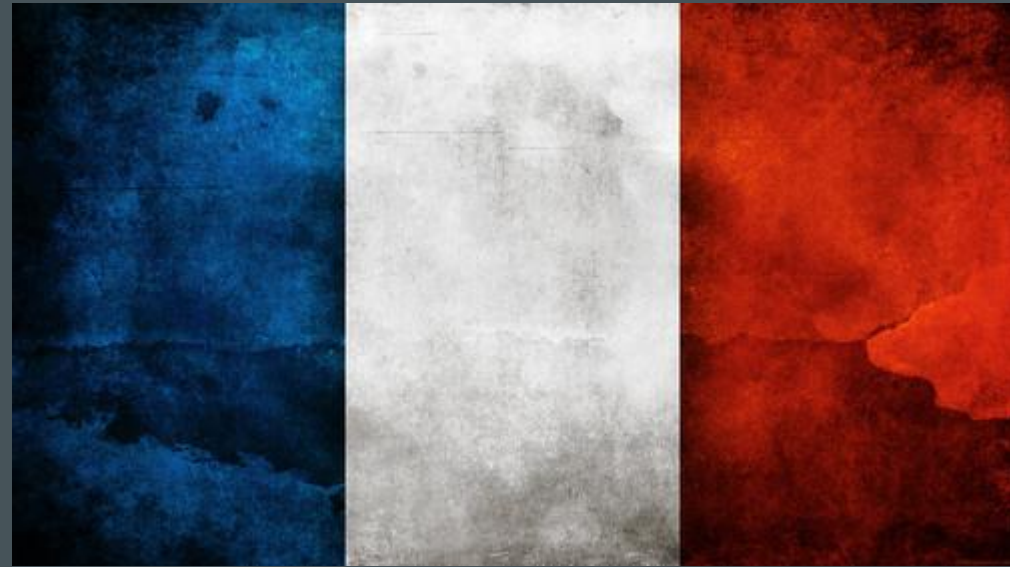

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



MAN WITH A PLAN

- Charles Alexandre – Vicomte de Calonne
- He was the Controller-General of Finances
- Because of the debts of the French Government he came up with a tax plan that involved taxing nobles and the rich.



PRIMARY SOURCE

Charles Alexandre de Calonne



I shall easily show that it is impossible to tax further, ruinous to be always borrowing and not enough to confine ourselves to measures of economy.

AZ QUOTES

CALONNE'S PROPOSED REFORMS

- Cut government spending
 - Increase trade
 - Sell Church property
 - Reduce taxes on the poor
 - Direct tax on all land owners
- How do you think the Nobles and Clergy felt about this plan?

THE REACTION

- The King dismisses Calonne as the Nobles insist that he be fired for suggesting this plan. Not only was he dismissed but he was also exiled to Lorraine.
- After being dismissed, Calonne stated, "The King, who assured me a hundred times that he would support me with unshakable firmness, abandoned me, and I succumbed."



Lorraine

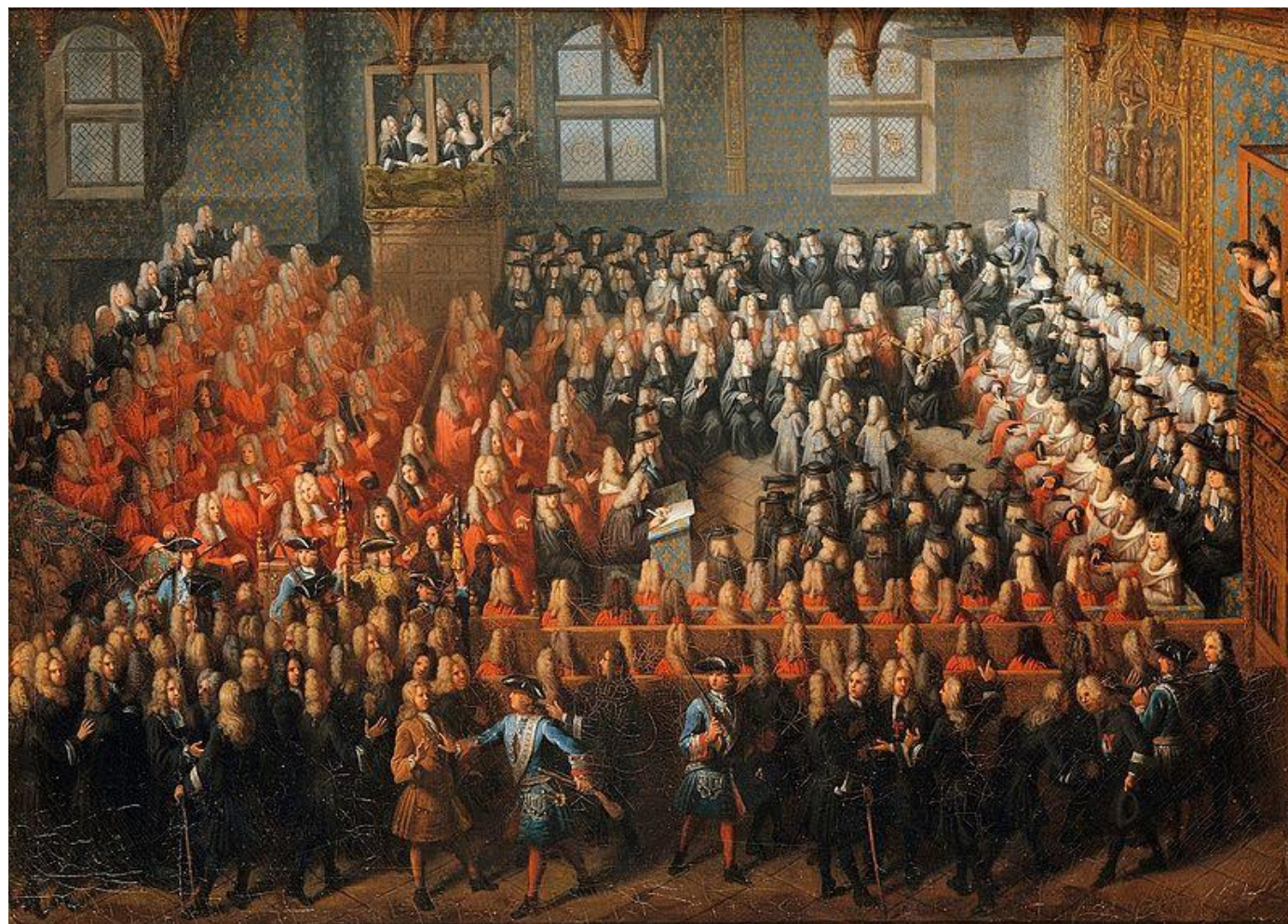
JACQUES NECKER

- He was Calonne's replacement
- After looking at books and financial situation he reached the same conclusion as Calonne.
- He proposed a similar plan to the King.
- Nobles had similar reaction. When taxes were proposed, they said that only the Parliament of Paris had the authority to impose new taxes - not a government minister



THE PARLIAMENT OF PARIS

- The Parliament of Paris said the King could not impose new taxes without the approval of the Estates-General.
- Louis had members of the Parliament of Paris arrested.



PREPARING FOR THE ESTATES-GENERAL

Winter of 1788-1789

- Members of the estates elected representatives
- Louis XVI called for Meeting May 5, 1789
- Representatives from each estate were called to meet.
 - First and Second Estate had 300 representatives each
 - Third Estate had 600 Representatives
 - Third Estate badly wanted constitutional government and make clergy and nobility to pay taxes.

MEETING OF THE ESTATES-GENERAL

MAY 5, 1789

- Voting was conducted by estate
 - Each estate had one vote
 - First and Second Estates could operate as a **bloc** to stop the Third Estate from having its way
 - First Estate + Second Estate -vs. -Third Estate
- Representatives from the Third Estate demanded that voting be by population which would give the Third Estate a great advantage.
- Deadlock resulted

**First
Estate =
1 Vote or
130,000
Votes**

**Third Estate = 1
Vote or
25,000,000 Votes**

**Second Estate =
1 Vote or
110,000 Votes**

REACTIONS

- Mobs of people began to form outside the Palace at Versailles.
- The people were demanding action.
- Louis responded by locking the palace doors and leaving the Third Estate out in the rain. The members of the Third Estate ran through the palace grounds until they found an unlocked door leading to an indoor tennis court.



TENNIS COURT OATH



THE TENNIS COURT OATH

- “The National Assembly, considering that it has been summoned to establish the constitution of the kingdom, to effect the regeneration of the public order, and to maintain the true principles of monarchy; that nothing can prevent it from continuing its deliberations in whatever place it may be forced to establish itself; and, finally, that wheresoever its members are assembled, there is the National Assembly;
- “Decrees that all members of this Assembly shall immediately take a solemn oath not to separate, and to reassemble wherever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established and consolidated upon firm foundations; and that, the said oath taken, all members and each one of them individually shall ratify this steadfast resolution by signature.”

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (1789 – 1791)

- Louis XVI did not actually want a written constitution.
- When news of his plan to use military force against the National Assembly reached Paris on **July 14, 1789**, people stormed the **Bastille**.



UPRISING IN PARIS

People of Paris seized weapons from the **Bastille**

- July 14, 1789
- Parisians organized their own government which they called the **Commune**
- Small groups –**factions**– competed to control the city of Paris

Uprising spread throughout France

- Nobles were attacked
- Records of feudal dues and owed taxes were destroyed
- Many nobles fled the country – became known as **émigrés**
- Louis XVI was forced to fly the new tricolor flag of France

CHANGES UNDER THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Abolishment of guilds and labor unions
- Abolition of special privileges
- Constitution of 1791
- *Declaration of the Rights of Man*
- Equality before the law (for men)
- Many nobles left France and became known as ***émigrés***
- Reforms in local government
- Taxes levied based on the ability to pay

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AUGUST 26, 1789 (SIMILAR TO ENGLISH BILL OF RIGHTS AND AMERICAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE)

- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of the press
- Guaranteed property rights
- “Liberty, equality, fraternity!”
- Right of the people to create laws
- Right to a fair trial
- Public office based on talent/merit
- No group exempt from taxes

OPPOSITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT

- European monarchs feared that revolution would spread to their own countries
 - France was threatened by Austrian and Prussian troops to restore King Louis XVI
 - Legislative Assembly decided to strike first and declared war on Austria in Spring of 1792 and initial fights were a major FAIL.
 - In Spring of 1792 food shortages and defeats in war led to an uprising by Paris Radicals
- In the uproar, the Commune took control of Paris.
 - Commune was made up of many members who called themselves sans-culottes. They wanted universal male suffrage.