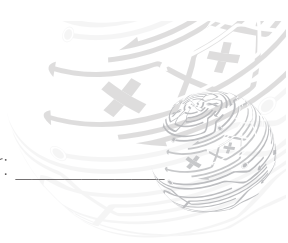


Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____



DBQ 13: THE AGE OF REVOLUTION, 1774–1848

Historical Background

In the 1780s, long-standing resentments against the French monarchy fueled anger throughout France. The source of the French people's ill will could be found in the unequal structure of French government and society. A social and political structure called the Old Order, or *ancien régime*, created inequalities in French society. Under the Old Order, the king was at the top, and three social groups called estates were under him. The king at the time of the French Revolution was King Louis XVI. He lived at the extravagant Palace of Versailles, 10 miles outside of Paris. His queen, Marie Antoinette, was from Austria—a country that was traditionally an enemy of France. The First Estate was made up of the Roman Catholic clergy, about 1% of the population. The Second Estate was made up of the nobility, less than 2% of the population. The Third Estate, by far the largest group of people, included about 97% of the population. By the spring of 1789, no group was happy. The First and Second Estates—the upper clergy and the nobility—resented that they had lost power to the monarchy. The poorer members of the Third Estate resented the hunger and unemployment that plagued them more than ever before.

SECTION

1

QUESTION: What were the causes of the French Revolution?

The following documents will examine the causes of the French Revolution. Analyze each document carefully, and answer the question or questions that follow.

Document A

In the south of France there is a *taille*. There is an injustice in levying [collecting] the amount each person must pay. Lands held by the nobility are taxed very little. Lands held by commoners are taxed heavily... September 5, 1788: The poor people seem very poor indeed. The children are terribly ragged. June 10, 1789: The lack of bread is terrible. Stories arrive every moment from the provinces of riots and disturbances, and calling in the military, to preserve the peace of the markets... The price of bread has risen above people's ability to pay. This causes great misery. July 1789:... I was joined by a poor woman who complained of the hard times. "The *tailles* and feudal dues [rent owed to lords] are crushing us," she said.

Travels in France, 1787–1789
Arthur Young





Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

1. What is a taille? Why was there a discrepancy between the poor and the nobility?

2. How had taxation affected the common people of France?

Document B



Political Cartoon, 1789





Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

1. Who are the three figures represented in this political cartoon?

2. What is the intended meaning of the depiction of the three figures?

3. How would a commoner have used this political cartoon to justify a revolution?

Document C

That the king be forced to reform the abuses and tyranny... That every tax... Be granted only for a limited time... That the taille [tax on land] be borne equally by all classes... The meetings of the Estates General... Shall be scheduled for definite times... In order to assure the third estate the influence it deserves because of its numbers... its votes in the assembly should be taken by head...

List of Complaints from the Estates General, 1789

1. Who comprised the Third Estate?

2. What are the four main requests they had made during this Estates General meeting?





Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

3. How might the First and Second Estates have responded to such requests?

Document D

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights; social distinctions can be established only for the common benefit.

2. The aim of every political association is the conservation of the imprescriptible rights of man; these rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression...

4. Liberty consists in being able to do anything that does not harm another person...

10. No one may be disturbed because of his opinions, even religious, provided that their public demonstration does not disturb the public order established by law.

11. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the most precious rights of man: every citizen can therefore freely speak, write, print...

16. Any society in which guarantees of rights are not assured nor the separation of powers determined has no constitution.

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789

1. According to the beliefs of the Third Estate, what are the civil liberties that each French citizen deserves? Use several specific examples from the passage to support your answer.

2. Describe the French economic and political system that caused the creation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen.





Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

3. Which of these rights are the most imperative in American society today? Why?

Document E

Is it not evident that the noble order has privileges and expenditures which it dares to call its rights, but which are apart from the rights of the great body of citizens? It departs there from the common law. So its civil rights make of it an isolated people in the midst of the great nation. This is truly *imperium in imperia*.

In regard to its political rights, these also it exercises apart. It has its special representatives, which are not charged with securing the interests of the people. The body of its deputies sit apart; and when it is assembled in the same hall with the deputies of simple citizens, it is none the less true that its representation is essentially distinct and separate: it is a stranger to the nation, in the first place, by its origin, since its commission is not derived from the people; then by its object, which consists of defending not the general, but the particular interest.

The Third Estate embraces then all that which belongs to the nation; and all that which is not the Third Estate, cannot be regarded as being of the nation.

What is the Third Estate?

It is everything.

What Is the Third Estate?, 1789
Abbé Sieyès

1. Describe two examples of how the nobility isolated itself from the Third Estate.

2. Why would this isolation cause social disorder?





Name: _____

Date: _____

Hour: _____

3. How was the Third Estate “everything”?

Document F



Louis XVI, King of France and Navarre (1754–1793), wearing his grand royal costume in 1779, 1789
Antoine-François Callet

1. When viewing this painting, how do you think King Louis XVI's lifestyle was different than that of an average citizen?





Name: _____ Date: _____ Hour: _____

Document G

...The greatest tranquility prevailed in every street through which the procession passed. About half past nine, the King arrived at the place of execution, which was in the Place de Louis XV, between the pedestal which formerly supported the statue of his grandfather, and the promenade of the Elysian Fields. Louis mounted the scaffold with composure, and that modest intrepidity peculiar to oppressed innocence, the trumpets sounding and drums beating during the whole time. He made a sign of wishing to harangue [criticize] the multitude, when the drums ceased, and Louis spoke these few words. "I die innocent; I pardon my enemies; I only sanctioned upon compulsion the Civil Constitution of the Clergy..." He was proceeding, but the beating of the drums drowned his voice. His executioners then laid hold of him, and an instant after, his head was separated from his body; this was about a quarter past ten o'clock.

After the execution, the people threw their hats up in the air, and cried out Vive la Nation! Some of them endeavored to seize the body, but it was removed by a strong guard to the Temple, and the lifeless remains of the King were exempted from those outrages which his Majesty had experienced during his life.

The London Times, January 25, 1793

1. Where was the location of Louis XVI's execution? Why?

2. Once King Louis had been executed, how did the citizens react? Why?

SECTION 2	ESSAY TOPIC: What were the causes of the French Revolution?
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