Cahiers de Doléances (‘Book of Grievances’)

- Always compiled prior to the meeting of the Estates
- Ten month period to compile
- Everyone could place an entry (from nobles right down to peasantry)
- More radical complaints edited out before going before the King
Palais-Royal and its gardens, 1739. The palace itself fronts on its small square.
The interior courtyard of the Palais-Royal today
Louis Philippe Joseph d'Orléans (1747 –1793) commonly known as Philippe, was a cousin of Louis XVI. He actively supported the French Revolution and adopted the name Philippe Égalité, but was nonetheless guillotined during the Reign of Terror.

His son Louis-Philippe became King of the French after the July Revolution of 1830. Following his career, the term Orléanist came to be attached to the movement in France that favoured constitutional monarchy.
Abbe Sieyes – “What is the Third Estate?”

• Sieyes dropped the polite and even apologetic tone and forcefully pronounced the right of the Third Estate to be everything.

  • “What is the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Estate?

    \textbf{Everything}”

  • “What has it been heretofore in the political order? Nothing”

  • “What it demand? To become something”
Voting in the Estates General

Voting by Estates

- First Estate (c.300 clergy) = One Vote
- Second Estate (c.300 nobles) = One Vote
- Third Estate (c.600 commoners-double representation) = One Vote

Result: First and Second Estate outvote Third Estate 2-1

Voting by ‘Heads’

- Third Estate (c.600) + some radical clergy and nobles

Result: Third Estate outvote other two Estates
## Overview of Cahiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st &amp; 2nd Estate</th>
<th>All Estates</th>
<th>3rd Estate</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Surprisingly liberal</td>
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<td>• Condemned Ancien Regime for despotism and inefficiency</td>
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<td>• 89% nobles accepted end of some privileges</td>
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<td>• 39% supported voting per head on matters of general interest</td>
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<td>• Accepted importance of merit rather than birth for some posts</td>
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<td>• Overall about 90 nobles in favour of change</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Overall about 200 clergy in favour of change</td>
<td>• No taxation without consent</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Against absolute royal power – wanted it limited by elected assembly</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Elected assembly to have right to vote taxes and pass laws</td>
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<td>• Regular meetings of Estates General</td>
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<td>• Freedom for the press</td>
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<td>• Abolition of lettres de cachet</td>
<td>• Most major demands for reform from 3rd Estate</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Voting per head on all issues</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Abolition of feudal rights</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Abolish inequality in taxation</td>
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The Estates-General

- 561 deputies for the First and Second Estates
- 578 deputies for the Third Estate
  - 400 lawyers and officials
  - 100 bourgeois merchants
  - A few intellectuals
- Most deputies in favour of some kind of change
- All grinds to a halt on issue of procedure

Painting depicting the three Estates.
Opening of the Estates-General on May 5, 1789 in the Grands Salles des Menus-Plaisirs in Versailles.
Painting by Auguste Couder showing Necker’s speech at the opening of the Estates-General
Maximilien Robespierre c. 1790 (anonymous), Musé Carnavalet, Paris.
Honoré Gabriel Riqueti, Count of Mirabeau (1749 – 1791) was a leader of the early stages of the French Revolution.

A noble, he was involved in numerous scandals before the start of the Revolution in 1789 that had left his reputation in ruins.

Nonetheless, he rose to the top of the French political hierarchy in the years 1789-1791 and acquired the reputation of a voice of the people.

A successful orator, he was the leader of the moderate position among revolutionaries by favouring a constitutional monarchy built on the model of Britain.

When he died (of natural causes) he was a great national hero, even though support for his moderate position was slipping away.
The National Assembly and the ‘Tennis Court Oath’

- 17 June 1789—Third Estate change their name to the ‘National Assembly’
- Barred from meeting hall and fearing a royalist coup, they meet in an indoor tennis court
- Take oath to make new constitution
- Lower clergy and some liberal nobles join Assembly
- 27 June—King orders other Estates to join National Assembly
Drawing by Jacques-Louis David of the Tennis Court Oath. David later became a deputy in the National Convention in 1792.
Disturbances and Riots prior to Estates-General

‘The Day of Tiles’ Grenoble, June 1788

Réveillon Riots, Paris, April 1789
The Universal Exhibition of 1889, which commemorated the centenary of the Revolution, is remembered almost exclusively today as the occasion for the construction of the Eiffel Tower. But it also featured this extraordinary - and massive - reconstruction of the Bastille itself.
The demolition of the walls of the Bastille, July 1789
A model of the Bastille made by Pierre-François Palloy from one of the stones of the fortress.
The Key to the Bastille, Mount Vernon, Virginia
The Marquis de Lafayette instructed Thomas Paine, his American Revolutionary War comrade, to deliver the key to the liberated Bastille to George Washington. It hangs to this day in the entry hall of Washington’s home at Mount Vernon, Virginia, a lasting symbol of the deep affinity between the French and American Revolutions.
Historical reconstruction showing the in 1420
Dragons destroy the Bastille in this seditious mid 18th century engraving
Linguet's *Mémoires sur la Bastille*, depicting the fictional destruction of the Bastille by Louis XVI, 1783.
Fanciful later portrait of Voltaire in the Bastille.

He was imprisoned in the fortress from 16 May 1717 to 15 April 1718. In reality he was held in a small windowless cell with ten-foot thick walls.
"The Man in the Iron Mask". Anonymous print from 1789. According to the caption on the original (not seen here), the man was an illegitimate son of Louis XIV. No evidence is given to support this claim, which is just one among many, and may have been merely a piece of revolutionary propaganda.
In this 1789 engraving, James Gillray caricatures the triumph of Necker (seated, on left) in 1789, comparing its effects on freedom unfavourably to those of William Pitt the Younger in Britain. France has the caption "Freedom," while Britain has the caption "slavery."
Camille Desmoulins

- 1760-1794
- Childhood friend of Robespierre
- Lawyer from Picardy in northern France
- First of the many radical demagogues
- Radical journalist
- Later ally of Danton
- Tried and executed in April 1794
The Sans Culottes

- So named because they wore trousers and not the ‘culottes’ (knee breeches) of the nobility
- Made up of the urban ‘labour aristocracy’
- Key in controlling 48 sections of the Paris Commune (city council)
- Played key role in radicalising the revolution
Arrest of de Launay, by Jean-Baptiste Lallemand, 1790
Engraving, c.1789: French militia hoisting the heads of the Mayor of Paris, Flesselles, and the marquis de Launay, Commandant of the Bastille, on pikes. The caption reads "Thus we avenge the traitors"
The National Guard

- Revolutionary militia formed July 1789
- Placed under command of General Lafayette (right)
- 48,000 men in Paris alone
- Huge popularity in urban provincial towns
- By end of 1789 every town had its own enthusiastic detachment of National Guards
• Paris in Arms
  – Moderates looked to Marquis de Lafayette, aristocrat that fought with Gorge Washington in American Revolution
  – Lafayette headed National Guard, middle class militia, organized after presence of royal troops
    • Guard was first group to wear Red, White and Blue
  – Paris Commune
    • Even more radical than Guard, could mobilize quickly for protests or violent action
Paris Commune

- Paris-epicenter of the revolution
- **Factions** competed for power & influence
- **Marquis de Lafayette**: head of national guard, leader of middle class, opposed royal troops in Paris
- **Paris Commune**: replaced city’s royalist government
  - Ability to organize protest and violent action
  - Radical ideas spread under the Commune
The Marquis de Lafayette, commander of the new National Guard, combined the colors of the King (white) and the colors of Paris (blue and red) for his guardsmen's uniforms and from this came the Tricolor, the new French flag.