

Notes 2.3 How did France change during the French Revolution's "Liberal Phase" (1789-1792)?

I. Estates-General (May, 1789)

- A. Meeting of 3 Estates called by Louis XVI to propose tax on nobles
- B. Conflict over voting rules
 - 1. *one vote per estate, not per representative → Third Estate objects!*
- C. Revolution begins (June)
 - 1. *T.E. withdraws, forming **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** (a new govt.)*
 - 2. *T.E. makes pledge (**TENNIS COURT OATH**) to write new constitution*
 - 3. *Other two Estates join by July*

II. Storming of the Bastille (July 14)

- A. Mob seizes Paris prison, kills guards
- B. Symbolic event; still celebrated today
- C. Leads to widespread rebellions
 - 1. **GREAT FEAR** in countryside (July)
 - a) *Peasants attack nobles' homes, stop paying taxes*
 - 2. *Paris women riot over bread prices, march on Versailles (Oct.)*
 - a) *King forced to move to Paris*
 - b) *Many of his supporters flee → he must accept new govt.*

III. Government Reforms (1789-1791)

- A. August Decrees
 - 1. *Feudalism abolished; nobles & clergy lose special privileges*
- B. **DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN**
 - 1. *Freedom of speech, press, religion, participation in govt.*
- C. New slogan! New flag! New national anthem!
- D. Other Reforms
 - 1. *Land re-divided into "departments"*
 - 2. *Church lands confiscated to pay off debts*
 - 3. *Church made subordinate to govt. (many peasants disliked this)*
 - 4. *New govt. bonds printed (led to inflation/currency devaluation)*
- E. Constitution of 1791 sets up limited monarchy, representative govt.

IV. Louis XVI's Failed Escape (June, 1791)

- A. Increases influence of radicals in the govt.