

### National Assembly

- Debates to abolish slavery were held but national assembly did not pass any laws, fearing opposition from businessmen whose incomes depended on the slave trade.

### Convection

- Finally, the Convention which in 1794 legislated to free all slaves in the French overseas possessions.

### Napoleon Rule

- In 1804, Napoleon reintroduced slavery. Plantation owners understood their freedom as including the right to enslave African Negroes in pursuit of their economic interests. Slavery was finally abolished in French Colonies in 1848.

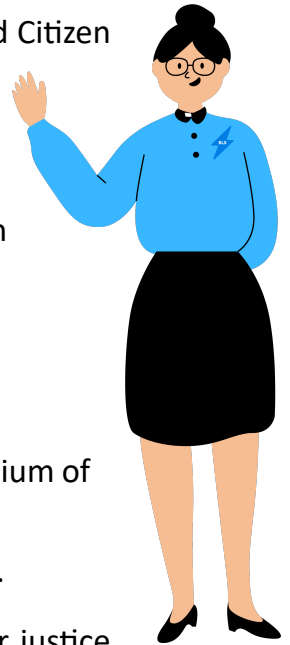


**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE REVOLUTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE****THE REVOLUTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE**

The revolutionary governments took it upon themselves to pass laws that would translate the ideals of liberty and equality into everyday practice.

**Abolition of censorship**

- In the Old Regime all written material and cultural activities - books, newspapers, plays - could be published or performed only after they had been approved by the censors of the king.
- After the storming of Bastille, the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen proclaimed freedom of speech and expression to be a natural right.
- Newspapers, pamphlets, books, and printed pictures flooded the towns of France from where they travelled rapidly into the countryside.
- They all described and discussed the events and changes taking place in France.

**Abolition of censorship = Freedom of the press**

- Meant that opposing views of events could be expressed.
- Each side sought to convince the others of its position through the medium of print.
- Plays, songs and festive processions attracted large numbers of people.

This was one way they could grasp and identify with ideas such as liberty or justice that political philosophers wrote about at length in texts which only a handful of educated people could read.

**Conclusion**

In 1804, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself Emperor of France.



01

**THE FRENCH REVOLUTION****THE REVOLUTION AND EVERYDAY LIFE**

- He set out to conquer neighbouring European countries, dispossessing dynasties and creating kingdoms where he placed members of his family.
- Napoleon saw his role as a moderniser of Europe.

He introduced many laws such as the protection of private property and a uniform system of weights and measures provided by the decimal system.



# Fukey Education



01

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

## MIND MAP

