Meeting of Estates General - May, 1789

SUMMARY: Under the Old Regime, the people of France were divided into three social classes or “Estates”. These were the 1st Estate (clergy), the 2nd Estate (nobility) and everyone else (the 3rd Estate) who paid all the taxes but had no official say in making laws. By 1789, France faced bankruptcy because of overspending by King Louis XVI and his family. The King was forced to call a meeting of representatives of each estate called the Estates General. This had not happened for 175 years. Each estate was to get one vote at the meeting.

EXPLANATION: The 1st & 2nd Estates together had always outvoted the 3rd Estate and this is what King Louis XVI expected at the meeting of the Estates General in 1789. However, the Enlightenment influenced middle class delegates of the 3rd Estate. These educated middle class men were called the Bourgeoisie. Some of them wanted to use the Estates General meeting as an opportunity to change the absolute monarchy system.

IMAGE: This cartoon illustrates how the 3rd Estate (common people) felt they were chained and unfairly carrying the burden of the King and other Estates (clergy & nobility) on their back.

By Mr. Kelemen
#2: National Assembly Created w/ Tennis Court Oath

This is a painting of the Tennis Court Oath, it depicts the meeting of the Third Estate Delegates, which took place in an indoor tennis court, due to the delegates being locked out from their normal meeting place.

The eager group of people were meeting in hopes of ending the current Absolute Monarchy, and beginning a representative government. They refused to leave the tennis court “meeting place” until they were to be given the opportunity to develop a new constitution.

This event was crucial to the French Revolution because it brought together the people of France in order to put an end to Absolute Monarchy in France. “This vote was the first deliberate act of revolution”. (MWHB 220)

occurred: June 17, 1789
#3: Storming of the Bastille

SUMMARY: On July 14, 1789 French citizens raided a prison in Paris, the Bastille. Rumors were circulating that King Louis XVI was going to use foreign forces to kill Frenchman. They stormed the Bastille and killed guards which gave them control over the building. After seizing control of the site the mob of citizens beheaded the warden and several guards. They went through the streets boasting of their victory with the men’s heads on sticks. Now the date is celebrated as a national holiday, Bastille Day, in France. The celebration is similar to that in the Unites States of 4th of July.

EXPLANATION: This event was significant because it was the first physical action taken to change the government. After the Enlightenment people began to believe that the current government of Absolute Monarchy was unfair to the people of France. The citizens and the Third Estate wanted it to be a democracy. They wanted better representation for the people. Up until the Storming of the Bastille people were thinking of these ideas and preaching them but no physical actions had taken place. This event started a revolution that ended up changing France’s government.

IMAGE: The painting below shows how the mob of people overthrew the guards of the Bastille and took over the streets. It also shows the amount of weapons the citizens of Paris had to defend themselves from an attack.

By Pascal Brassey and Carmen Noyola, Natalia Lazor, Jacob Kucera
#3 Storming of the Bastille

Bastille Day otherwise known as French National Day began on July 14, 1789 when an angry and rebellious mob begun to a prison that symbolized the monarch’s dictatorial rule. The reason for this destruction wasn’t for the seven prisoners held against their will, the mob demanded for the weapons within. When the prisons governor refused he was seized and killed! The mob carried his decapitated head on a pole to symbolize the monarchy must come to an end and that we’re taking chances that they would die for what they believed!

When the monarchy was finally overthrown and a republic was born with ideals based on Liberty, Equality; and Brotherhood the people of France finally could agree. Bastille Day is still celebrated each year as a national holiday.

French Revolution Mr. Kelemen
Blair Doyle
Rebellion in Paris continued to the countryside, which caused rumors spreading throughout all the land. These rumors were about nobles hiring outlaws to terrorize peasants, which caused The Great Fear, a time of unsettled panic. This caused an intense anger from peasants, that made them destroy invade nobles’ manor houses and legal documents. The Great Fear lead to Persian women not having enough food for themselves and their families.

They got so heated that they went beyond burning manor houses down, but marched to Versailles to invade and have a voice for what they’re feeling going through. This made Louis xiv and Marie Antoinette return to Paris.

**Great Fear + Women’s March**

**October 1789**

**Summary:**

The reason why The Great Fear is important is because peasants were less than everyone and finally they were doing something and making a statement for how they feel/what they are going through. This started a precedent which allowed peasants to speak up more.

The reason why The March to Versailles is important because never before did women have much of a voice, but this also set a precedent. This didn’t just set a precedent for women but also one to go to Versailles. Versailles was considered a sacred palace, but when they invaded it, nobody had done this before.

**Image:**

We won’t Louis and Marie to come back to Paris.

#4
#5: Declaration of Right Man Issued - August 1789

**Summary:** Before the Declaration of Right Man Issued, France was an absolute monarchy, which means everyone was under the ruling of one person. A few weeks after French noblemen gave speeches about equality in August 1789, the National Assembly created a statement. This statement was called the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. This was created out of revolutionary ideas. The new statement stated that, “men are born and remain free and equal in rights.” The basic rights of this statement was equal justice, freedom of speech and religion. However, these rules only applied to men, not women.

**Explanation:** The Declaration of Rights of Man is significant because it gave people more rights, it made people question the government, and it encouraged other people from other countries to stand up for their rights. The more rights enabled people to feel happier with the government, and it enabled more of a say in government. Another thing rights did was that it gave people independence. People were now allowed to own their own property, and make their own decisions. Normally people in France didn’t have a say in government because of their absolute monarchy, but when they started the French Revolution it caused them to stand up for their rights and question the government. They were motivated to state any complaints or problems with the government, and they would no longer put up with unequal rights. Other people in different countries were also encouraged by the Declaration of Rights of Man, and the United States even incorporated some of France’s ideas in the preamble.

**Image:** This image is showing the seventeen articles of the Declaration of Rights of Man. The angel in this image represents the freedom people were able to get in government.

By: Thomas Geloso and Gracie Ramos
#6: Flight to Varennes (Attempted Escape from France by Louis XVI and family) 
**June 20-21, 1791**

Summary: The king did not like the revolution, and wanted a way to detour the process. The king and queen’s were to meet with Swiss and Germans, along with Marie Antoinette’s home country Austria. The other countries did not problems similar to France’s as a reason to meet with them. The elaborate plan was created by Axel von Fersen, was that they would change into clothes of Bourgeoisie and sneak out of Tuileries and escape. The couple wanted to find a way to create a counter-revolution to stop the revolution but were then captured, and sent back to Paris.

Explanation: King Louis XVI wanted to deal with the radicalists. The king and Marie Antoinette decided to go the Montmedy. They were able to get to Sainte-Menehould, before Jean-Baptiste Drouet recognized the king based on the king’s coin. The royal family was stopped before when they got to Varennes. They were arrested and sent back to Paris on June 22. The people became completely distrustful of the royal family, and began to side with the revolution and caused a catalyst reaction for the rest of the revolution and the king was charged for treason which led to his execution in 1793. The influences of the actions was the king’s dislike in the proposed constitution, and the king’s strong religious beliefs. The results were the loss of the king’s constitutional power.

The King’s unsuccessful escape left the people of France feeling betrayed and weakened the monarchy.
#7: France at war with Austria and Prussia.

Summary: In April 1792 there was a war between France and the surrounding countries like Austria and Prussia. Because France was spreading the word of revolting against the absolute monarchy and this worried the surrounding countries because they wanted to keep their absolute monarchy so they declared war against France.

Explanation: It all started with a civil war in France to get rid of absolute monarchy. It soon became about the other countries because France wanted to influence other countries to get rid of absolute monarchy. The other countries, like Austria and Prussia, wanted to keep their absolute monarchy too. So they declared war against France. This meant that the civil war was beyond France and spreading across the western world.

Image: this image shows how the states were fighting to put Louis the 14th back into full monarchy, so that the french would stop giving the people from other countries the idea of revolting against absolute monarchy.

Landon Gregg, Jurany Pohl
In September 1791, a new legislative body was created in France. This body was called the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly could create laws and either approve or reject declarations of war. Social, economic, and political circumstances led to disagreements on how to solve problems, and so the assembly split into three factions: Radicals (Sans-culottes), Moderates, and Conservatives (Émigrés). Radicals sat on the left side of the room and opposed monarchy and wanted nearly complete change in government, Moderates sat in the middle of the room and wanted some changes in government, and Conservatives sat on the right side of the room and supported the idea of a Limited Monarchy and wanted few changes in government.
#9: King Louis XVI Guillotined - January 21, 1793

Summary: King Louis XVI was guillotined (beheaded) at La Place de la Revolution a month after being tried and found guilty for committing high treason against the state. He was arrested on August 10, 1792 and sent to the temple prison with his family. He was the first victim of the Reign of Terror.

Explanation: When King Louis XVI was arrested it started the fall of monarchy. Louis was arrested for 33 different charges having to do with everything from attempting to leave France to advancing an army on the people of Paris, he was found guilty for high treason and crimes against the state in an almost unanimous vote. The Reign of Terror that started with Louis XVI’s beheading was marked by the mass execution of enemies of the Revolution. In total 41,594 people were executed during this period. This was a major event of the French Revolution.

Image: This picture shows someone showing King Louis XVI’s head to the crowd after he was beheaded.

By Nanki Sandhu, Patrick Sadil, Caroline Spence, Riley McIntyre & Nicole Fazzari
SUMMARY: In 1793, Jacobin leader named Maximilien Robespierre gained power and brought upon the ‘republic of virtue,’ with intent to extinguish France’s past. He changed the whole calendar system and specifically did not include Sundays for their religious means. When he later became leader of Public Safety, his period of rule became known as the ‘Reign of Terror.’ Many people were executed - guillotine style - including Marie Antoinette and Danton, for not being in favor of his ideas and the revolution.

EXPLANATION: The leader of The Committee of Public Safety, Maximilien Robespierre, executed people for offenses like being against the revolution and other political offenses. The Committee of Public Safety did not quite live up to what its name implied. Robespierre executed many people for offenses that they shouldn't have been executed for. For example, he executed an 18 year old for cutting down a tree that was planted as a symbol of liberty. He ended up getting so power hungry he executed as many as 40,000 people during his time as leader of the committee.

IMAGES: The drawings to the left shows the grotesque and harsh reality of the Reign of Terror by depicting the guillotine. Complete with its freshly beheaded, and most likely not-guilty, victims.
Reign of Terror Ends - July 28, 1794

Summary: A group of people who called themselves the Jacobins were an extremely radical group in this revolution. The people in this group believed in big changes and living a whole new system. When the king was executed, they brought their ideas in and started taking charge of the people. In 1793, a man named Maximilien Robespierre took leadership of this group, and soon became the virtual dictator of France. Robespierre explained to everyone that the group believed in staying true to the terms of the revolution by building a “Republic of virtue,” and believed that change was a good thing. He also reasoned his actions by connecting virtue to terror. When the Jacobins came forward, they decided to try and erase almost all of France’s past. The calendar, church schedules, and many other aspects of life were changed during this reign. Also, to deal with the people’s “enemies,” or people against his ideas of revolution, they would execute people in a device called a guillotine. This machine chopped off the heads of the victims strapped down. The number of deaths were rising until thousands of innocent people were being killed. Robespierre was sent to his death by this machine July 28, 1794 because the people were afraid for their own lives. The citizens took a stand against him and got him executed as a result.

Explanation: This was an important event because to the people, letting go of France’s past was a big change for them. The church was also huge to the people, so this group getting rid of it was huge for the citizens. Lastly, Robespierre connected virtue and terror to the revolution saying that they were a part of it. The way he lead and ruled the people, followed his belief of the revolution. Changing the system. Even if his ideas started off with good intentions, violence took over and it was wrong according to the people. The way of being governed and his executions had a huge change and definitely contributed to the French Revolution, even if it was possibly negatively.

Image: The image on the top left is of called the guillotine. It killed people by beheading them. It has a tall, upright frame that includes a weighted and angled blade that is raised to the top and suspended. The image in the top right corner is of Maximilien Robespierre, a French lawyer and politician, and one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror. Lastly, the bottom image shows a person that was just executed by the guillotine. The man in the red coat is holding up his head for the terrified peasants and soldiers to see.