

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

1 | The Old Regime + The Enlightenment

- 18th Century Monarchies
 - Comprised of absolute monarchies
 - Crown passed to the eldest son or daughter
 - Glorious revolution => 1688
 - Struggle between parliament vs. stuart kings result in constitutional monarchy in England
 - Powers of European monarchs increased after centralization of power
 - Created unified modern states
- Old France
 - “Acien régime” => 1789 to 1800s france
 - Strict grid of social hierarchy resulted due to birthright
 - Societal organization explained by Great Chain of Being
 - Entire world organized structurally
 - God at the top, rocks at the bottom
 - In which, King on the top — God’s divine representative (“L’état c’est moi” — the state is me)
 - French societies organized into three castes — “estates”
 - First Estate => clergy; enjoyed high status
 - Second Estate => aristocracy; provided military and monetary support
 - *Les Grands*: largest landholders w/ large houses
 - *Seigneurs*: provincial nobles who simply owned estates in the countryside
 - Third Estate => 97% of the population
 - Production!
 - Reproduction!
 - Work!
 - Relatively prosperous, but <40% owned land
 - Most rented land from lords as tenant farmers/sharecroppers
 - Economy generally rural + dominate by subsistence farming
 - No national currency, nor system of weights and measures, nor a market
 - Network of highways existed, but not very efficient
 - Economic policy guided by merchantilist theory
 - Notion that precious metals holdings is the ultimate goal
 - Encouraged development of manufacturing to provide for global market
 - Development of the new *bourgeoisie* class — small merchants and shopkeepers
 - Theory came under challenge by newer things like the free market theory
 - Adam Smith’s free market economy/bourseiosie challenged mercantilistic economy
 - Old France very Roman Catholic
 - Church owned large amount of resources => almost 10%
 - Monarchs crowed in cathedrals
- 1700s balance of power
 - European nations began to make international alliances
 - Shifted power to prevent any one country from becoming too powerful
 - Whole economic system begins to be challenged by the end of the 18th century, when [KBhHIST201TheEnlightenment](#) happened, followed by French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, and solidification of the middle class

- [KBhHIST201Enlightenment](#)
 - Applied methods of scientific revolution to study of society
 - Believed natural laws governed human behavior + human institutions
 - John Locke
 - Got on the notion that reason was derived from experience
 - Human nature is essentially good, and character is shaped by education and upbringing
 - Hence, good societies w/ good education will create a better society
 - Man process natural + inalienable rights to life, liberty, and... property?
 - Political communities are formed by popular consent
 - Had huge influence across the Atlantic
 - Jean-Jaques Rousseau
 - “Man is born free, and everywhere he is shackled”
 - Believes that society corrupts and distorts man’s natural freedom and equality
 - Negotiated by social contract
 - Adam Smith
 - Applied Enlightenment ideas to economy and market
 - Argued that government inference in the economy violated natural forces of competition, supply, and demand
 - Self-interest could work for the common good
 - Individual greed + private accumulation of wealth => free market forces are at play
 - Argued for system of *laissez-faire* => daoistic management of economy
 - Ideas ultimately influence the development of capitalism
- Perhaps one of the causes of the French Revolution
 - Ideas raised by Enlignment => profoundly setting the direction of social order
 - Attacked basis of *ancien régime*
- Enlightenment Influence
 - Introduced governmental reforms
 - Created new ideas on government: **liberalism, socialism, communism.**
- French Revolution => 1789
 - Although year for the declaration of the Rights of Man, 1789 is overshadowed by a whole timeline
 - 1792 => Louis XVI dethroned
 - 1793 => Louis XVI executed
 - 1799 => Napoleon
 - 1815 => Monarchy is back
 - During the revolutionary period, France perhaps was the most significant country
 - Louis XIV established France as centre of power
 - Most populous
 - Leading in arts and sciences
 - Leading in philosophical thought a la Enlightenment
 - Cause of revolution
 - Long term
 - Socioeconomic change of the 18th century
 - The Freaking Enlightenment
 - Weakening monarchy
 - Short term
 - Inefficient tax system got the country stripped of money

- France also dumped a lot of money on Amercias
- Created economic depression
 - 1726-1789 => cost of living +62%, wages only +25%
 - British textile caused massive unempolyment
 - 1788 brought with it famine
 - Louis XVI himself is also quite weak
- Third estate (peseant) general decided to go rougue and come up with their own National Assembly
 - “Whenever we meet, there is the nation.”
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