

# French Revolution

Thursday, December 01, 2005  
09:04

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## CAUSES

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### - The Enlightenment

- Government views different with new ideas
- Criticism of old regime
  - Against absolutism
  - Against privileges for nobles
  - Against clergy

### - Old Regime

- Before French Revolution

### - Social Structure

- System of classes
- Called '**Estates**'
  - 1st Estate - **the clergy**
    - Control religion
    - Control schools
    - Control charity
    - Censorship
    - Highly privileged
    - **1% of population, 20% of best (most arable) land**
    - No taxes
    - "**free gift**" to the king
      - ◆ Gift of money
      - ◆ Not much.. But instead of taxes but much less
    - Collected **tithe**
      - ◆ Everybody paid 10% of income to the church
    - **Upper clergy**
      - ◆ Archbishop
      - ◆ Bishops
      - ◆ Cardinals
      - ◆ ... closely connected to king
    - **Lower clergy**
      - ◆ Priests
      - ◆ Took care of the daily lives of the people
      - ◆ Fairly poor
    - **Primogeniture**
      - ◆ Law that dates back to middle ages
      - ◆ First son inherits everything
      - ◆ Second son gets nothing
        - ◇ Became clergy
      - ◆ Girls get dowry
  - 2nd Estate - **the nobles**
    - Aristocrats
    - **1.5% of population, 20% of arable land**
    - Paid no taxes
    - Collected fees
    - Did not pay **taille**
      - ◆ Tax on land
    - Collected feudal dues
    - Influenced government
    - Controlled army

- Controlled courts
  - ◆ *Parlement*
- Influenced church
- 2 kinds of nobles
  - ◆ *Noble of the sword*
    - ◇ Born into the nobility
    - ◇ Noble by birth
  - ◆ *Noble of the robe*
    - ◇ Made into nobles...
    - ◇ Bought titles of nobility
- 3rd Estate - **the bourgeoisie (wealthy) and the commoners**
  - 98% of the population
  - Included bourgeoisie, peasants, urban workers, sailors, beggars, merchants, artisans, bankers
  - Could buy a title of nobility if you are lucky
  - ALL paid taxes
    - ◆ Tithe (church)
    - ◆ Taille (land)
    - ◆ Feudal dues
  - Did all the work
  - Better of than the rest of the peasants in Europe

## - Incompetent and Unpopular King

### ○ **Louis XVI**

- Fat
- Clumsy
- Awkward
- Shy
- Difficult for him to make friends
- Avoided people
- Indecisive
- Didn't want to hurt feelings of his friends
- Hobby: repaired clocks
- ---
- Unaware of new ideas
- Didn't pay attention to Enlightenment
- Well intentioned... but not very smart
- Married Mary Antoinette
  - Hapsburg
  - "Let them eat cake" clueless
- Very attentive to wife and children
- Bored by government and state affairs
- ---
- Absolute ruler
- Divine right of kings
- Oblivious to needs and fears of the people - No idea what was going on
- Narrow-minded
  - Incapable of compromising
- Lacked personality and intelligence
- Advisors
  - **Necker** - fired because Necker told him to change things
  - **Calonne**
  - **deBrienne**
  - Louis wouldn't listen to the advisors

## - Earlier Revolutions

- **Glorious Revolution** - 1688
- **American Revolution** - 1776

- **Growth of the Bourgeoisie**
  - o 3rd Estate
  - o Grew fast
  - o Educated
  - o Wanted reforms
  - o Resented privileges of 1st and 2nd estates
  
- **Bad Harvests**
  - o 1787, 1788, 1789
  - o Food shortages
  - o Unrest in the population (Popular unrest)
  - o Brought the poor in
  
- **Government Bankrupt**
  - o Expenses exceeded revenues
  - o Deficit spending
  - o Revenue:
    - Only third estate paid taxes
      - Least able to pay
  - o High cost of war
    - Louis XIV and American Revolution
  - o Lead to meeting of Estates General
  
- **MEETING OF ESTATES GENERAL: (Pandora's Box)**
  - o Old legislative government
  - o Had not been called in 175 years
  - o **Louis XVI**
    - Forced to call it because needed money
  
  - o Traditional voting by house (each house had one vote)
    - NOT BY HEAD COUNT BUT BY HOUSE
    - 1st estate
    - 2nd estate
    - 3rd commoners
    - Always 2 to 1

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★ - **FRENCH REVOLUTION - 1789**

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## MODERATE REVOLUTION

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### ESTATES GENERAL MEETING:

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- **Expectations of the King:**
  - New Taxes
    - Go home
    - Done
- **Expectations of Clergy:**
  - Not too much change
    - Split in half
  - Upper Clergy willing to cooperate with king
  - Lower Clergy wants to help out the poor
- **Expectations of Nobles:**
  - Wanted to change GOVMT to get more own power
  - Willing to trade taxes for power
- **Expectations of Bourgeoisie:**
  - More rights
  - More privileges
  - Social mobility
  - Vote by head not by house
- **Expectations of the Poor:**
  - food
- **Cahiers**
  - Writings of complaints
  - **Abbe Sieyes**
    - Member of the clergy (Abbe = abbot)
    - "*What is the Third Estate?*"
    - Similar to "Common Sense" (America)
    - **Vote by head not by house**
- **3 Parts of the House**
  - 3 voting bodies (3 estates)
  - 1 vote per estate
  - Votes done by House (estates)
  - Always 2 to 1; 3rd estate always lost 2:1

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### - Doubling the Third:

- 300 members of Clergy
- 300 members of Nobles
- 600 members of Commoners
- Did not solve any particular problem

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### - King Locked Third Estate OUT:

- June 17, 1789
  - Can't get into meeting room
  - Went to an indoor tennis court
  - Some clergymen joined them
  - **Tennis Court Oath**
    - Declared themselves *National Assembly*
      - Declared themselves the rightful government of France
      - (rule of the people)
    - Vowed to meet anywhere they had to until a *new constitution* was written
- July 14, 1789 (**Bastille Day**)
  - Revolt of the Masses
  - **Storming of the Bastille**
  - Bastille (old fortress/prison)
    - Symbol of oppression
    - Commoners wanted weapons
    - Only had a few prisoners
    - After storming they cut off the officers head and put it on a stick and paraded around town
  - King and nobles decide to join the National Assembly
- **Great Fear - Summer of 1789**
  - Everybody Scared
  - Nobles scared of peasants
  - Peasants scared of nobles
  - Some, but minimal violence
  - *Flight of the émigrés*
    - Nobles who left France because of fear

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- **Night Session of August 4th**

- o Secret session of the National Assembly
- o Easier to pass at night than during day...
  - Because not as many nobles present
- o Nobles would give up privileges
  - Everyone equal

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- **March of the Women**

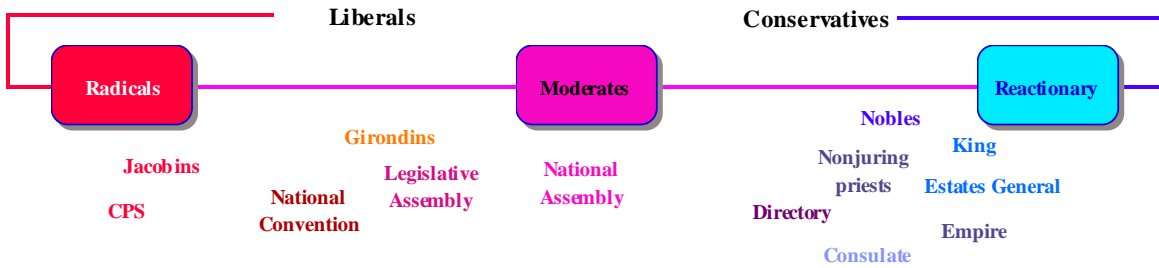
- Many 3rd estate women march to Versailles
- To tell king that price of bread was too high
- Forced king to come back to Paris
- Example of popular uprising

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**REFORMS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:**

- Everybody joined... no estates general left
  - **Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (DRMC)**
    - o Pre-Constitution
    - o Rights of man:
      - Men born free and equal
      - **Natural rights**
        - o Liberty
        - o Property
        - o Security
        - o Resistance to oppression
      - Voice in the law
        - o With restrictions
      - Freedom of
        - o Speech
        - o Press
        - o Religion
      - Due process
  - **Civil Constitution of the Clergy (CCC)**
    - o Declared French Church *independent from Rome*
    - o Abolished tithe
      - Tax to the church 10% of income
    - o Gave state control over the church
      - Government controls church
      - Rights
        - o Confiscate church property
        - o Pay clergy
        - o Select bishops
    - o Guaranteed freedom of religion
    - o Required clergy to take oath to CCC
      - Juring priests - accepted CCC
    - o Significance
      - Biggest mistake (blunder) of French Revolution
      - Some priests refused to take the oath
        - o **Nonjuring priests** = refractory clergy
      - Church considered *anti-revolutionary*
  - **Constitution of 1791**
    - o **Limited monarchy / constitutional monarchy**
    - o Gave king a *limited veto*
    - o Established **Legislative Assembly**
      - Replaced the NA
      - Met for 1st time in Oct. 1791
    - o Distinguished between the *active* and *passive* citizens
      - Only active could vote
      - All are equal before law
      - Active = required minimum amount of taxes
  - **Misc. Reforms**
    - o Sold confiscated land
    - o Abolished internal tariffs
    - o Abolished slavery in the colonies
    - o Prohibited strikes and unions
    - o Established system of uniform weights and measures
    - o Issued **assignats**
      - New money, currency (\$\$\$)
    - o Reformed local governments
      - Replaced old system of provinces with **83 departments**
  - **General Reform**
    - o Abolished dues
    - o Freedom of religion (to Jews and Protestants)
    - o Elections
    - o Seized church property
      - Sold for cash
    - o Clergy and nobility pay taxes
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- **Political Parties**

- o Jacobins
  - Bourgeoisie
  - Pro-revolutionary
  - VERY Radical
  - Represented the interests of the *Sans culottes* - the poor working class people
    - "Without Pants"
    - Lower prices, republic, jobs, UMS (universal male suffrage)
  - **Maximilien Robespierre**
- o Girondins
  - Bourgeoisie
  - Pro-revolutionary
  - Liberal (not as radical)
  - In favor of the foreign war (spread French ideas/democracy)



# French Revolution

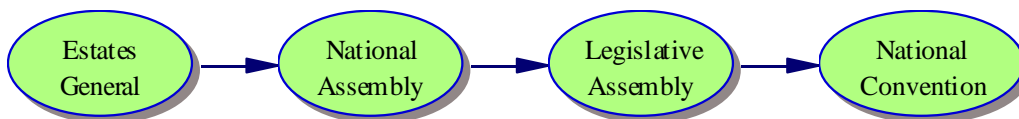
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## RADICAL REVOLUTION "The Second Revolution"

### Transitions:

- **Flight to Varennes**
  - June 1791
  - Louis XVI attempted to flee
  - King fleeing to England
  - Caught and brought back
  - Sig.: took away people's trust in the king
- **Imprisonment of Royal Family**
  - August 1791
  - Limited Monarchy ended
  - New Constitution needed
- **Foreign War Begins**
  - Spring 1792
  - **France** declared war on Austria and Prussia
  - French want *to spread democratic ideas*
- **Declaration of War**
  - **French** *losing*
  - Austrian and Prussian outside of Paris
    - Surrender or else they threaten to destroy the city of Paris
    - Issue an order not to hurt the royal family
    - **Brunswick Manifesto** - 8/1792
  - French angry
    - Rally
    - Resume war effort
- **Paris Commune**
  - **Radicals** took over the *municipal city government of Paris*
  - Radicals *kick out all the moderates*
    - August 1792
    - Demand creation **National Convention**



- **Storming of the Tuileries**
  - Popular revolt
    - The common people/masses
  - People attack one of the king's palaces
- **September Massacre**
  - September 1792
  - Mobs of the poor roam the streets
  - Kill enemies of the revolution

- 1st and 2nd estate
  - Right / conservative
  - Kill counter-revolutionaries
  - 1200 people killed
- **National Convention**
  - Replaced the **LA**
  - **Republic, UMS** (every male votes)
  - Purpose was to end the rioting, discontent, food shortages, chaos
  - Have trouble
  - Controlled by the Jacobins... very radical
  - **Execute the king - January 1793**
- **Battle of Valmy**
  - Turning point in the war
  - French victory
  - September 1792
- **Foreign war expands**
  - To Belgium and the Netherlands
    - France annexed territories
  - To Britain
  - "in the name of spreading equality"
  - Coalition is formed against France (**1st Coalition**)
    - Britain
    - Spain
    - Austria
    - Prussia

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### Committee of Public Safety

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- 12 members - dictatorship
- **Emergency powers**
  - Temporary powers
- **2 goals:**
  - Win war
  - Protect the revolutionary movement
- Lead by
  - **Robespierre**
  - Bourgeoisie
- **Robespierre**
  - Jacobin
  - **Republic of Virtue**
    - ◇ Everyone equal
    - ◇ Everyone in peace
    - ◇ Ideal society
  - **Reign of Terror (Grand Terror)**
    - To achieve Republic of Virtue
    - Killed all who didn't agree with him or Republic of Virtue
      - ◇ 40,000-60,000 killed
    - **Revolutionary tribunals**
      - ◇ Court system of special courts
      - ◇ Very short trials
      - ◇ Tried all questioned traitors without any evidence
      - ◇ Not a fair system
      - ◇ Due process flew out the window... "2 minute trials"

- **Law of Suspects**
  - ◆ To find and punish traitors
  - ◆ People *suspected* of being **anti-revolutionary** were arrested and imprisoned *w/o good evidence*
  - ◆ Similar to (Star Chamber and the Spanish Inquisition)
- **Levee en Masse**
  - ◆ To fight foreign war
  - ◆ All men are eligible for draft
  - ◆ **Conscription**
    - ◇ Same as draft
- **Law of Maximum**
  - ◆ To control inflation
  - ◆ Set wage and price controls
  - ◆ Easy to get around
- **Revolutionary Calendar**
  - ◆ Changed calendar
  - ◆ To emphasize the revolution
  - ◆ Week = 10 days
  - ◆ Months = seasons and climate
  - ◆ Renumbered years
    - ◇ Year 1 = 1792
- **Worship of the Supreme Being**
  - ◆ Church too conservative
  - ◆ Similar to deism
  - ◆ To weaken church
  - ◆ Dechristianization campaign
    - ◇ To demand loyalty to state
- **New forms of Address**
  - ◆ Madame and Misseou = Citizen and Citizeness
  - ◆ Used for everybody
- **Subsistence Commission**
  - ◆ To feed the soldiers
  - ◆ State could confiscate food, clothing, war supplies
- **New Constitution**
  - ◆ Never passed because the CPS was disbanded
  - ◆ Enforce radical ideas
- **Ventose Laws**
  - ◆ To weaken nobles and help the peasants
  - ◆ Confiscated property of anti-revolutionaries and gave it to the poor
- Abolished Slavery
  - ◆ In all colonies
  - ◆ Abolished inside France already, but now in colonies
- Educational Reforms
  - ◆ Set up military academies
  - ◆ Planned for free public elementary education
    - ◇ Never instituted
    - ◇
- **Weaknesses:**
  - Never could enforce
  - Went too far
  - Overextended in foreign war
  - People hate "laws of maximum"
  - Frightened foreign governments
- Robespierre killed
  - Blamed and executed
  - 10 Thermidor (July 27, 1794)
  - Terror ended



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09:04

## CONSERVATIVE REVOLUTION

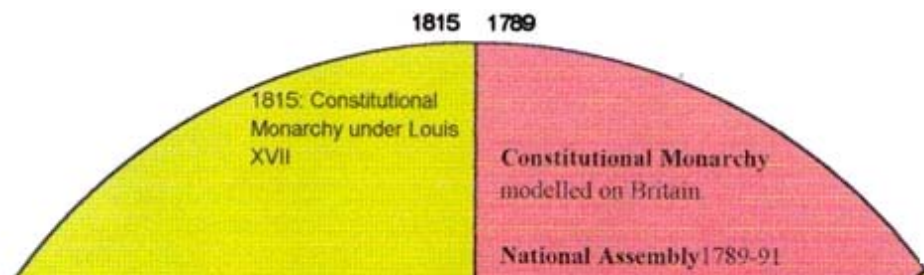
### - Thermidorian Reaction

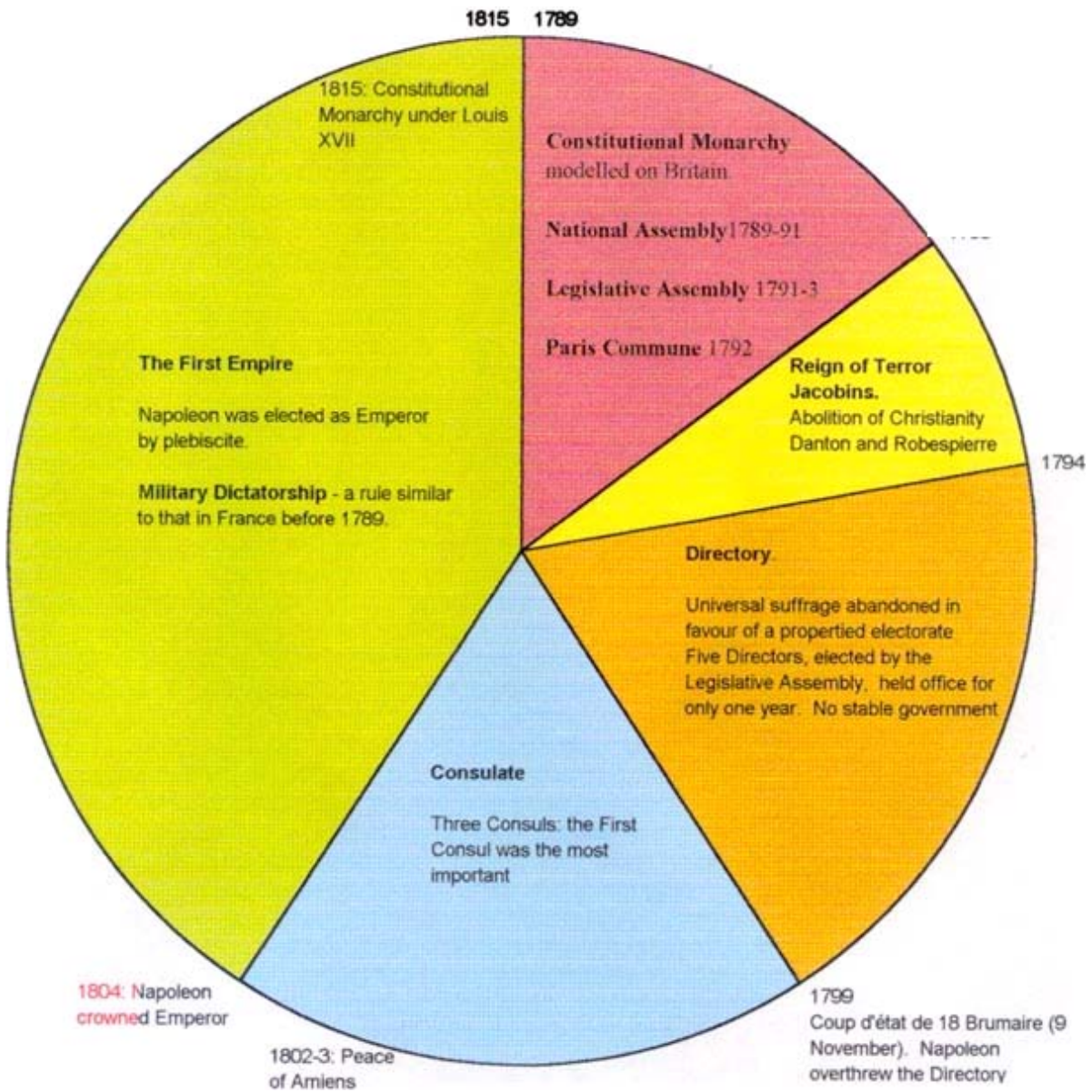
- Reaction against the terrors of CPS
- Robespierre was executed on the guillotine
- Led by moderates and conservatives
- Reforms
  - Closed Jacobin Clubs
  - Reopened the churches
  - Repealed
    - Law of Suspects
    - Revolutionary tribunals
    - Universal Male Suffrage
- **White Terror**
  - Execution of radicals
- Wrote new constitution
  - The National Convention wrote Constitution of Year III

### - Directory

- New government
  - Replaced NC
  - Empowered by the Constitution of the Year III
  - Control over France and Belgium
  - Republic
  - UMS
  - 1795 - 1799 (only 4 years)
- Moderate/Conservative
  - Controlled by bourgeoisie
  - Represented the interest of the bourgeoisie
  - Most interested in economics
    - Free market
- Voting
  - UMS
  - All adult males vote for *electors*
  - *Electors* choose all governmental officials
- Organization
  - 2 house legislature
    - **Council of Elders/Ancients**
      - ◆ Upper house
      - ◆ Married men
      - ◆ Over 40
      - ◆ Conservative
    - **Council of 500**
      - ◆ Lower house
      - ◆ Men over 30
  - **Executive Branch: 5 directors**
    - Middle class men over 40
    - Picked by elders
    - Served 1 year
- **Goals**
  - Restore stability
    - Reduce crime

- End rioting (didn't succeed)
    - Repair finances
      - Abolished assignats
      - Cut expenditures
      - Reduce debt
    - Continue foreign war
      - Defeated 1st coalition
      - 2nd coalition formed
  - **Weaknesses**
    - Very CORRUPT officials
    - Lacked leadership
      - The directors were businessmen not politicians
    - Did not solve problems
    - Dependent on military success
      - Napoleon Bonaparte
      - Put down the revolts
    - Ongoing problems
      - Rioting
      - Fixed elections and purges
      - Religious conflict
      - Inflation and debt
    - Unable to stop rioting
    - Dependent on military
    - Constantly at war (hardly won)
    - Enemies
      - **Right**
        - Monarchists
        - **Clichy Club** (Royalists)
          - ◇ Wanted to bring back Louis XVI brother
      - **Left**
        - **Conspiracy of Equals**
          - ◇ Organized by Gracchus Babeuf
          - ◇ To overthrow the directory
- **Coup d'Etat**
  - Sudden, bloodless overthrow of government
  - Planners
    - Ducos (director)
    - Sieyes (director, activist)
    - Napoleon (general)
  - Set up Consulate (3 consuls)
    - Napoleon = 1st Consul
- **CONSULATE:**
- 1799 - 1805
- Napoleon = strongest
- 1802 named 1st Consul for life
  - By plebiscite
    - Only 'yes' votes are counted
- 1805 named Emperor of the French
  - By plebiscite





# French Revolution

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## - RESULTS

- Bourgeoisies gained most from revolution
  - o New bourgeois element
  - o "Nouveaux riche"
    - Ostentatious
- New generation
  - o Different point of view
  - o Young people were tired of revolution