

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Social Issues: The Three Estates

The **estates system** was the **class structure** or **hierarchy** in France before the French Revolution.

**clergy:** people who work for the church like the Pope, bishops, and priests

**nobility:** wealthy landowners and people with high status in society

**commoners:** peasants and city-workers

Image 1

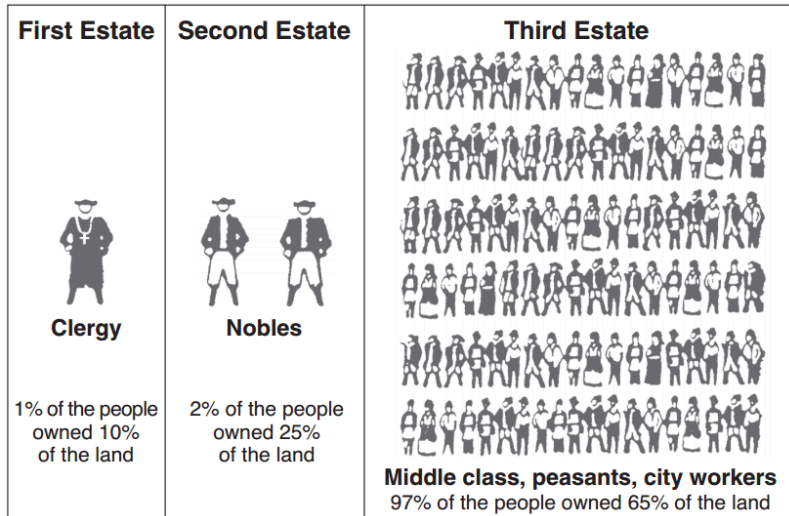
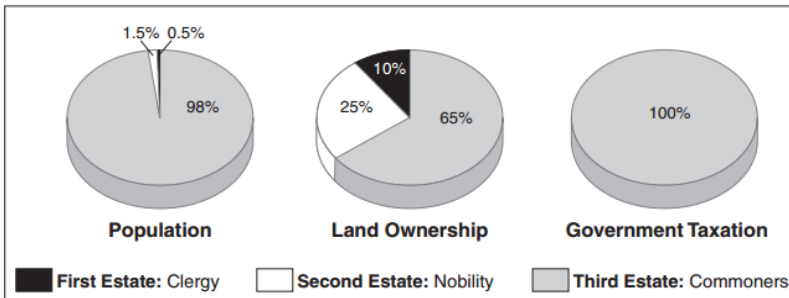


Image 3

The Three Estates, *You Should Hope this Game Will Be Over Soon*, 1788



Image 2



1. Based on the images above, identify two social issues facing pre-revolutionary France?
2. Write one sentence explaining how these social issues might have led French citizens to revolt against the French government.
3. If you were a member of the Third Estate, would the social issues presented in the images above have influenced you to revolt against the government? Why or why not?

## Political Issues: Absolute Monarchy

An **absolute monarchy** is a **form of government** in which one ruler has supreme authority without limitation.



. . . **Powers of the king.**—The King, Louis XVI, was absolute. He ruled by the divine right theory which held that he had received his power to govern from God and was therefore responsible to God alone. He made and enforced the laws. He could declare war and make peace. He levied taxes and spent the people's money as he saw fit. He controlled the expression of thought by a strict censorship of speech and press. He could arbitrarily [without reason] imprison anyone without trial for an indefinite period. He lived in his magnificent palace at Versailles, completely oblivious to the rising tide of popular discontent [frustration]. . . .

1. Using the text above, identify three powers held by King Louis XVI.

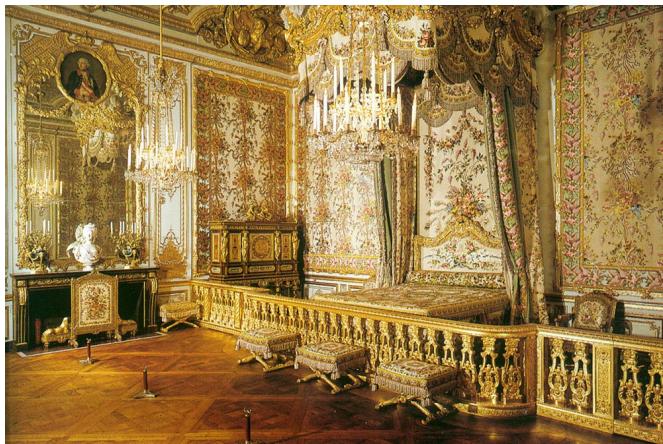
2. Write one sentence explaining how King Louis XVI's power might have led the French people to revolt against their government.

3. If you lived in France during this time period, would the political issues presented in this document have influenced you to revolt against the government? Why or why not?

## Economic Issues: Debt and Rising Costs

**Debt** is when money is owed to someone else. When a country is in debt, it means that they have to pay the money back to whomever it is owed leaving less money for the country to pay for other things.

**Palace of Versailles:** The Palace of Versailles was a royal château [castle] in Versailles and was the center of political power in France from 1682 until 1789. Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette lived in the palace before the French Revolution.



France's government was in enormous **debt**. King Louis XIV (1638-1715), Louis XV (1710-1774), and Louis XVI (1754-1793) added to the debt, borrowing money to finance the following:

Date	Event that Increased the French Debt
1678-1789	Building of, additions to, and upkeep of the Palace of Versailles
1756-1763	Seven Years' War: Fought against their rivals at the time, Great Britain, and several other European powers in Europe and North America.
1775-1783	American Revolution: France lent 1.3 billion livres, soldiers, and ships to the American colonists in their fight against the British.
1678-1789	<b>Extravagant</b> lifestyles of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette

1. Based on the information provided from the document, identify three economic issues in France *prior* to the French Revolution.

2. Write one sentence explaining how the economic issues presented in this document might have led French citizens to revolt against their government.

3. If you lived in France during this time period, would the economic issues presented in this document have

influenced you to revolt against the government? Why or why not?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### French Revolution- Exit Ticket Assignment

**Directions:** Write 2-3 sentences answering the following question:

*Which issue (social, political, or economic) had the **greatest impact** in influencing French citizens to revolt against their government?*

1. Use details from the documents and class discussion to support your claim.
2. \*Remember, the issue you choose has to be **significant** enough to have caused French citizens to revolt against the absolute monarchy!\*
3. When you are finished with your response, post your answer on the appropriate side of the room (social, political, or economic).