

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 interference 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* => laissez management of economy
    - Ideas ultimately influence the development of capitalism
- Perhaps one of the causes of the French Revolution
  - Ideas raised by Enlightenment => 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
- The Revolution
  - Third estate (peseant) general decided to go rougue when called by the King to discuss tax plans and come up with their own National Assembly
    - “Whenever we meet, there is the nation.”
    - The King, noticing this, took the army to quell the third estate generals
    - Millitias began forming throughout the city
    - July 14th, 80,000 people stored Bastille prision + seized the governor of the fortress. This became **Bastille day**, a French holiday!
    - With this example, peseants began raiding their landlords
  - The suddenly official National Assembly abolished lordish feutal payments + freed the peseants
  - August 16th, the Dec. of the Rights of Man was published => the French Dec. of Indp.
  - Reflects Enlightenment Ideals => “natural, inalienable, and sacred rights of man... Liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression”
  - 6000 woman... just decided to chuck the King back into Paris. #how???
  - Then, the National Assembly just pretended that they ran the nation
    - Using monarch as de jurie figurehead
    - Seized all Church property
    - Required clergy election to be public, forced the clergy to be loyal to the nation
    - New constitution was presented => elected legislative assembly w/ king only the power as suspensive veto
  - Louis XVI fled Paris and appealed to all other monarchs => Russian empress declared “affairs of France were the concern of all crowned heads.”
  - Prussia and Austria began to try to invade France working with the French king; however, 1792, another insurrection quelled them.
  - The National Convention scratched the monarchy part out of the constitution, and that was that.
- Then, “normal” politics happened
  - The Manhood sufferange movement 1789 => 1971, at which point it’s abandoned
  - Georges Danton + Max Robespierre jockeyed for power
  - Clubs and meetings established
  - Section assemblies drew many commoners into political activity
  - Then, by a narrow vote, Louis was convicted and confirmed to be executed
- Then, everyone piled on:
  - Britain Holland, Spain, Austria, Prussia formed a coalition against France
  - the Convention established a Public Safety committee
    - Created a period called The Terror => putting on trial and killing everyone who opposed the revolution
    - 40,000 died under this system
    - And so did the leaders of the Terror Danton and Robespierre
  - After the Terror, the Convention decided the current constitution was not good enough — scrapping it and writing another one after establishing a five-man Directory for executive power
  - The Directory later became illegitamate, causing, you guessed it, a *coup d’état* that, you didn’t guess it, established the Monarchy again!

- Napoleon and the *coup d'état*
  - General in 1793
  - Put down a loyalist uprising in 1795, making him famous
  - Crushed the Austrian forces while he is at it, making him famous
  - Elected consul in 1802, and just crowned himself in 1804
  - Napoleon acted as the one-man-Directory — creating a system similar to true Constitutional Monarchy
    - Weakened representative institutions
    - Censored the press
    - Put down rebellions
    - Did the Terror, but to both royalists and true republicans
    - Made peace with the Catholic Church
    - Introduced new legal code that is still in French law today
- France enjoyed prosperity
  - Controlled Spain, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia and some parts of Germany
  - Solidified revolutionary changes + Enlightenment philosophies
  - Spread ideas of the Enlightenment through military conquests