

# A rhetoric of bourgeois revolution the abb sieyes and what is the third estat

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The Three Estates: A Catalyst for Revolution\*\*

### **What is the Third Estate?**

In the pre-revolutionary French society, the Third Estate, as defined by the Abbé Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès in his influential pamphlet "What is the Third Estate?" comprised the vast majority of the population. It included peasants, artisans, merchants, and professionals who were not part of the privileged classes of the First and Second Estates (the clergy and nobility, respectively).

### **What was the Third Estate during the French Revolution?**

During the French Revolution, the Third Estate played a pivotal role. Its members, fueled by frustrations and grievances, formed the National Assembly, which challenged the authority of the monarchy and ultimately led to the establishment of a republic.

### **Contributions of Mirabeau and Abbé Sieyes**

Both Honoré Gabriel Riqueti, Comte de Mirabeau, and Abbé Sieyès made significant contributions to the French Revolution. Mirabeau, a charismatic orator, became a leader of the Third Estate and advocated for moderate reforms. Sieyès, known for his intellectual rigor, played a key role in drafting the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, a fundamental document of the Revolution.

### **Reasons for the Third Estate's Readiness to Revolt**

According to Sieyès and other sources, the Third Estate was ready to revolt due to several factors, including:

- Economic inequality and oppression
- Lack of political representation
- Resentment towards the privileges of the First and Second Estates

### **Meaning of Three Estates**

The Three Estates referred to the hierarchical structure of French society under the Ancien Régime. It divided society into three distinct groups:

- First Estate: Clergy
- Second Estate: Nobility
- Third Estate: Commoners

### **Demands of the Third Estate**

The Third Estate sought numerous reforms and concessions, including:

- Equal taxation
- Representation in government
- Abolition of feudal privileges

### **Role of the Bourgeoisie**

During the French Revolution, the bourgeoisie, a social class within the Third Estate, played a key role. They supported the Revolution's goals of liberty and equality and provided financial and political support to the revolutionaries.

### **Causes of the French Revolution**

The French Revolution was sparked by a combination of factors, including:

- Economic crisis
- Social inequality

- Enlightenment ideas

### **Third Stage of the French Revolution**

The third stage of the French Revolution began in 1792 with the establishment of the National Convention and lasted until 1799. It was marked by radicalism, the Reign of Terror, and the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.

### **Differences between Mirabeau and Abbé Sieyès**

While both Mirabeau and Sieyès were prominent figures in the French Revolution, they had different approaches and beliefs:

- Mirabeau favored a constitutional monarchy and moderate reforms.
- Sieyès advocated for a republic and more radical changes.

### **Three Important Ideas of the French Revolution**

The French Revolution propagated three central ideas:

- Liberty: Individual freedom and rights
- Equality: Equal treatment under the law
- Fraternity: Solidarity and brotherhood

### **Author of "What is the Third Estate?"**

"What is the Third Estate?" was written by Abbé Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès.

### **Summary of Sieyès's Argument**

Sieyès argued that the Third Estate, by virtue of its size and contributions, should not be considered a mere "estate" but the true nation. He emphasized its importance and the need for it to gain political power.

### **Reasons for the Third Estate's Anger**

The Third Estate's anger stemmed from:

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- Economic exploitation

- Political marginalization
- Social injustice

## **Representation of the Third Estate**

Before the Revolution, the Third Estate was represented in the Estates General, but its voice was heavily outweighed by the privileged classes.

## **Alpha History Perspective**

Alpha History provides a detailed overview of the Third Estate, its role in the French Revolution, and the contributions of Mirabeau and Sieyès.

## **Quizlet Definition**

Quizlet defines the Third Estate as the commoners, including peasants, artisans, and professionals, who made up the vast majority of French society.

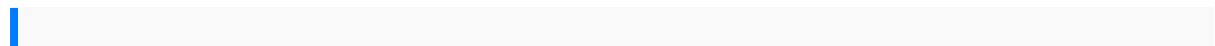
## **Composition of the Third Estate**

The Third Estate consisted of:

- Peasants (80%)
- Artisans
- Merchants
- Professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc.)

## **Disagreement with the Estates General**

The Third Estate disagreed with the Estates General because it was dominated by the privileged classes and did not reflect the interests of the majority of the population.



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