



Revolution Begins

French Revolution

Food Crisis 1788-1789

- **Cause:**

- July storms destroyed crops
- Drought

- **Cause:**

- coldest winter on record

- **Cause:**

- spring floods

- **Effect:**

- poor harvest

- **Effect:**

- Food does not get to market

- **Effect:**

- Farmland ruined

Food Crisis Effects

- Bread Prices Rise 50%
 - Poor spend more money on food
 - Do not buy other goods
- Manufacturers selling fewer goods
 - Lay off workers
 - Higher unemployment
 - Fewer taxes paid
 - Famine in many parts of the country

Spending : 633.1 million livres

the royal household
42 million livres

foreign affairs
14.4 million livres

army
107.1 million livres

navy
51.8 million livres

public works
14.9 million livres

charity
19 million livres

salaries and pensions
47.8 million livres

interest payments
on debts
261.1 million livres

costs and expenses
65.4 million livres

other
9.6 million livres

Income : 471.6 million livres

royal monopolies,
e.g. post
17.5 million livres

indirect taxes
219.3 million livres

direct taxes
163 million livres

donations
20.6 million livres

royal domains
and forests
51.2 million livres



Financial Problems

- **Problem:**

- France is deeply in debt
- banks will no longer lend treasury money

- **Problem:**

- nobles and clergy resisted land tax

- **Solution:**

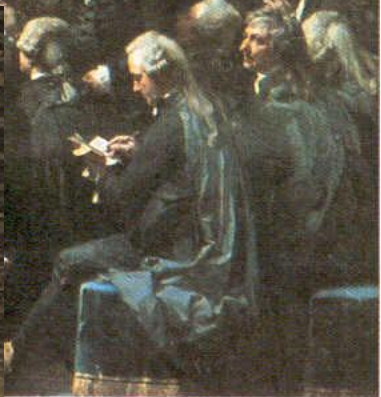
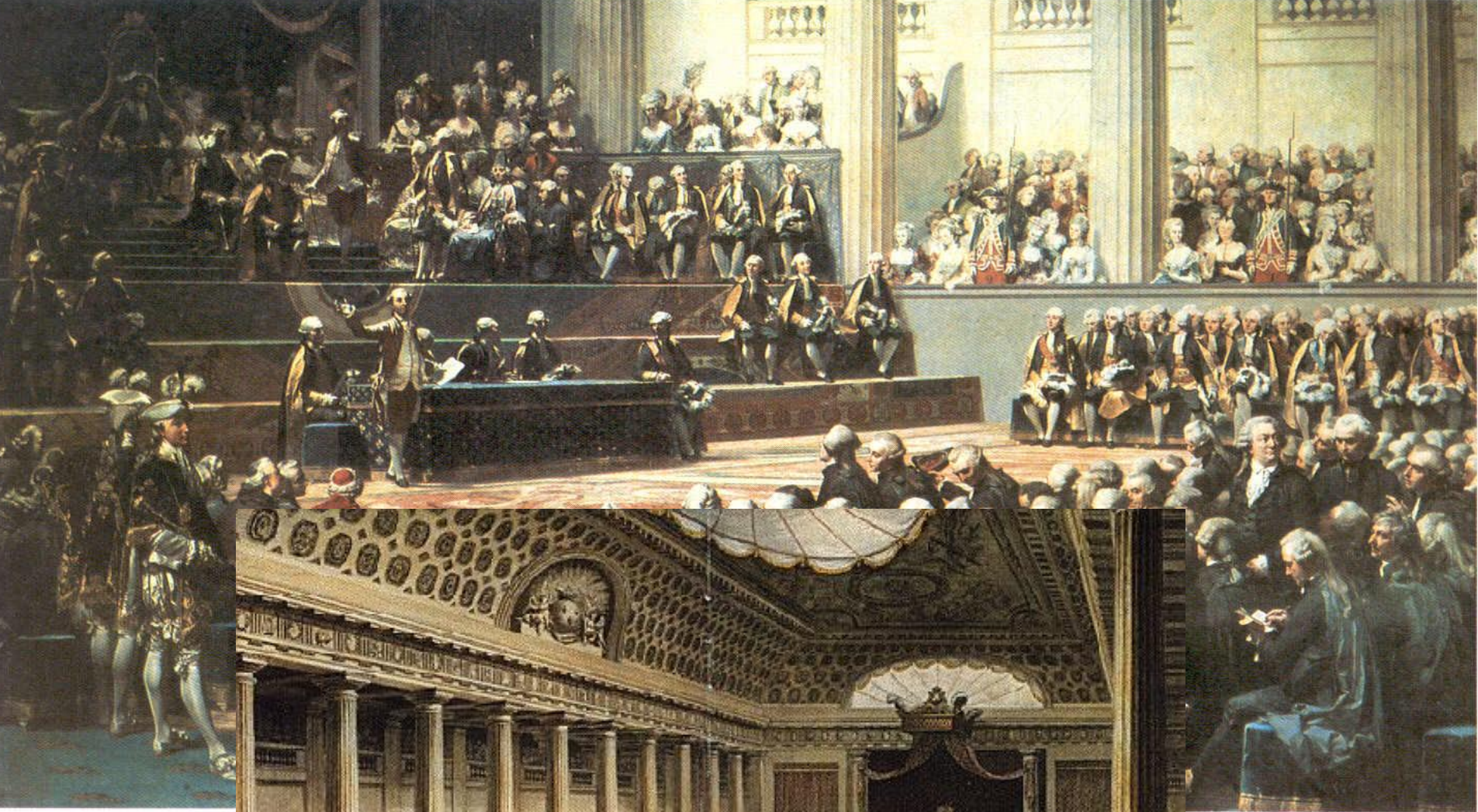
- raise taxes
- attempt to tax all landowners

- **Solution?**

- May 1789 Louis XVI forced to call Estates General

Estates General

- An assembly of representatives of the Estates
- met only when King wanted
- had not met in 175 years



- **Problem:**
- Voting
 - each Estate had only one vote
 - unfair, clergy and nobles can outvote third estate
- 3rd Estate believes the King locked them out.

- Solution
 - 3rd Estates wanted one member = one vote
- Effect:
 - Tennis Court Oath

Tennis Court Oath

- 3rd Estate pledged to:
- meet until a new constitution was written
 - **“Tennis Court Oath”**
- **Importance:**
- Direct defiance of the King
- First Revolutionary Act
 - Political power comes from the people and elected representatives (not monarch)



- Result: Louis XVI concedes
 - order nobles and clergy to join Third Estate
 - formed **National Assembly**
 - one member = one vote
- - National Assembly became the legal parliament of France
- No more absolute monarchy.