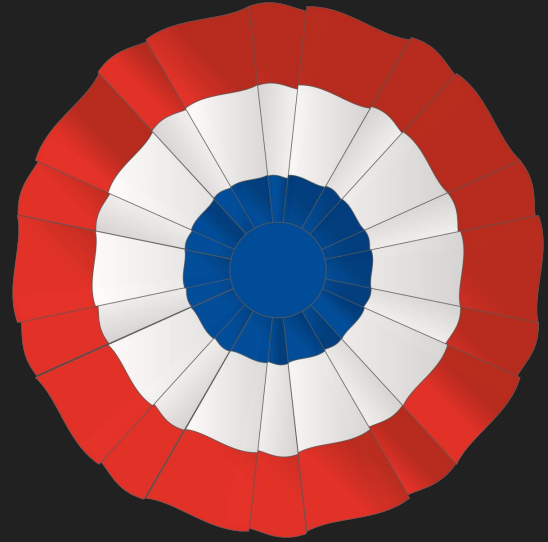


# French Revolution (second lesson)



First phase of the struggle: the storming of the Bastille  
and the transition to a Constitutional Monarchy

# Vote by head or by state?

Finance Minister Necker had introduced a reform: the third state, which represented 98% of the French, could have twice as many representatives. In all 578, against the 561 of Nobility and Clergy.

Obviously nobles and clergy wanted to vote by state, because they would have the better.

The third state wanted to vote for the head, because they would overtake the representatives of the clergy and nobility.

## La riforma del sistema di voto



### Il voto per "stati"

Clero	Nobiltà	Terzo stato
1 voto	+ 1 voto =	1 voto
2 voti		

### Il voto pro capite

Clero	Nobiltà	Terzo stato
291 voti	+ 270 voti =	578 voti
561 voti		

# From States General to National Assembly

## **GENERAL STATES**

This is the name of the assembly convened by the King, in which the three States participated: Nobles, Clergy and Third Estate.

After the victory of the third state, the assembly changes its name and becomes

## **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

It represents all French citizens, eager to bring about a change

# The oath of the Pallacorda

After the victory of the third state, the king no longer concedes the meeting room at Versailles.

On **25 June** the National Assembly moves to the ballroom room (a sort of gymnasium) and takes the "oath": it will not dissolve until the Constitution is approved.

On 9 July, by majority vote, the National Assembly becomes the **National Constituent Assembly** and votes for the new Constitution.



# The King's reaction

The King pretends to yield, in reality he wants to prepare a coup d'état.

He fires the Necker and surrounds Versailles with 20,000 soldiers.

He creates a government of conservative nobles.

The population organizes the protest and marches on Paris, looting the warehouses and protesting for the price of bread.





# "Let them eat brioches"

"If they have no more bread, let them eat brioche" (in French *S'ils n'ont plus de pain, qu'ils mangent de la brioche*) is traditionally attributed to Marie Antoinette, wife of Louis XVI.

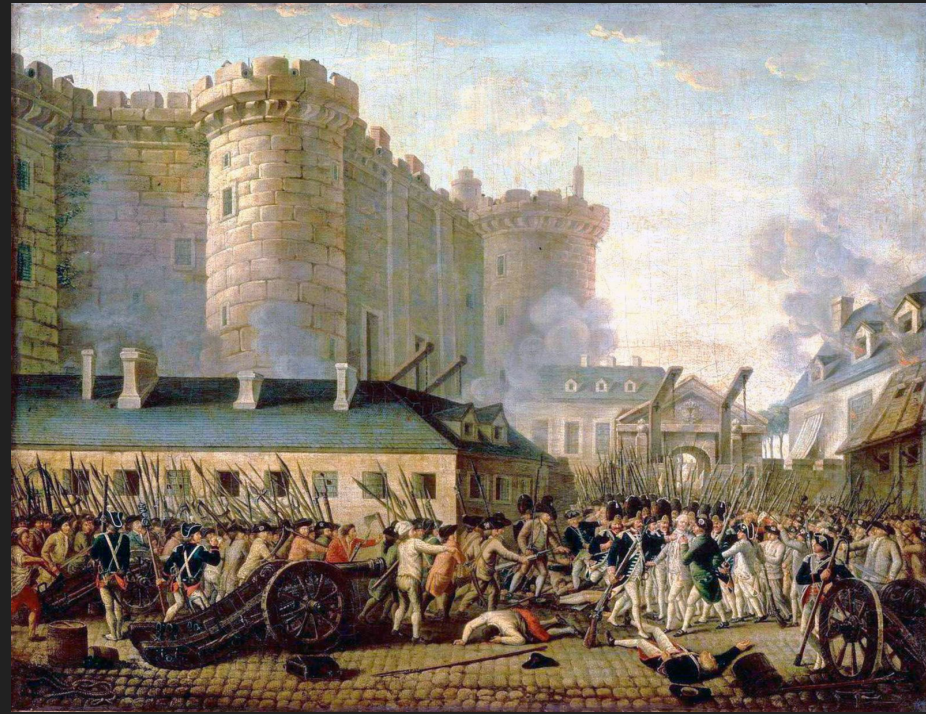
She would have said it when referring to the hungry people during the revolt. In reality this sentence was never uttered by her. This is a false historical.



# The storming of the Bastille

After recovering rifles and ammunition from the Hotel des Invalides, the rioters attack the Bastille, a prison-fortress that was the symbol of monarchical power.

Singing the Marseillaise and with a tricolor cockade on their chest, they march to the Hotel des Invalides, which becomes the headquarters of the revolution.



July 14, 1789

# The birth of the National Guard

A group of volunteers, led by General La Fayette (a Marquis who was also a friend of Washington and who had participated as a volunteer in the American Revolution), formed the National Guard, which had the task of controlling the King and the Nobles, but also of keeping at bay the Parisian people, very agitated and ready to explode.





# First measures of the Constituent Assembly

**1**

**Abolition of  
feudal rights  
(corvées,  
tithes, etc...)  
and the  
privileges of  
the nobles**



**2**

**Confiscation of  
property from  
the aristocrats  
and the  
Church.**

**3**

**Free market and elimination of trade guilds  
(which also had political roles)**

# The various parties

## THE BLACKS

It was the aristocrats who supported the King

## THE ANGLOMANS

They wanted a constitutional monarchy on the English model

## PATRIOT PARTY

It was heterogeneous and quite disjointed

## LEAVES

They are moderates, they report to La Fayette and they want the Constitutional Monarchy

## GIACOBINI

They want the Republic, they are more radical and are headed by Robespierre

## CORDIGLIERI

They are strongly revolutionary, they are headed by Danton and Marat

# Statement of Rights of Man and Citizen

**August 26,  
1789**

It is inspired by three  
fundamental  
concepts:

Freedom

Fraternity

Égalité



This marks the end of  
Absolutism and is the  
idea of citizen and  
state on which our  
society is still based  
today. This is why  
modern history begins  
with the French  
Revolution.



# The march of women on Versailles

The Queen's maids had intercepted secret letters, sent to her brother Leopold II, King of Belgium, to ask him for help and restore the Monarchy.

The Parisian commoners, knowing this, marched on Versailles, kidnapped the King and ordered him to move with his family to the center of Paris, to the Tuileries, a palace abandoned for decades, but easier to control.



# The escape of Varennes

The king, disguised as a servant, tried to leave Paris.

The royal carriage was blocked in Varennes while trying to reach Belgium.



LOUIS XVI STOPT in his FLIGHT at VARENNES.

ARRESTATION du ROI LOUIS XVI à VARENNES.

# France becomes Constitutional monarchy



Louis XVI was forced to approve the Constitution and accept the separation of powers. The King also had to take an oath to the Nation, recognizing that his authority did not derive only from God, but also from the will of the people.

It was the end of September 1791.