Source: ⟦KBhHIST201EnlightenmentFrenchRev⟧

1 | The French Revolution

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1.1 | Before we start: Monarchies in Europe

"Old Europe" monarchies were mostly absolute before the 18th century. Crown passed to the eldest son or daughter. England's Glorious Revolution paved the way for new monarchies to develop.

1.1.1 | Glorious revolution

- 1688 struggle between parlament vs. stuart kings result in constitutional monarchy in England
- Powers of European monarchs increased after centralization of power
- Created unified modern states

1.1.2 | "Old France": Acien Régime

See ⟦KBhHIST20⟧ * 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