

1789-1799

The French Revolution

on the Crane Brinton scale

Key figures



Louis XVI, king of France



Napoleon Bonaparte, dictator in stage four



Maximilian Robespierre, revolutionary in stages 2-3

Key events

The estates general / tennis court oath

Storming of the bastille

Reign of terror

Execution of Louis XVI

Key triggers

Inequalities against the third estate

The rules of the estates general

A weak ruler (King Louis XVI)

Ineffectiveness

&

Continuity

Tons of death

Not a lot changing

Effectiveness

&

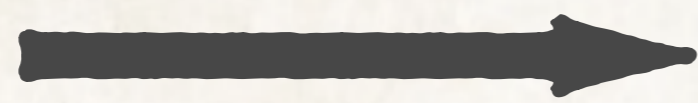
Change

Made France a democracy

Better living conditions for the lower class

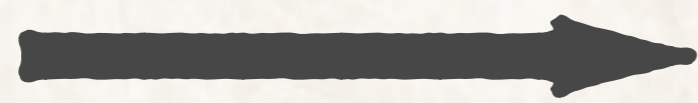
Phase One—Preliminary
Stage Symptoms (The Old
Order)

1. Economically weak – the
government has deficits
and must tax



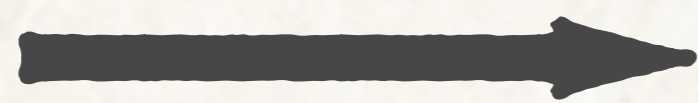
The French government spent most of
their money on the American revolution
and the seven year war. they tax the
third estates to the point of starving

2. Politically weak – the
government is ineffective
and cannot enforce policy;
inept ruler



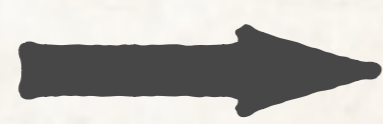
The third estate makes up over 95% of
the population, and therefore have
immense power. They are just starting to
realize this

3. Intellectuals desert –
reformers speak out
against the government



Some people start to realize that the
upper classes are barely being taxed at
all, and speak up

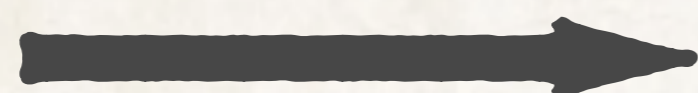
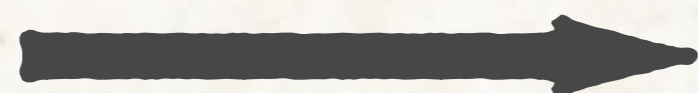
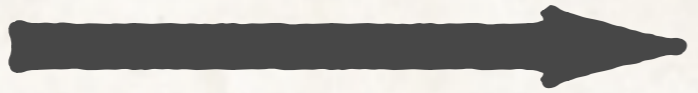
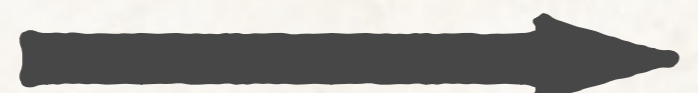
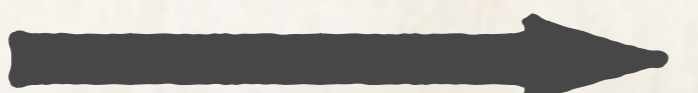
4. Class Antagonism –
there is a conflict between
the old regime and new
forces

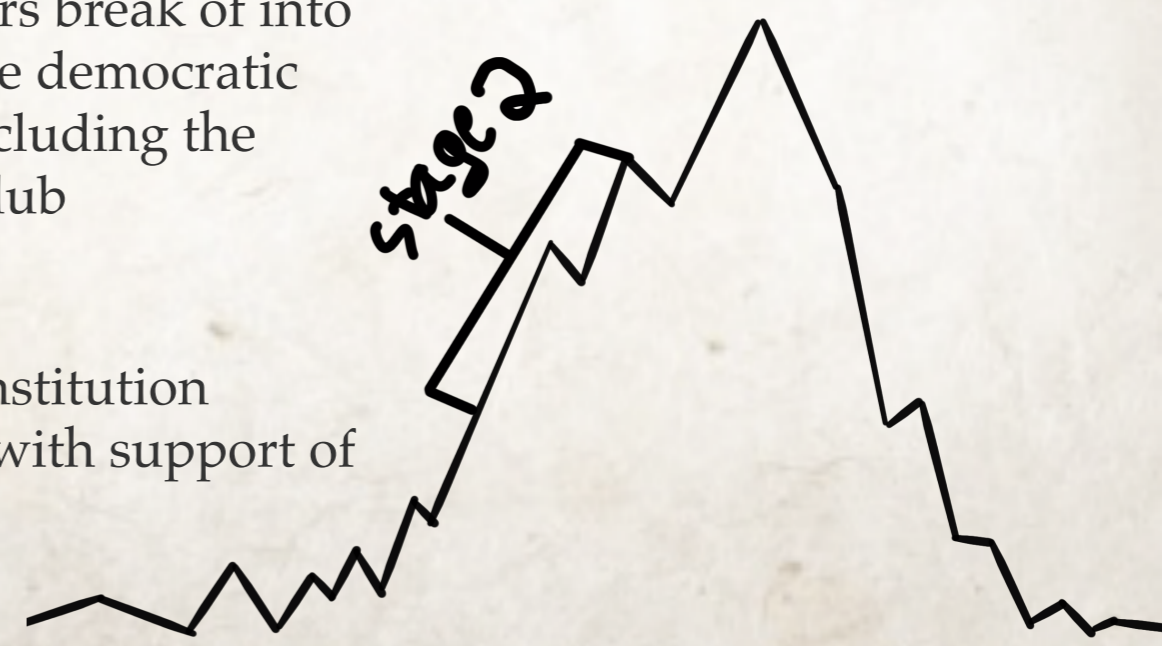


The estates general gets called, and the
third estate realized how unfair the
upper classes are being and how much
better things could be



Phase Two—First Stage
Symptoms (Moderate
Regime)

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Financial breakdown |  | France becomes completely broke (aside from the very high-ups) |
| 2. Symbolic actions/
Dramatic events – rallying
point against the old
regime; government
protests increase |  | The rebellion raids and destroys a military jail |
| 3. Role of force – the
government cannot repress
the rebellion |  | Since the lower class is so huge, their strength in number is massive compared to the opposition |
| 4. Dual Sovereignty –
there is a better organized
and obeyed government |  | The third estate supporters break of into a separate democratic entity, including the jacobin club |
| 5. Moderates Attain Power
– e.g., make a new
constitution; fight a war |  | New Constitution ratified (with support of Louis) |

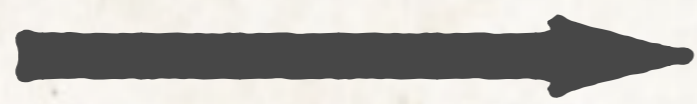


Phase Three—Crisis Stage

Symptoms (Radical Regime)

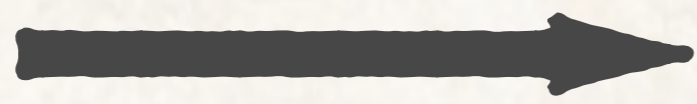
1. Radicals Take Control

(coup d'etat) – small number of devoted, disciplined radicals govern



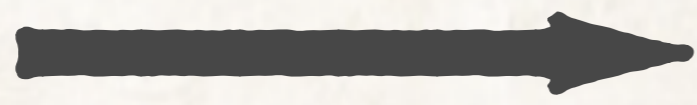
French Republic proclaimed

2. War (civil and foreign)



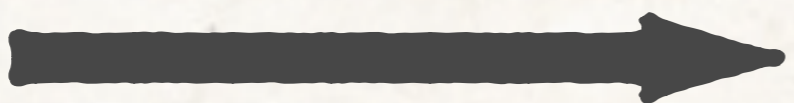
War on Prussia, Austria Hungary, the UK, etc...

3. Centralization of Power in a Revolutionary Council Dominated by a Strong Man

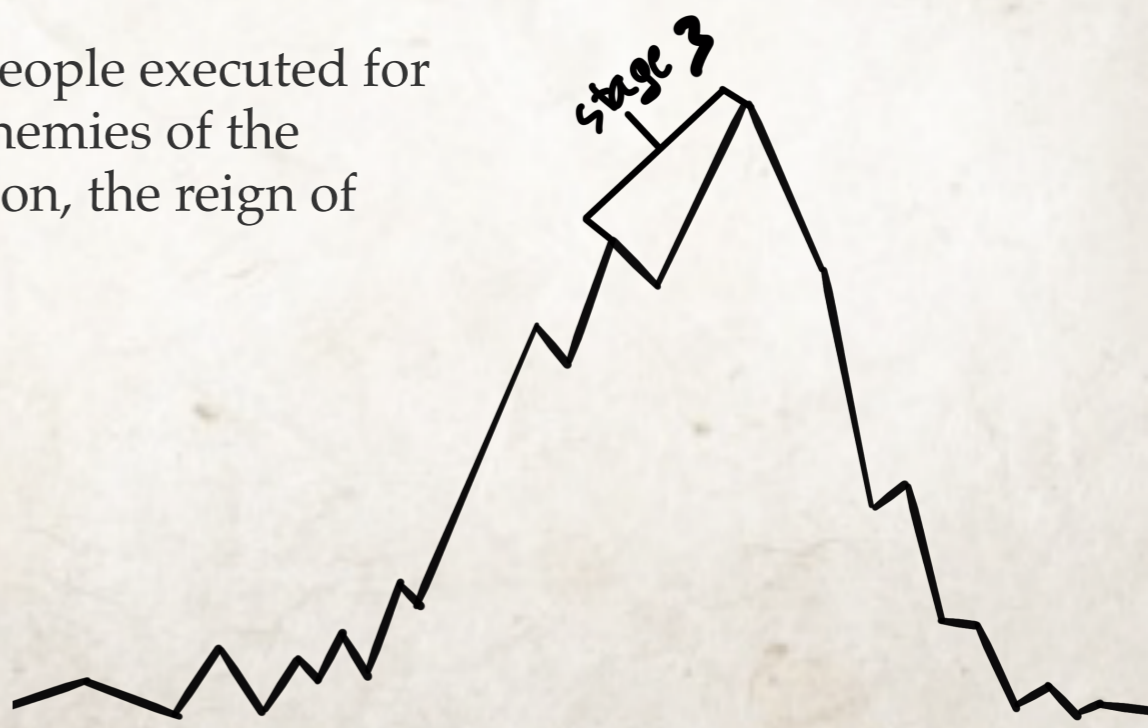


Maximilien Robespierre of the Jacobin club takes control (not completely though)

4. Terror and Virtue – forced conformity or punishment; gospel of revolution



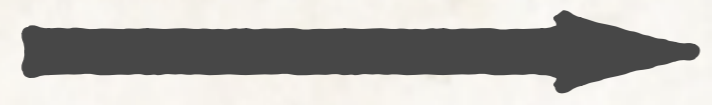
Many people executed for being enemies of the revolution, the reign of terror



Phase Four—Recovery

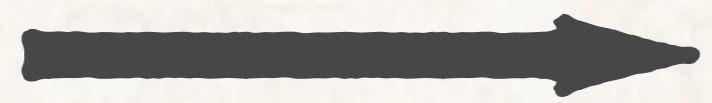
Stage Symptoms (Thermidorian Reaction)

1. Slow, Uneven Return to Quieter Times – first convalescence from the fever of revolution



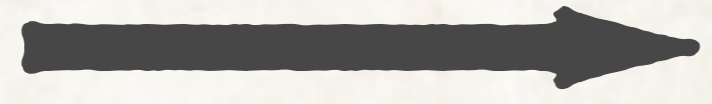
Napoleon goes into power, reign of terror ends

2. Rule by a Tyrant



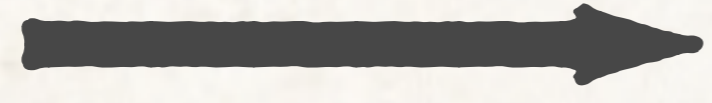
Though Napoleon isn't exactly a tyrant, he still gains immense power

3. Radicals Repressed; moderates gain amnesty



Napoleon takes control of French army

4. Aggressive Nationalism



Napoleon fight and scores many conquests, and makes France into a more powerful nation

