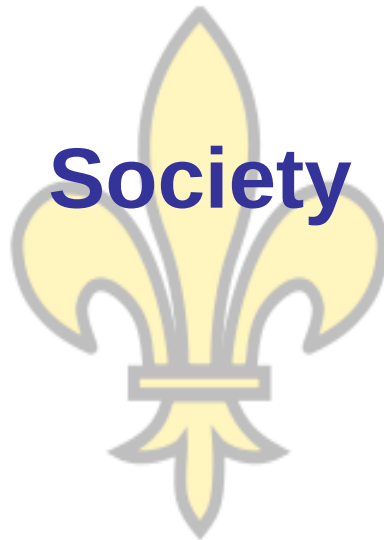




French Revolution



Society

Importance

- **Helped spread democratic ideas**
- **Shows the cycle of a revolution**
 - Moderate beginning
 - Radical period
 - Reaction leading to more control

3 Estates

- Society has rigid class structure (3 Estates)
- First Estate – Clergy
 - Rich and Powerful
 - Had many financial privileges
 - tax breaks



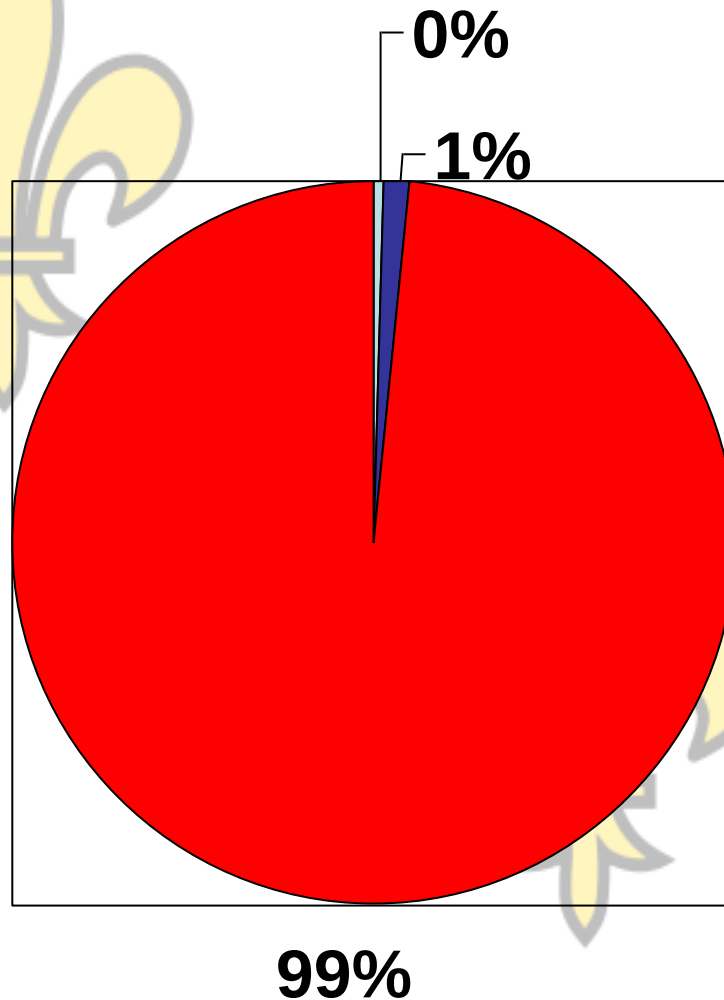
- **Second Estate – King & Nobility**
 - **Many privileges**
 - **Few taxes, no military service, corvee (unpaid labour owed by vassals to their feudal lord).**



- **Third Estate – Everybody Else**
 - No privileges
 - Heavily taxed
 - A middle class was emerging in cities
 - Called Bourgeoisie – doctors - bankers – businessmen



3 Estates by Population





Le Peuple sans Conscience Régner.

Principal taxes in France in the 1780s

	Name	Type of tax	Who was meant to pay	Who was exempt
Direct taxes	<i>Taille</i>	A tax on either land or income	All citizens (except men on army service)	Nobles, clergy
	<i>Capitation</i>	A poll tax – a fixed sum paid each year to the government	All citizens	Nobody – but, in practice, many nobles and clergy evaded it or paid little
	<i>Twentieths</i>	An income tax of one twentieth of a year's earnings	All citizens	Nobody – but, in practice, nobles and clergy evaded it or paid little
	<i>Corvée</i>	A labour tax requiring unpaid work mending royal roads	All able-bodied men	Nobles, clergy, townspeople, post masters, country school-teachers, shepherds
Indirect taxes	<i>Gabelle</i>	A tax on salt	Anybody buying salt	3.3 million people living in four exempt provinces
	<i>Octroi</i>	A tax, paid at the town gates, on goods being taken to market	The merchant who transported the goods	Nobody was exempt
	<i>Aides</i>	A tax on drinks, especially wine	Anybody buying wine etc.	Some provinces were exempt
	<i>Traites</i>	A tax on goods being transported from one province to another	The merchant who transported the goods	Nobody was exempt

Rights	The right of the oven	Peasants had to bake their bread in an oven owned by the landlord, paying a fee for its use.
	The right of the mill	Peasants had to grind their corn in the landlord's windmill or watermill, paying a fee to use it.
	The right of the press	Peasants had to press their grapes in the landlord's grape-press, paying a fee for its use.
	The right of the hunt	The landlord could ride over his tenants' fields while hunting, even if they were planted.
	The right of the warren	The landlord could keep rabbits in a warren. Tenants could not kill them even when they damaged their crops.
	The right of the dovecote	The landlord could keep pigeons in a dovecote. Tenants could not kill them even when they damaged their crops.
	Market rights	Peasants had to pay a tax on produce which they took to markets held on the lord's land.
Dues	The <i>corvée</i>	Peasants had to do several days' unpaid work for the landlord each year – for example, helping to bring in the landlord's harvest.
	The <i>cens</i>	Peasants had to pay a tax to the landlord each year.
	The <i>champart</i>	Peasants had to give the landlord a portion of their crops each year.

As well as paying feudal dues, everyone in a parish had to give the Church a **tithe**. This meant giving the local church around a tenth of their yearly income or produce.

In 1790 a government committee worked out that a family of five needed at least 435 *livres* (pounds) a year to provide for its basic needs. Other than food, it listed these as:

10	Rent of a fourth- or fifth-floor room	45 <i>livres</i> *
	Clothing	80 <i>livres</i>
	Heating	36 <i>livres</i>
	Purchase and upkeep of chattels [belongings]	24 <i>livres</i>
	Utensils, soap, candles or lamp oil	15 <i>livres</i>
	Capitation tax	2 <i>livres</i>
	Total	202 <i>livres</i>

From the 5th report of the Charity Committee, 1 Sept. 1790

That left 233 *livres* a year to buy food – around 13 *sous** a day. This list of prices in Paris shops for June 1790 shows what you could buy with that:

	<i>livres</i>	<i>sous</i>		<i>livres</i>	<i>sous</i>
11	Bread (4-pound loaf)	— 11	Eggs (per 10)	—	8½
	Wine (per litre)	— 10	Rice (per pound)	—	8½
	Beef (per pound)	— 11	Olive oil (per pound)	—	9
	Veal (per pound)	— 11½	Sugar (per pound)	1	4
	Mutton (per pound)	— 14	Coffee (per pound)	1	14
	Butter (per pound)	— 14	Candles (per pound)	—	15
	Firewood				
	(56 cubic feet)	21 12			

Adapted from George Rudé, *Prices, Wages and Popular Movements in Paris during the French Revolution*, 1954

*In present-day prices, one *livre* is equivalent to about £2 and one *sou* to about 10 pence.