

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 [KBHIST201TheEnlightenment](#) happened, followed by French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, and solidification of the middle class
- [KBHIST201Enlightenment](#)