

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
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