

Chapter 1: Before the French Revolution - King Louis XIV



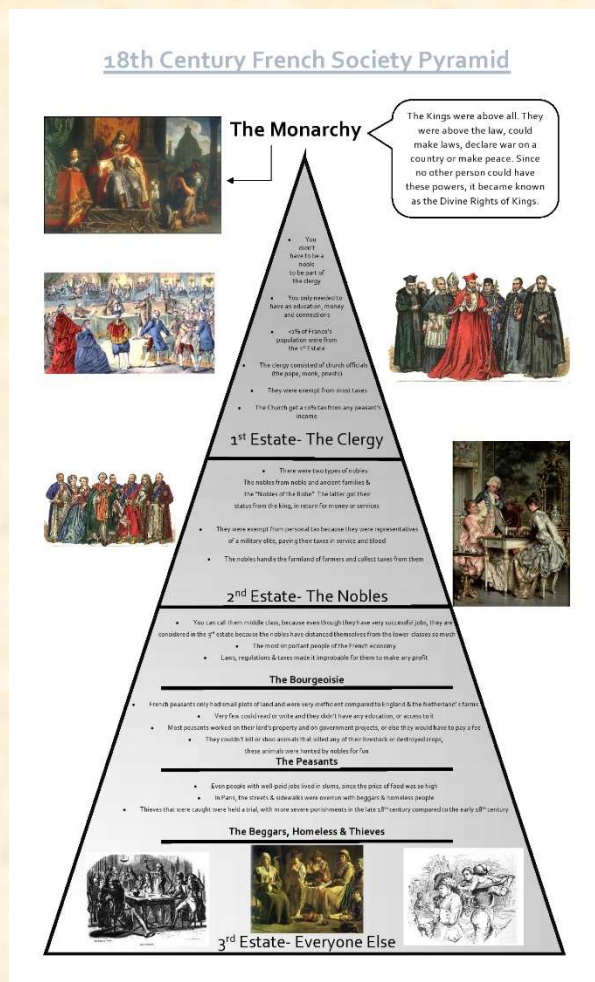
Once upon a time, there was a shift in the ruling of France. King Louis XIV. He was a terrible King and didn't care about the financial problems that he was causing France with engaging in several wars and building his grand palace in Versailles (costing \$38.21 billion CAD), putting France 12 billion livres in debt (\$3.9 trillion CAD). He finally let go of his 72-year position as the king of France in 1715, giving it to King Louis XV.

Chapter 1: Before the French Revolution - King Louis XV & XVI



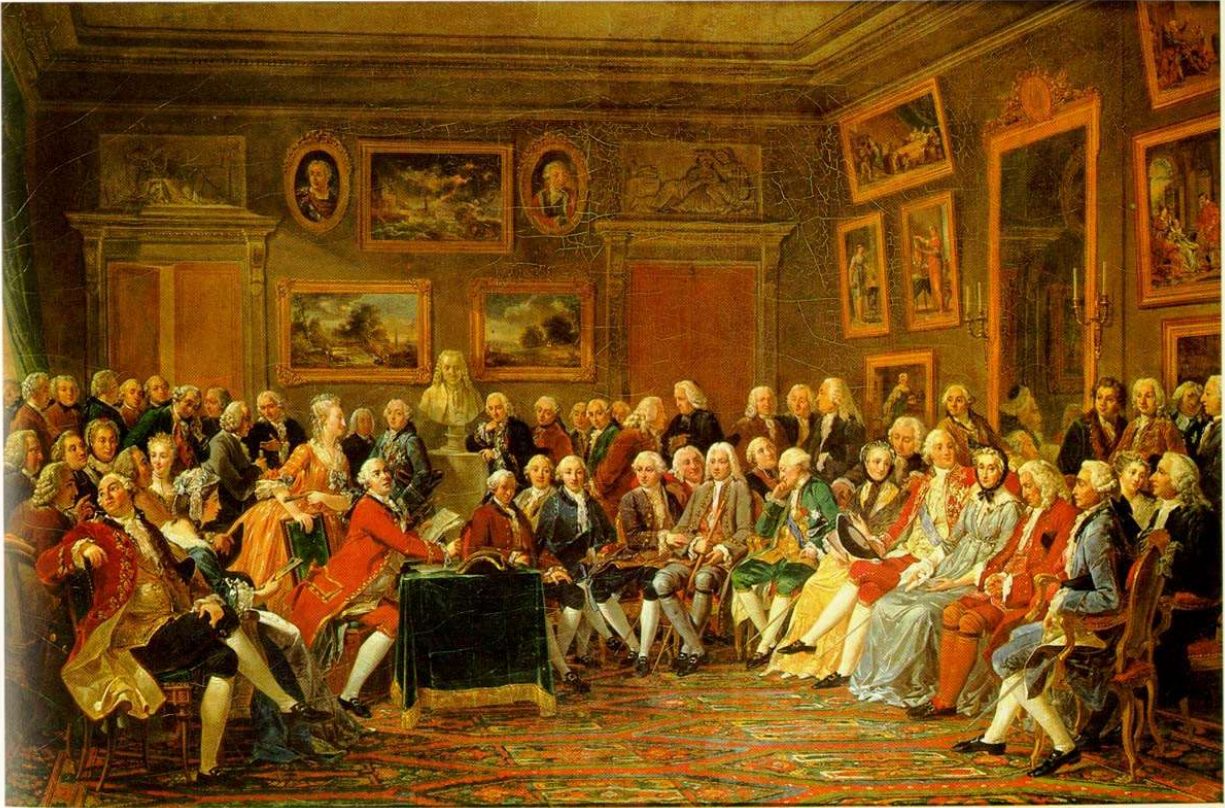
But King Louis XV didn't want to oversee France and deal with this financial problem his father left him, so he gave the throne the day he died to King Louis XVI, giving him the burden of the financial problems and a decline of royal authority.

Chapter 1: Before the French Revolution - Society



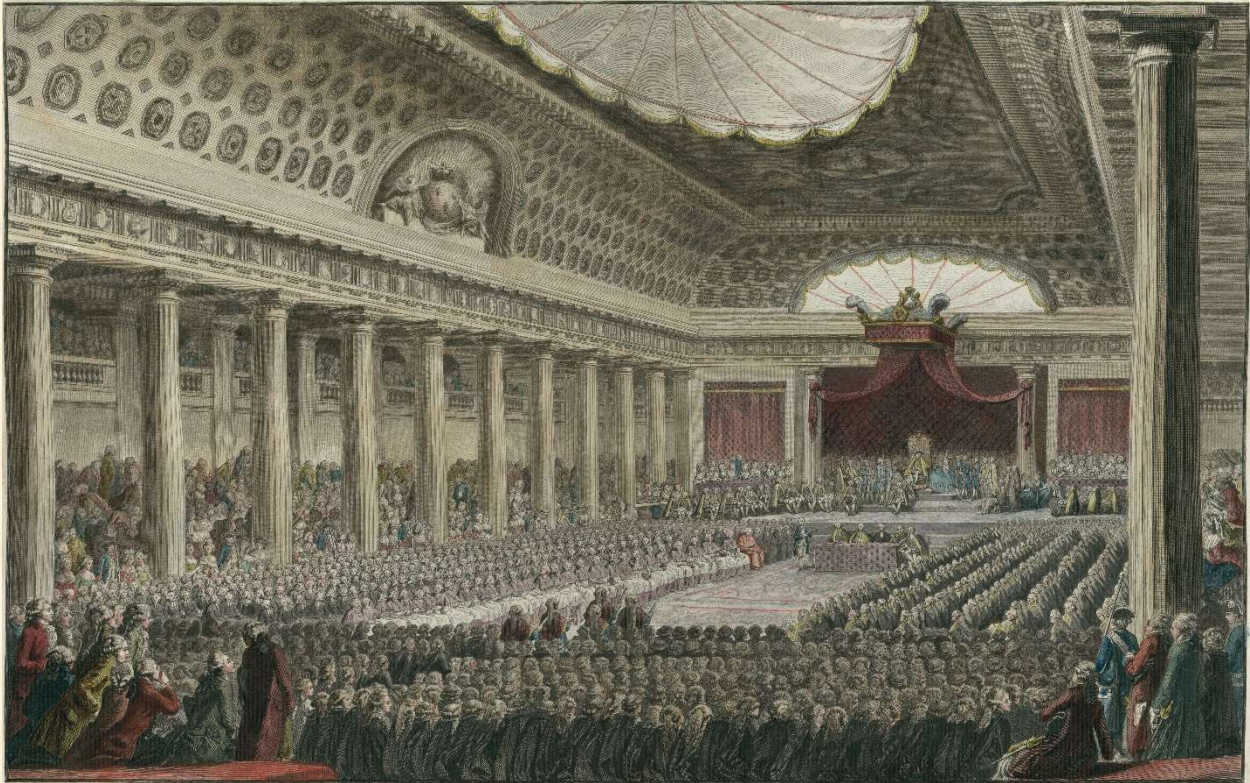
To start a revolution, you need lots of problems in your country, and boy there was a lot of problems on top of the financial problem. First, there was a huge separation between the wealthy and the poor. There were three estates of people, the 3rd estate, which is the lowest class, and 96% of people are that class, the 2nd estate, which houses the nobles, who make up <4% of the population and the first class, which are the high church officials make up less than 1% of the population. The third estate was mistreated by the other estates and even though they made up most of France, they didn't have a say in anything. They also had to pay a lot more taxes than the other estates, even though they have the lowest income.

Chapter 1: Before the French Revolution - Philosophes



Secondly, philosophes, the French version of philosophers, were thinking of a new government system, and telling the third estate how great life would be if there was a new government system.

Chapter 1: Before the French Revolution - The Estates-General



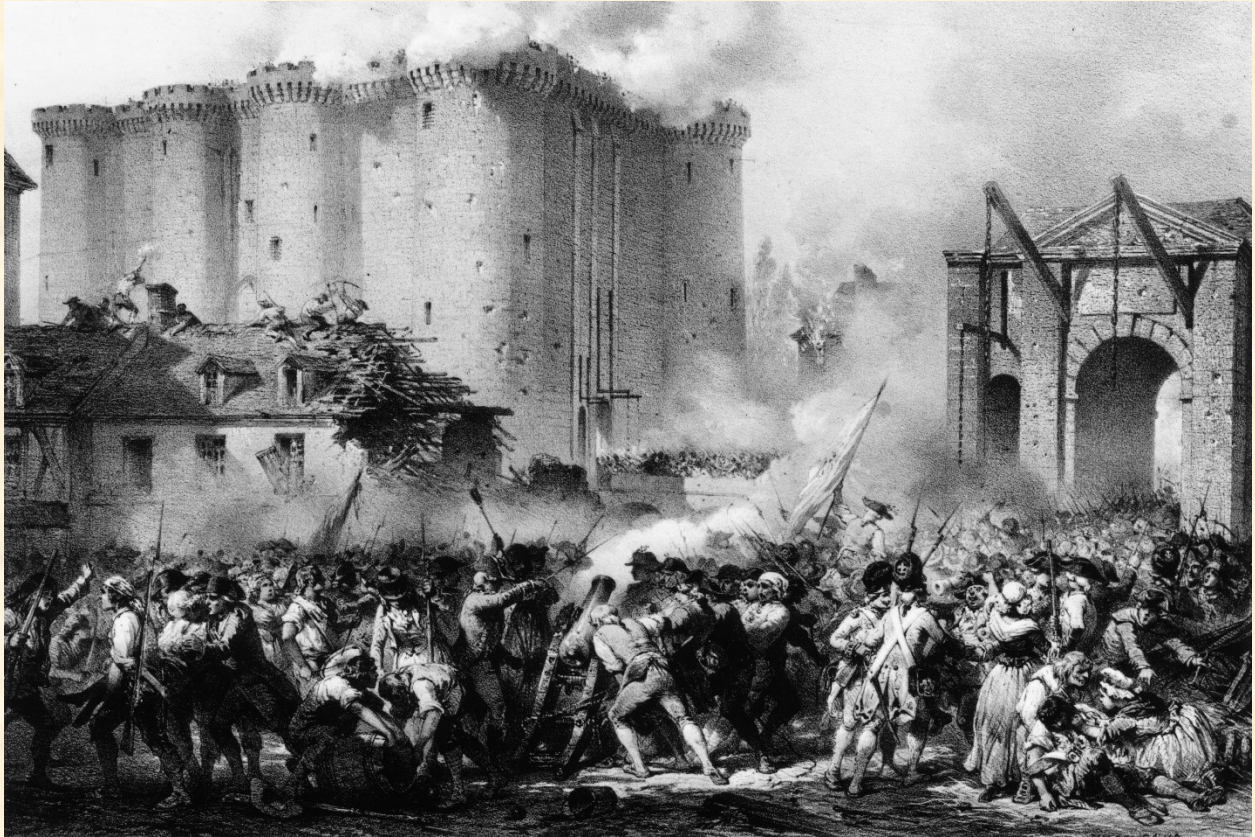
With all these financial problems and separation from estates, King Louis XVI called an Estates-General meeting to discuss how to resolve the financial problems of France, a meeting that hasn't been called since 1614, 175 years since the last meeting was called. May 5th, 1789 was when the Estates-General met for the first time, starting with King Louis XVI speaking out and declaring himself as "the people's greatest friend". This was the start of the French Revolution.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - The Tennis Court Oath



The Estates-General started out normal, but then the entire third estate's representatives proclaimed themselves the National Assembly, a new temporary type of parliament. Several nobles and clergymen joined them. The day after they announced this movement, on the morning of June 20th, they were locked out of the Palace of Versailles. They moved to a nearby tennis court and signed the Tennis Court Oath, a vow "not to separate, and to reassemble wherever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established". Over 576 members took this oath. Later in July, they drafted and became an official constitution, able to make, edit and remove laws in France.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - The Fall of the Bastille



On July 14th, 1789, the storming of the Bastille happened, civilians wanting gunpowder for their muskets that they stole from the Hôtel des Invalides, a military hospital. They also freed 7 political prisoners from King Louis's grasp. This attack caused the death of over 100 attackers, and injured dozens more, leaving only one soldier dead and the death of the prison's governor.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - The National Assembly



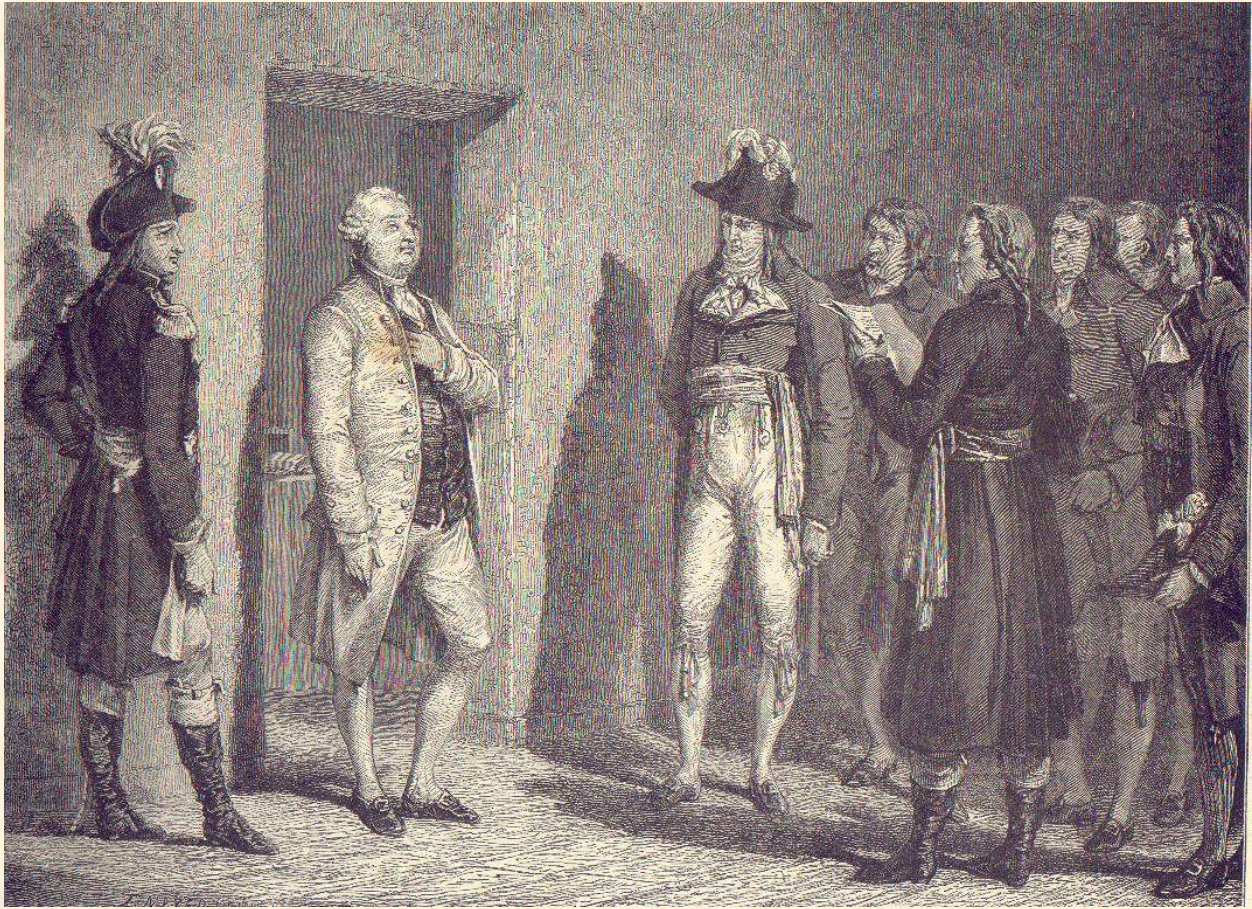
The National Assembly's first act was to eliminate the aging feudal system, "which people worked and fought for a noble, giving protection and land in return", which they did on August 4th. This enabled peasants to fight against their feudal lords, creating uprisings in both urban and rural areas, preventing the king from banning the National Assembly. Later, on August 26th, they signed the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which outlined the basic rights of man and a citizen of France. This gave people a proper trial, freedom of speech, fair taxes, and the protection of property.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - The Austria & Prussia War



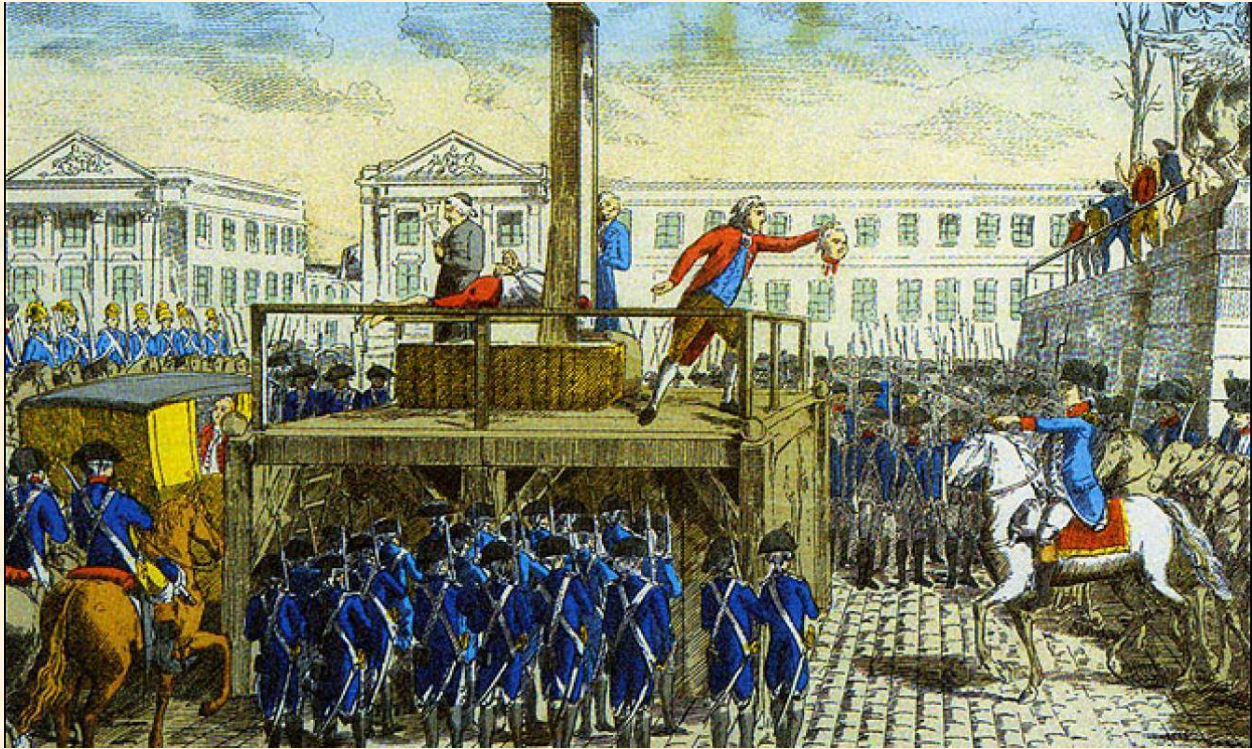
Even though France was in a middle of a revolution, King Louis XVI encouraged Austria and Prussia to start a war against them. These countries didn't want the French revolution to trickle into their countries and tear down their monarchy. France surprisingly won both wars eventually, with the Assembly helping by saying that all Frenchmen should fight the enemies.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - Louis Capet's Arrest



Later, the National Assembly suspended king Louis's rule, finally ending any say he has over France as a king and making a normal citizen. With this, the National Assembly would be able to give him a trial, and finally end his terrible regime. So that's what they did, they caught him when he was trying to escape France with his family after they believed he was talking to foreign people to send armies at his disposal so he could gain his power back in France.

Chapter 2: During the Revolution - The Execution of Louis Capet



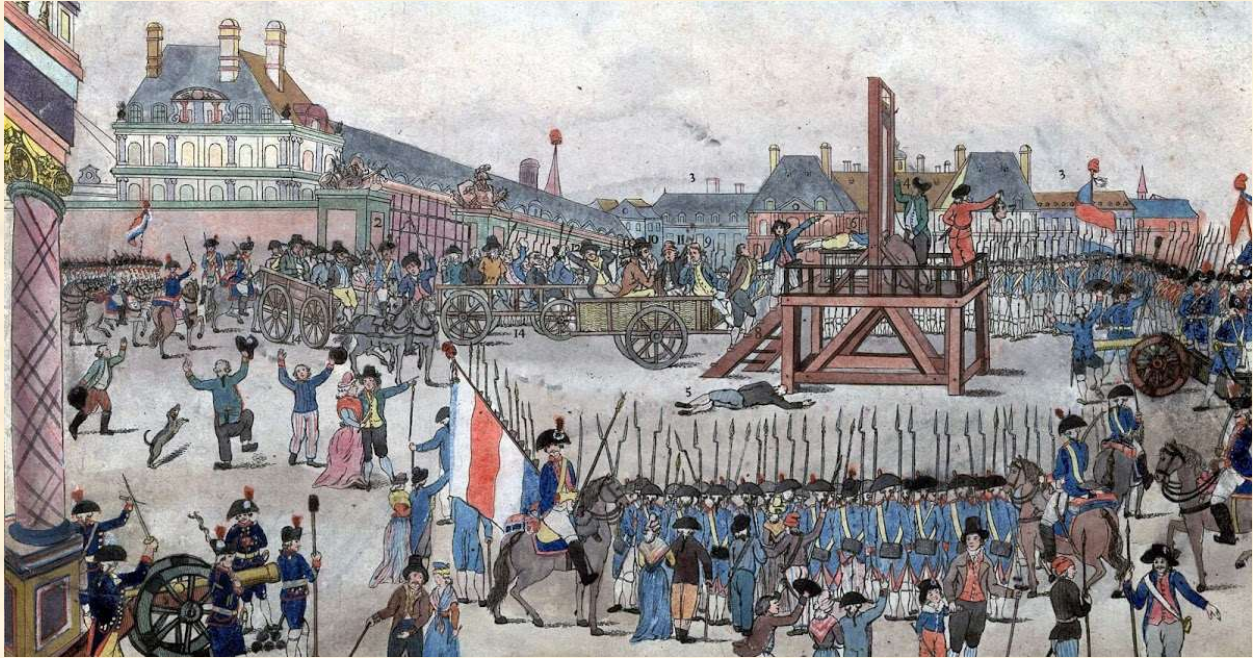
King Louis XVI was caught and sent to a prison to wait for a trial on June 20th, 1791. After 581 days in prison, they started his trial and was finally executed with the guillotine on January 21st, 1793, finally completing the goal of the French Revolution, but there was still more terror to come.

Chapter 3: After the Revolution - The September Massacre



During that same year, in September 1793, a radical political group called the Jacobins made a foolish mistake, starting the most terrifying part of the French Revolution. They foolishly thought that some prisoners were threatening a counter-revolution to the French Revolution. That was untrue, but the radicals didn't know, so they killed everyone in the prison, starting the Reign of Terror.

Chapter 3: After the Revolution - The Reign of Terror



The Reign of Terror lasted from September 1793 to July 28, 1794. The main goal of the period was to purge France of foreign enemies, invaders, and counterrevolutionaries. The Legislative Assembly, what the National Assembly created to rule France, changed some laws, where courts could convict people without evidence, and letting the government send people to prison without any trial. Even the simplest insult to a high-ranking official could have you executed. Thankfully, this reign didn't last long because the craftsman of the reign and the head of the Jacobins, Maximilien Robespierre was arrested and beheaded, but the affects were very damaging. 17,000 official executions took place and an approximate 50,000 unofficial executions, totaling to around 67,000 people were killed in cold blood because of The Reign of Terror.

Chapter 3: After the Revolution - Everything was fine



Finally, after the Reign of Terror was over, everything was in order and the revolution was finally over, with Napoleon taking over France and turning it into a republic form of government. All was good.

Chapter 4: Effects During the Long Term - Unity & Equality



The French Revolution's impact was humongous on French society. It made France a better country, it unified people and increased French nationalism. It also sped up the adoption of modern forms of government around the world, like republics and democracies. By the end of the 19th century, all European nations except Russia had some form of modern government. It also established human rights around the world with the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.