

# SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

## Understanding Historical Context

This Document will be the most important document you possess while we move through the French Revolution Unit. Below, you'll take down all the *details* in regard to setting and context that are relevant and necessary to truly understanding the French Revolution its cause, effects and significance.

Factor	Type (long term or short term)	Why Important
New Knowledge - Enlightenment ideas: Science, reason, logic, human nature, separation of church and state and equality and freedoms as part of human nature.	LOOOOONG TERM	Enlightenment ideas: Science, reason, logic, human nature, separation of church and state and equality and freedoms as part of human nature.  Social CONTRACT -- Agreement between the ruled and rulers in regard to their relationship. The ruled give up rights in exchange for GOOD GOVERNMENT. If citizens violate this, they are imprisoned or fined. If government violates this, there must be a mechanism to correct their violation.  Problem was, no mechanism existed in an absolute monarchy to do so.
FUEDAL SYSTEM	Loooong Term	The formal economic, social and political structure that provided the oppression. The Nobility was in favor of it because it favored them of

		course! But it kept peasants poor and lacking rights (see color text re: list of taxes and lack of rights) .
Food crisis -- tough winter	short	FOod shortages led to increase prices in food, which didn't allow peasants to afford food which made them very mad. You'd be mad too right?!
High Taxation	Long and short	Long in the sense that it contributed to a lack of saved money and quality of life for the peasants, short in that it combined with the food shortage to create an inability to afford life's basic necessities.
Louis XVI	Short	Bad leader; inept. Non inspiring. Short sighted. Lacks empathy.

Think creatively to add 3 more factors to this list ! Ideas, events etc.