



# CHAPTER- 1

## THE FRENCH REVOLUTION



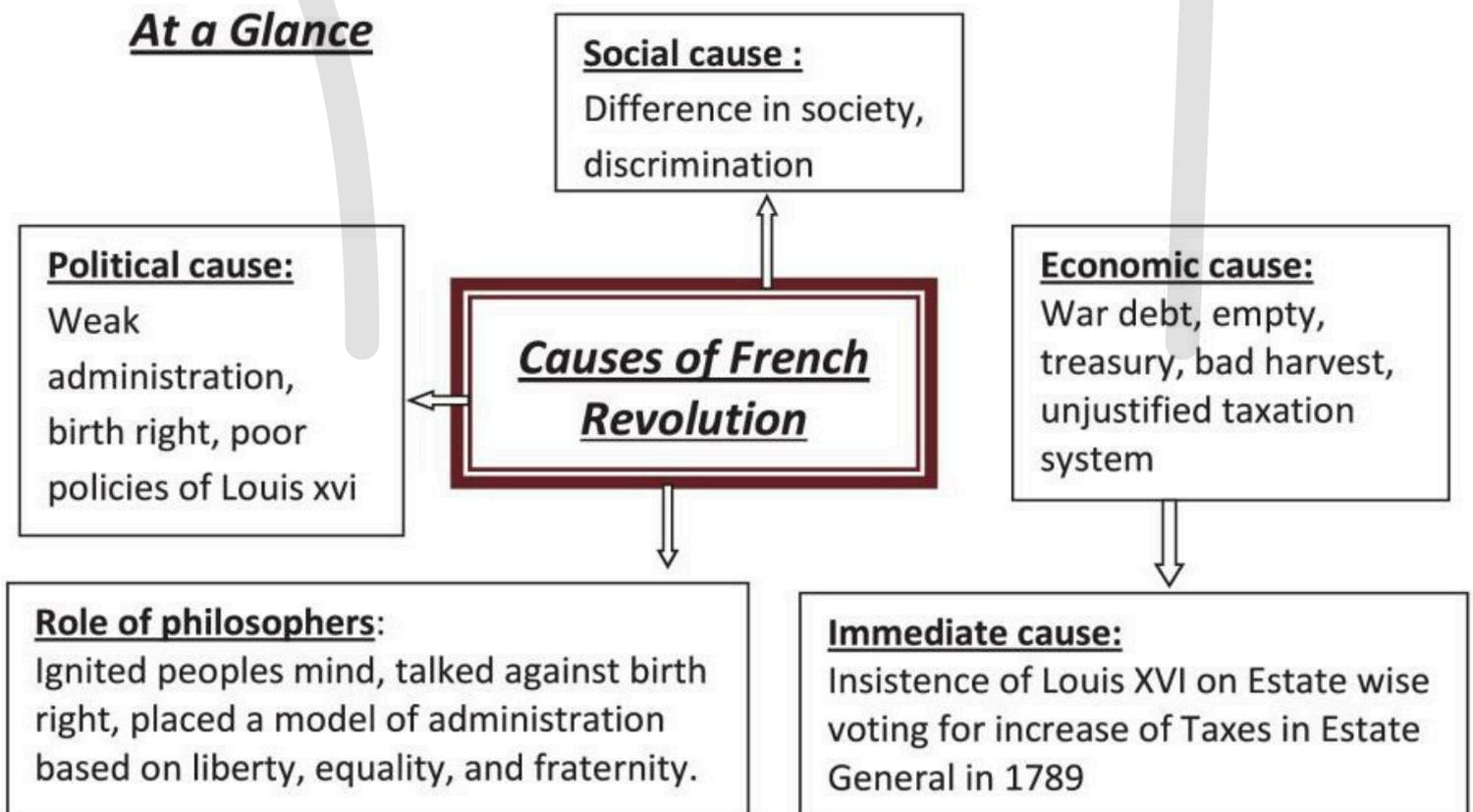
### POINTS TO REMEMBER :-

- During 18<sup>th</sup> century French society was divided into **Three Estates**.
  - I. **First estate** comprised of clergy or priests of churches.
  - II. **Second estate** comprised of nobility which includes high rank officials and feudal lords.
  - III. **The third estate** comprised of rest 90% of population of France which includes peasants, workers, artisans, lower rank court officials, lawyers, landless labour, servants etc.
- All the taxes were to be paid by third estate while other two enjoyed various privileges and has full authority to impose taxes.
- In 1774 **Louis XVI** ascended the throne of France.
  - I. He belongs to the **BOURBON** family of kings of France.
  - II. He was married to Marie Antoinette of Austria.
  - III. **Empty treasury** due to prolong war's debt and extravagant lifestyles of his ancestors along with the cost of support to American war of Independence forced him to increase tax to meet the demand.
  - IV. **Subsistence crisis**, occurred frequently during old regime, added the discontentment among masses.
- **Middle class**, which included- lawyer, teachers, philosophers etc, were educated and questioned the privilege by birth.
  - I. They dreamt of a society based on equality and proposed their ideas through speeches, books, pamphlets and journals'.
  - II. In France of old regime king could impose new taxes only in a political body- Estates General where three estates send their representatives.
  - III. Voting was done on Estate wise, rather than individual members.

- On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1789 Louis XVI called together the meeting of ***Estates General*** to pass new taxes.
  - I. This time third estates members demanded person-wise voting in place of estate-wise voting.
  - II. King rejected this demand and third estate members walked out the assembly in protest.
  - III. On 20<sup>th</sup> June 1789 they gathered in the hall of an indoor tennis court in the grounds of Versailles.
  - IV. **Bad harvest** due to severe cold along with **king's order** of troops to move into Paris only fuelled the situation.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1789 the agitated crowd stormed the **Fort of Bastille**, a symbol of **tyranny** of old regime, and destroyed it.
  - I. This triggered the **chain of revolt** across the country.
  - II. Faced with power of revolting subjects, Louis XVI accorded recognition to the **National assembly** and agreed to give up his power.
  - III. On 4<sup>th</sup> August 1789 all the **feudal system** of obligation and taxes were abolished by a decree.
  - IV. Churches' properties were confiscated and clergy too had to give up all the privileges.
  - V. **The National Assembly** drafted the constitution in 1791 and distributed the power in- legislature, executive and judiciary along with one person one vote principle.
- However voting was restricted to **ACTIVE CITIZEN** only.
- Only men above 25 years of age who paid taxes equal to at least 3 days of a labourer's wage were given the status of active citizen.
- Remaining men and all women were cleaned as panive citizen who did not have any political right.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> August 1792 **Jacobins** planned an insurrection and imprisoned the royal family.
- On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1792 it declared France a **Republic**.

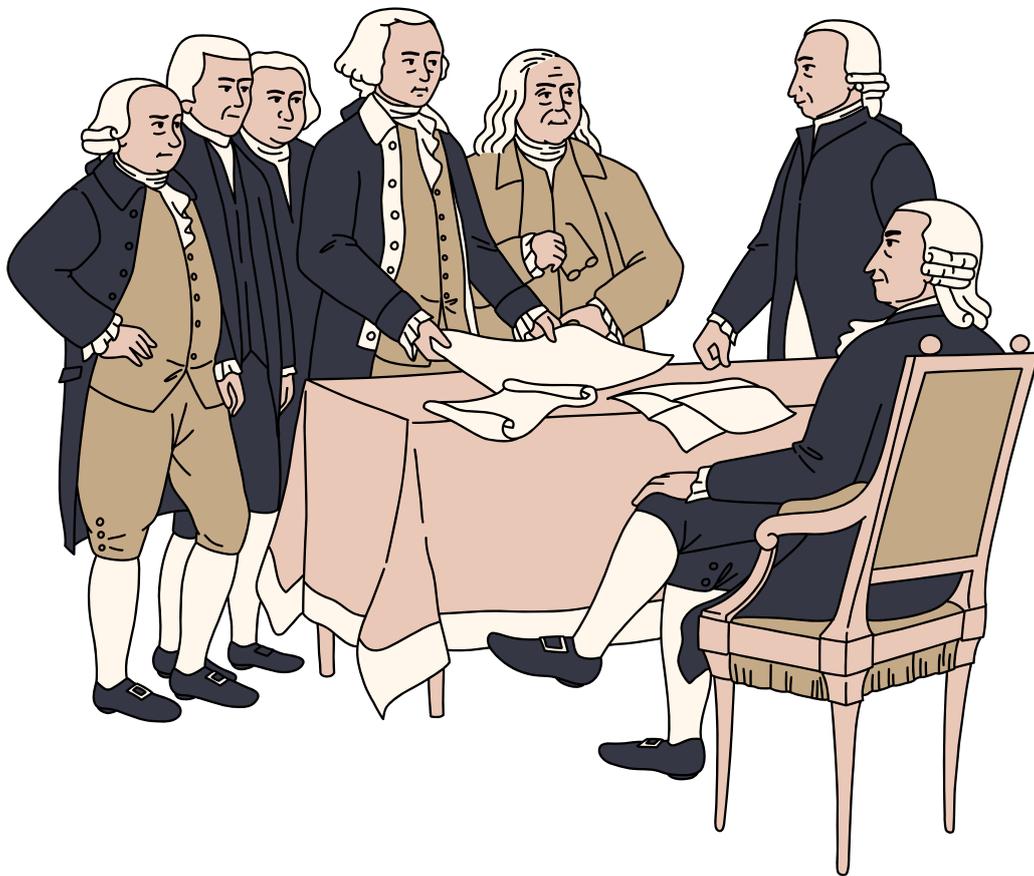
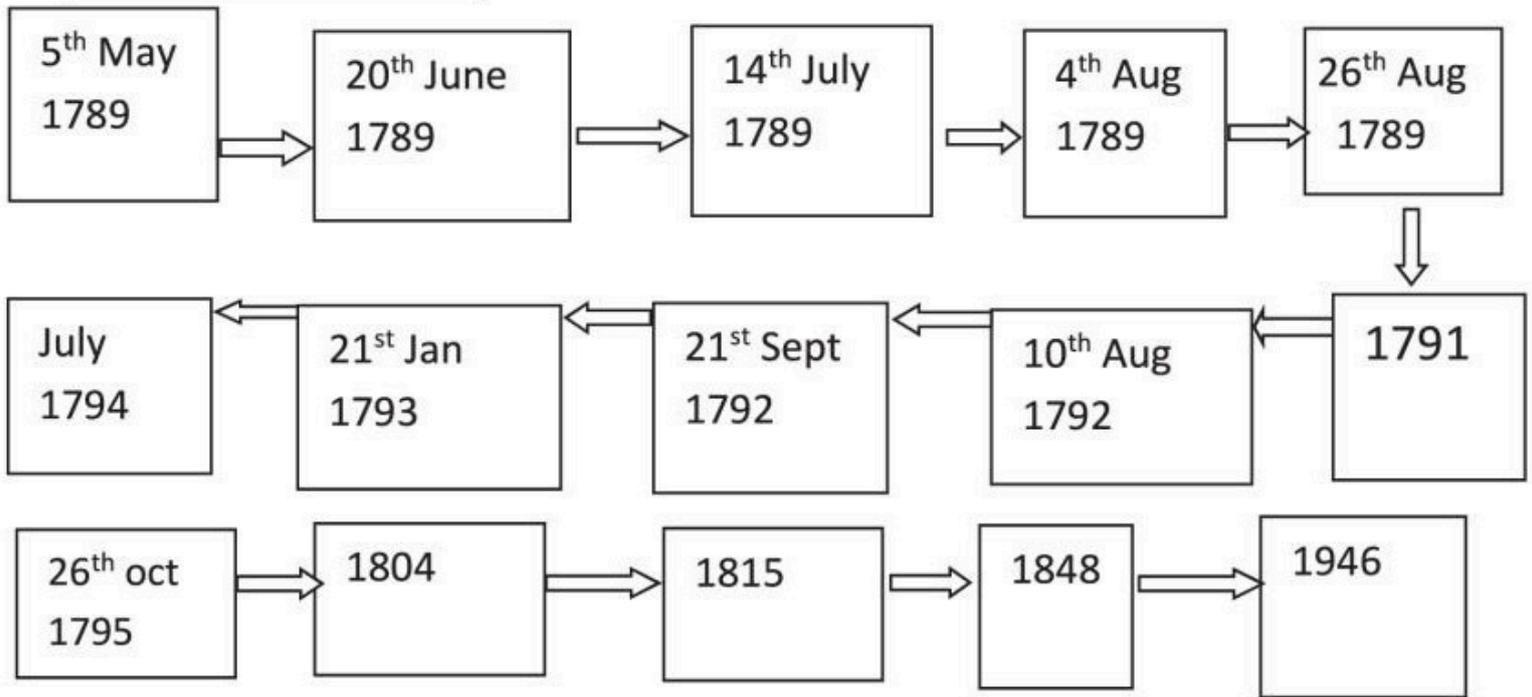
- Louis XVI was sentenced to death on charge of '**Treason**' and was publically executed on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1793.
- The Jacobin leader **Robespierre** ruled ruthlessly from 1793 to 1794 and his reign was known as "Reign of Terror".
- In July 1794 Robespierre was convicted of excessivism and executed on **Guillotine**.
- The fall of Jacobin allowed the wealthier middle class to seize the power and ruled through an Executive, made up of five members, called **DIRECTORY** from 26<sup>th</sup> October 1795.
- However the frequent clash of directors with legislative council led to **political instability**.
- This paved the way for the rise of military dictatorship under **Napoleon Bonaparte** who ended directory in 1799 and became the 'First Council and later crowned himself as–The Emperor of France in 1804.
- Napoleon was defeated in the battle of **Waterloo** in 1815.
- The legacy of **freedom, equality and fraternity that** emerged out of French revolution remained the inspiring ideals of the following world.
- Slavery was finally abolished in 1848 from all the colonies of France.
- Women fought their own way to get right to vote in 1946 in France.

### At a Glance



# Do you know all the dates & events?

LET'S CHECK



## 1 Mark Questions

- (1) Who was the king of France during French Revolution?
- (2) In how many Estates French society was divided in 18<sup>th</sup> century?
- (3) Who were nobles?
- (4) Which Estate of France paid all the taxes?
- (5) Who wrote the Book –“The Social Contract”?
- (6) Louis XVI was related to which family of French dynasty?
- (7) Who wrote the French national anthem – Marsiellaise?
- (8) What was Guillotine?
- (9) What was Estate General?
- (10) Name the currency of France which was used till 1794?
- (11) Name the tax which was levied by the Church and was 1/10<sup>th</sup> of produce?
- (12) What was Estate?
- (13) What was the work of Priest or clergy?
- (14) Name the tax which was paid directly to the state?
- (15) What is the situation called in which there is a danger of survival?
- (16) When did the abolition of slavery take place in French colonies?
- (17) When did Napoleon Bonaparte become the Emperor of France?
- (18) When did Napoleon fight the “Battle of Waterloo”?
- (19) Why was the reign of Robespierre called –“reign of terror”?
- (20) How France became republic?

### 3/5 Marks Question

- (1) What was condition of France when Louis XVI ascended the throne?
- (2) Explain- 'Third Estate'
- (3) What law was passed by National Assembly in France on 4<sup>th</sup> august 1789?
- (4) Describe the condition of women in 18<sup>th</sup> century French society? Does French revolution change any of it?
- (5) Describe the rise of Jacobin club in France?
- (6) What legacy was left behind by the French revolution for the world?
- (7) Explain the rise of Napoleon?
- (8) What was subsistence crisis in France? How it triggered the French Revolution?
- (9) Which rights were described as the "Natural and inalienable" by the French constitution of 1791?
- (10) "French Revolution didn't fulfil the aspiration of all the sections of society." Explain your answer with suitable argument.