

Years Before the French Revolution (Before 1789)

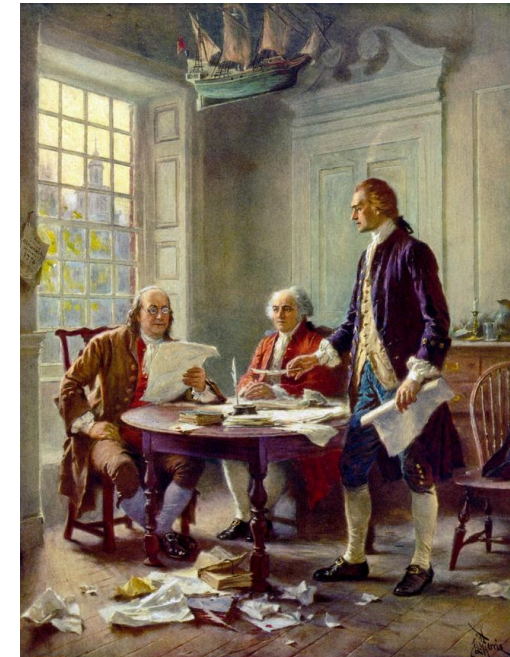


**How did the
Enlightenment change my
life today?**

**How did Enlightenment
ideas influence changes in
society?**

Impacts

- A better society is possible with reason
- Increase of secular, or worldly, outlook
 - Less emphasis on religion
 - Separate religion from government
 - Tolerance of all religions
- Promotion of the individual
 - Individualism
 - Rely on one's own ability

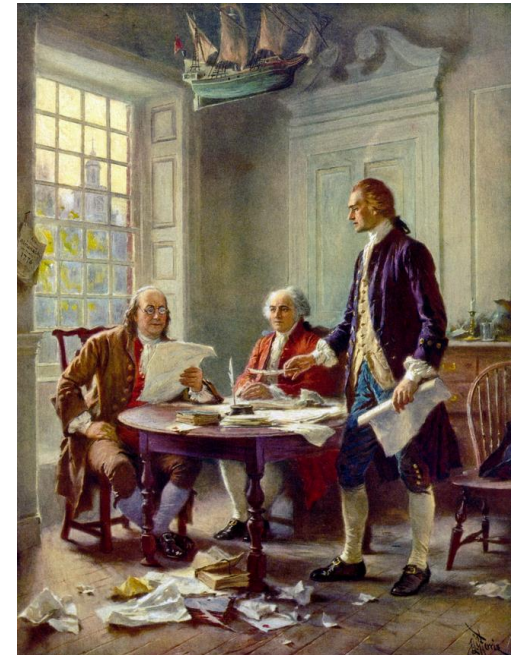


American Revolution (1775-1783)

Why did the colonists declare independence? (Textbook Answer)

No taxation without representation!

- Declaration of Independence
 - July 4th, 1776
 - Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness
- Democratic ideas from the Enlightenment
- Later on...
 - U.S. Constitution

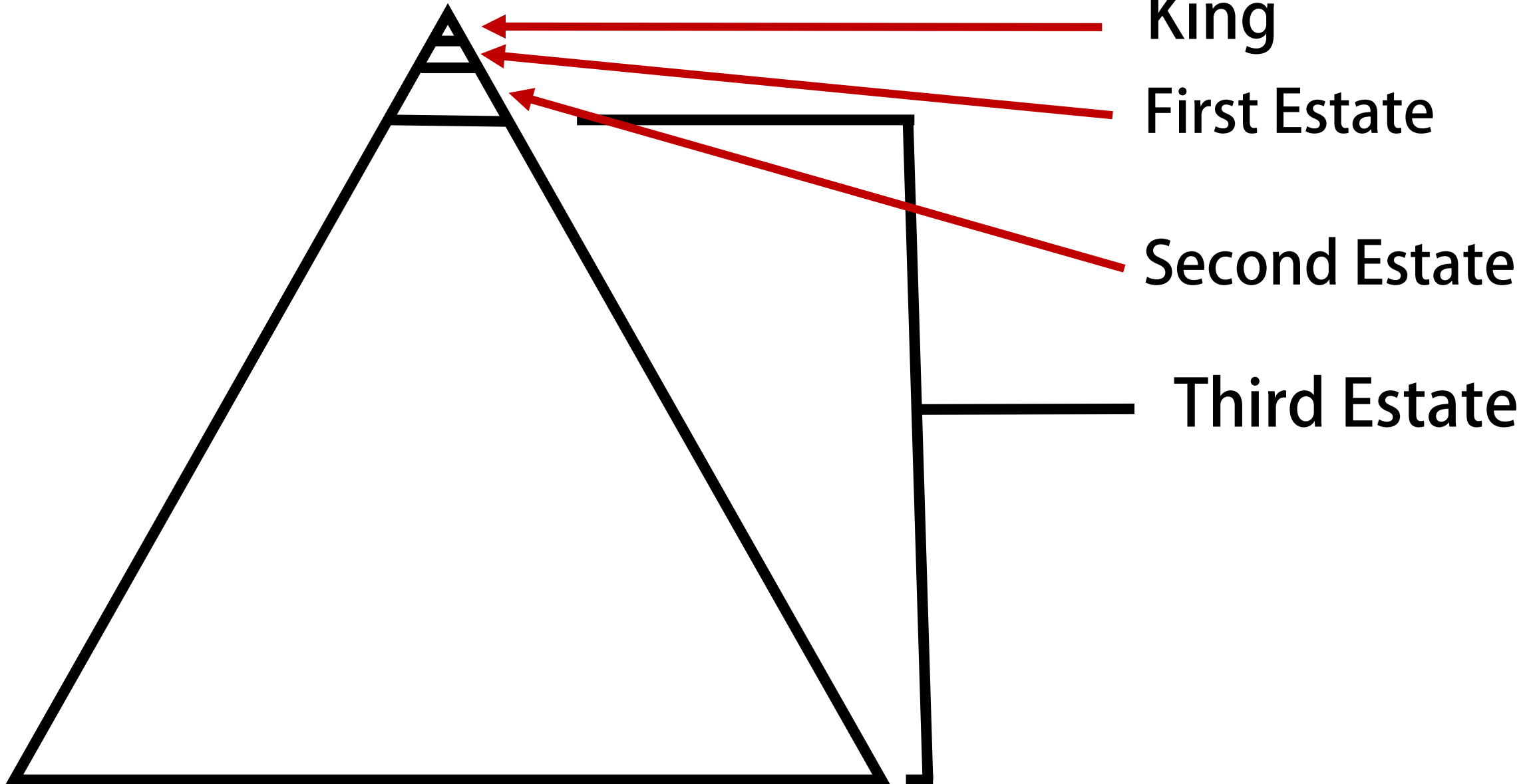


Background before French Revolution

- Ruled by a king
 - Feudalism
 - Centralized control under Louis XIV (Sun King)
- “Old Regime”
- Society
 - The Three Estates



The Three Estates



First Estate

- Church & Clergy
- 1-2% of population
- Owned 10% of land
- Paid no taxes
- Can tax people 10% to support Church → tithes



Second Estate

- Nobility & aristocracy
- 1-2% of population
- Owned 20% of the land
- Paid 0% taxes
- Reluctant for reform because of privilege



Third Estate

- 96% of the population
- Had no rights and privileges of other estates
- Paid all the taxes
- **Bourgeoisie** → wealthy business class
- Urban lower class
- Peasant farmers
 - 80%+ of population
 - 50% of income went to taxes





CLERGÉ

NOBLESSE

TIERS-ÉTAT

Costume de Cérémonie de Messieurs les Deputés des 3 Ordres aux Etats Généraux.

A Paris chez l'Éditeur M^r l'Estampes et Fabricant de Papier Voies rue S^t Jacques au coin de celle des Mathurins.

Problems in France (Before 1789)

- Large population
- Crop failures
- Royal extravagance
- Wars
 - Debt
 - Support for American Revolution



Problems in France (Before 1789)

- Louis XVI
 - Louis XIV, Sun King's great-great-great grandson
- Marie Antoinette
 - Austrian archduchess
 - Austria → France's enemy
 - Popular at first but later remembered for being extravagant
 - “Let them eat cake”



Problems in France (Before 1789)

- France running low on money
- Louis XVI calls Estates General meeting in 1789
 - Has not met since 1614
- Estates General – assembly of all three estates
- Wanted to tax Second Estate
- Third Estate wanted more rights
 - Life, liberty, democracy
 - Renames itself National Assembly
 - Tennis Court Oath



How did Enlightenment ideas influence the Third Estate?

- American Revolution (Declaration of Independence)
- Rousseau & Voltaire
- Equality, Liberty, and Democracy