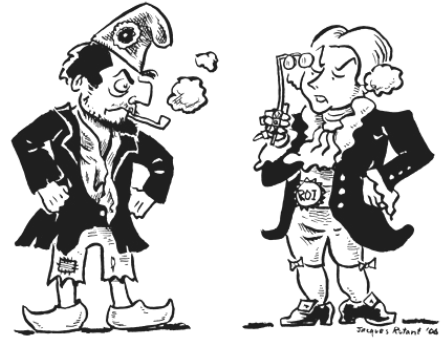



# The Beginning of the French Revolution



The imbalance of the three estates was only one of many problems which plagued France during the late 1700's. However, strong leadership may have solved these problems. The King of France, **Louis XVI**, had little patience and paid little attention to the advice of his advisors. His queen, **Marie Antoinette**, only added to these problems, spending much money on gowns, jewels, and gambling while millions of people in the third estate starved.

## Causes leading to the Revolution


Closely watch the video and describe each cause in the space provided:

Cause #1- 

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Cause #2- 

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Cause #3- 

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## What does Louis do?

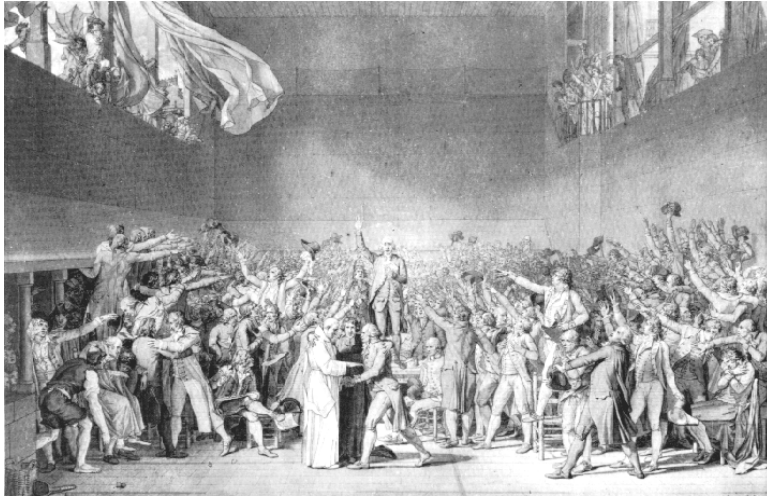
Rather than dealing with the current crisis, Louis puts off dealing with the situation. A meeting is then called by the Second Estate at the **Estates General**. The Estates General was an assembly of representatives from each of the three estates. However, a meeting had not been called in over 175 years. The problem with the Estates General was that each estate had one vote, so the two privileged estates could always outvote the third estate.

## Voting system of the Estates General

First Estate- 1 vote	Second Estate- 1 vote	Third estate- 1 vote
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## ***The Estates General***

*Frustrated by the system of the Estates General, the Third Estate, mostly members of the bourgeoisie, wanted to create a new system. They insisted that all three estates meet together and that each delegate (member) have a vote- not each estate. This system would become known as the **National Assembly**.*



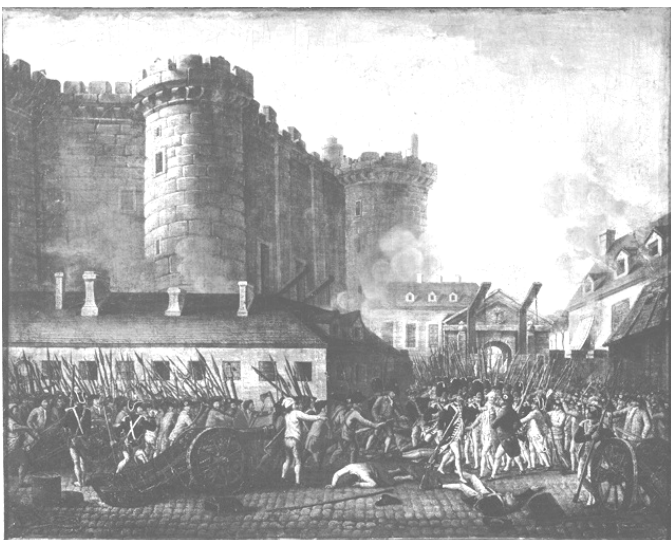
*When they returned for their next meeting to discuss this idea, they found themselves locked out of the Kings meeting room. They broke down a nearby door into an indoor tennis court. Here, they swore to stay until they drew up a new constitution. This pledge became known as the **Tennis Court Oath**.*

## ***Could Louis have better handled the situation?***

*In each situation leading up to the revolution, Louis did very little to handle it He either did nothing or made poor choices. In the chart below, briefly explain how Louis could have better handled each situation.*



<b><i>The Situation</i></b>	<b><i>How could Louis have handled it?</i></b>
<i>The three causes</i>	
<i>the Estates General</i>	
<i>the National Assembly</i>	



## ***The Storming of the Bastille***

*In Paris, rumors flew that Louis was planning to use military force to dismiss the mobs of protestors in Paris. People began to seek weapons to defend themselves. On July 14<sup>th</sup> 1789, an angry mob of protestors stormed a hated prison known as the Bastille. When Louis caught word of this uprising he asked “Is it a revolt?” his aid replied, “No sire, it is a revolution”.*

Use the video to answer the following question:

***Why was the storming of the Bastille such an important event?***

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