



FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
CLASS- IX  
WORKSHEET NO: 15  
HISTORY

**NAME:**

**DATE: 18/04/2020**

**Instructions:**

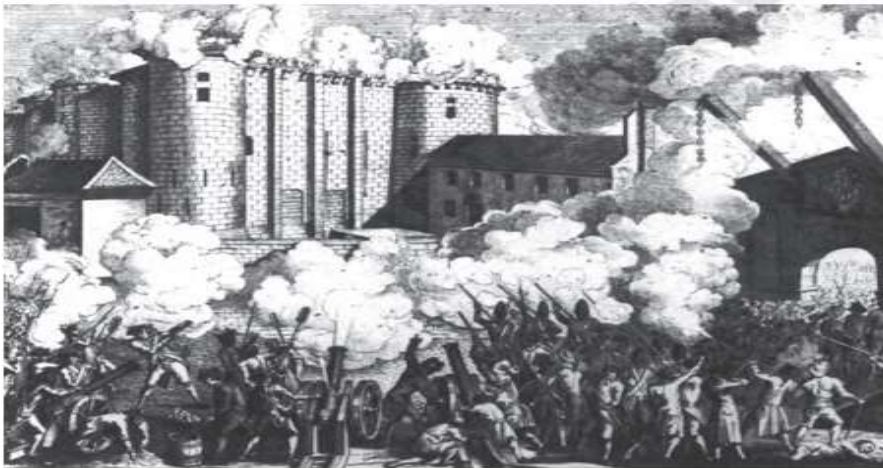
1. Please do S.ST assignments in a separate notebook for given work.
2. Use black pen for questions and blue for answers
3. Write all the Answers in points.
4. Please refer below additional link for more insight on same chapter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gY-7kUIOmns>

**Topic: French Revolution**

**Keywords:**

- Livre** : Unit of Currency in France discontinued in 1794.  
**Clergy** : Group of persons invested with special functions in the church.  
**Tithe** : A Tax levied by the church, comprising one tenth of the agricultural produce.  
**Taille** : Tax to be paid directly to the state.  
**Subsistence crisis** : An extreme situation where the basic means of livelihood are Endangered.  
**Anonymous** : One whose name remains unknown.



**Background Scene**

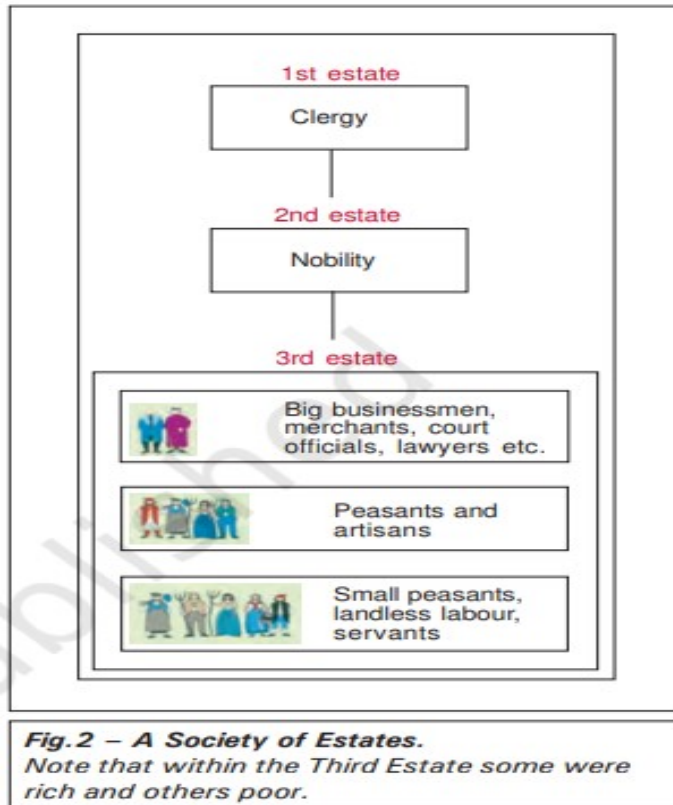
In 1789, in the wake of early morning, the city of Paris was in a state of alarm. Rumors spread that the King would open fire upon the citizens. People started gathering and they started breaking a number of government buildings in search of arms. The commander of the Bastille was killed in the armed fight and the prisoners were released. People hated the Bastille as it stood for the despotic power of the king. People protested against the high price of bread. A new chain of events began which led to the execution of the King in France.

**Introduction**

- French revolution started in 1789. The series of events started by the middle class shaken the upper classes.
- The people revolted against the cruel regime of monarchy.
- This revolution put forward the ideas of liberty, fraternity, and equality.
- The revolution began on 14th July 1789 with the storming of the fortress-prison, the Bastille.
- The Bastille, the fortress prison was hated by all, because it stood for the despotic power of the king.
- The fortress was demolished.

## Social Causes

French Society during the Late Eighteenth Century. The term 'Old Regime' is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789.



The society was divided into three estates.

- 1) 1st Estate: Clergy (Group of persons involved in church matters)
- 2) 2nd Estate: Nobility (Persons who have high rank in state administration)
- 3) 3rd Estate: (Comprises of Big businessmen, merchants, court officials, Lawyers, Peasants and artisans, landless labor, servants)

- First two classes were exempted from paying taxes. They enjoyed privileges by birth. Nobility classes also enjoyed feudal privileges.
- Only the members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state.  
Direct tax called *taille* and also a number of indirect taxes which were charged on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco.
- A tax called *Tithe* was also collected by the church from the peasants.
- Clergy and Nobility were 10% of the population but possessed 60% of lands.  
Third Estate was 90% of the population but possessed 40% of the lands.

## Economical Causes

- The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789.
- This increased the demand for the food grains. However, production could not keep pace with the demand which ultimately increased the prices of the food grains.
- Most workers work as laborer's in the workshops and they didn't see increase in their wages.
- Situation became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest.
- This led to the scarcity of food grains or Subsistence Crisis which started occurring frequently during old regime.

## Political Cause

- Louis XVI came into the power in 1774 and found empty treasury.
- Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
- Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain which added more than a billion

livres to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion livres.

- An extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles also costs a lot.
- To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.

### **Growing Middle Class**

Peasants used to participate in revolts against taxes and food scarcity. Group of the third estate had become prosperous and had access to education and new ideas. In the eighteenth century, new social groups emerged, termed the middle class, who earned their wealth through expanding overseas trade and by manufacturing woollen and silk textiles that were either exported or bought by the richer members of society. The third estate included professions such as lawyers or administrative officials. A person's social position was dependent on their merit.

All of these were educated and believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth. Rather, a person's social position must depend on his merit. A new form of government was proposed by Rousseau based on a social contract between people and their representatives. Similarly, Montesquieu proposed a division of power within the government between the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. In the USA, this model of government was put into force. Louis XVI planned to impose further taxes to meet the expenses.

### **Middle Class Views**

- The eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of social groups, termed the middle class, who earned their wealth through overseas trade, from manufacturing of goods and professions.
- This class was educated believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth.
- They were inspired by the ideas put forward by the various philosophers and became a matter of talk intensively for these classes in salons and coffee-houses and spread among people through books and newspapers.
- The American constitution and its guarantee of individual rights was an important example for political thinkers in France.

### **The Outbreak of the Revolution**

- In France, the monarch didn't have the power to impose taxes. They had to call a meeting of the Estates-General, a political body to which the three estates sent their representatives, to pass proposals for new taxes.
- Louis XVI, on 5 May 1789, called an assembly to pass proposals for new taxes. Representatives from the first and second estates were present, and the third estate was represented by its prosperous and educated members.
- According to the principle each estate had one vote. But, representatives from the third estate demanded each member would have one vote. The demand was rejected so members of the third estate walked out to protest. They swore not to disperse till a constitution drafted for France that would limit the powers of the monarch.
- Due to the severe winter, bread price rose, and people had to spend hours in long queues. Rumors spread that the lords of the manor hired bands of brigands to destroy the ripe crops. In fear, peasants started looting hoarded grain and burnt down documents containing records of manorial dues. Nobles fled from their homes.
- Louis XVI accorded recognition to the National Assembly and accepted the principle that his powers would from now on be checked by a constitution. The Assembly passed a decree abolishing the feudal system of obligations and taxes on 4 August 1789. Tithes were abolished and lands owned by the Church were confiscated.

## Important Dates

Dates	Details
1794	Louis XVI becomes king of France, faces empty treasury and growing discontent within society of the Old Regime
1789	Convocation of Estates General, Third Estate forms National Assembly, the Bastille is stormed, peasant revolts in the countryside
1791	A constitution is framed to limit the powers of the king and to guarantee basic rights to all human beings.
1792-93	France becomes a republic; the king is beheaded. Overthrow of the Jacobin republic, a Directory rules France.
1804	Napoleon becomes emperor of France, annexes large parts of Europe.
1815	Napoleon defeated at Waterloo.

## EXERCISE

### a) Fill in the blanks:

1. In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of Kings ascended the throne of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The newly elected assembly was called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The burden of financial activities of state during the Old Regime was borne by the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In France, the eighteenth century witnessed the emergence of a social group, termed as the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The agitated crowd stormed and destroyed the Bastille on \_\_\_\_\_.

### b) Answer the following Questions:

**Q1. Name the special tax levied by the church on peasants?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q2. What did the fall of Bastille signify?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q3. What did the French revolution of 1789 stand for?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q4. How was the French society organized before the revolution of 1789?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q5. Describe the circumstances leading the outbreak of revolutionary protest of France?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Q6. Which groups of French society benefited from the revolution? Which groups were forced to relinquish power? Which sections of society would have been disappointed with the outcome of the revolution?**

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

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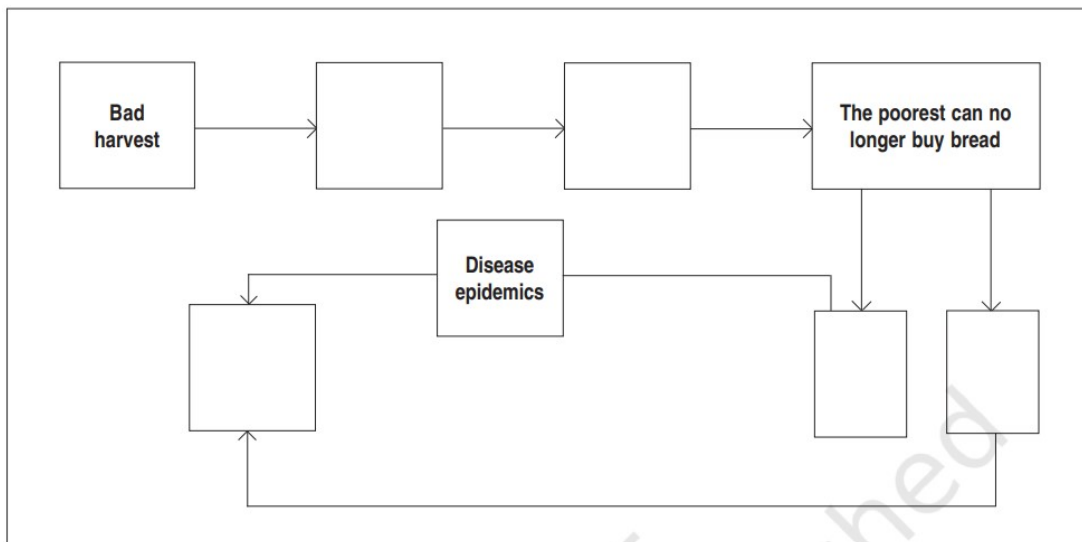
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**c) Activity:**

Fill in the blank boxes in below figure with appropriate terms from among the following:

1. Food riots
2. Scarcity of grain
3. Increased number of deaths
4. Rising food prices
5. Weaker bodies



***The course of a subsistence crisis.***

