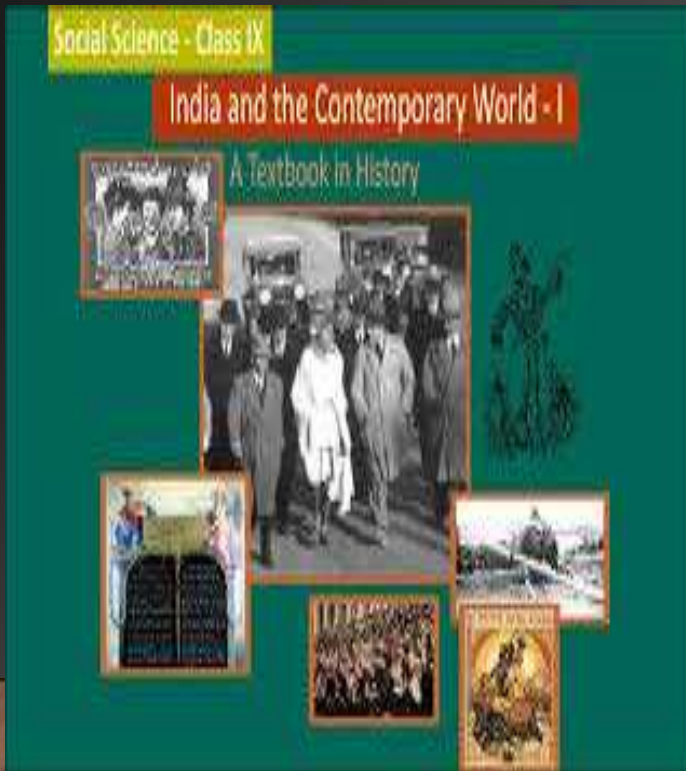


CLASS – IX; SOCIAL SCIENCE

INDIA AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD - I

CHAPTER 1 – THE FRENCH REVOLUTION





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FRANCE



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

- 14 July, 1789, (Morning) - The city of Paris was in state of alarm.
- Gathering of nearly, 7000 people in front of the town hall, people formed the 'militia' and broke into government buildings in search of arms.
- Marching by hundreds of people towards the eastern part of the city and attacks on the fortress prison – Bastille.



- A group of several hundred armed people (militia) marched towards the eastern part of Paris city and stormed the fortress-prison of Bastille.



- In the armed fight, the commander of Bastille was killed and all the 7 prisoners were released.
- Bastille was hated by the people because it stood for the despotic powers of the king.
- The fortress was destroyed and its fragments were sold in the market to keep as a souvenir of its destruction.
- The days that followed saw more of such rioting in Paris as well as all over France.

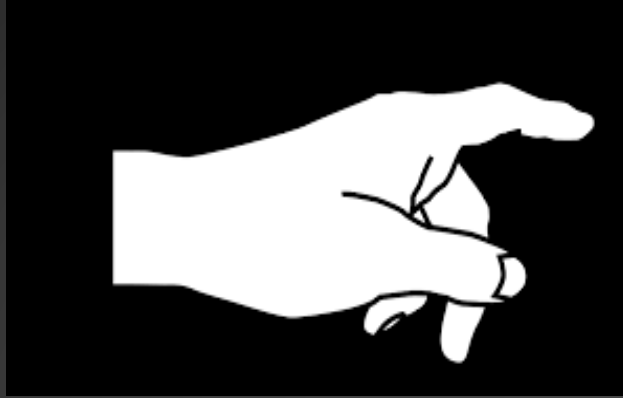
CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

- In 1774, Louis XVI became the King of France at the age of 20.
- He married the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette.



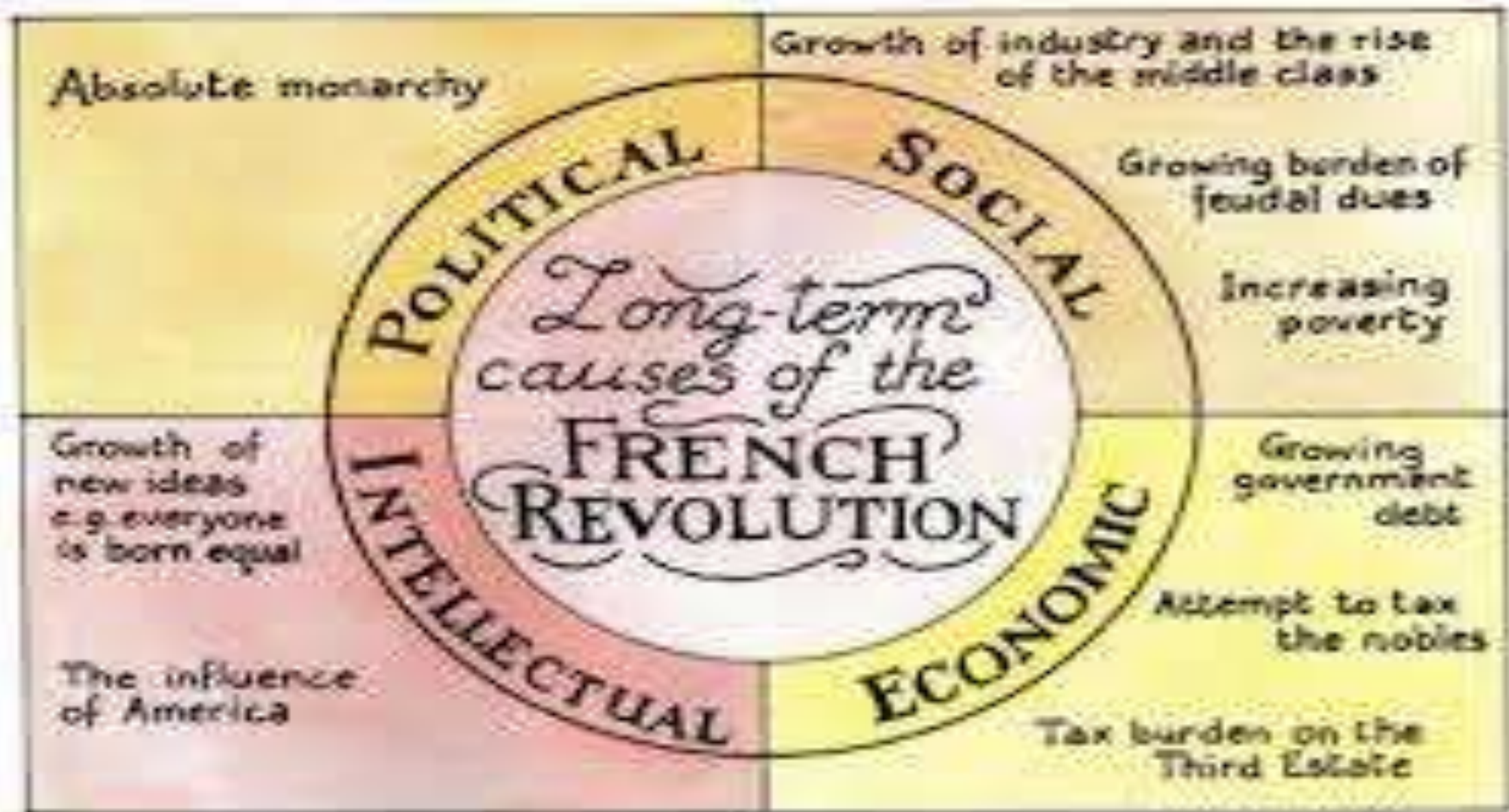
“ If the people have no bread, let them eat cake.
– Marie Antoinette

PALACE OF VERSAILLES



- Expenses to maintain the court and the palace of Versailles was high but all of Louis' treasures were empty.
- Under Louis XVI, France helped 13 American colonies in gaining independence from common enemy, Britain.
- The War added a billion livres of debt and now the total debt that they had was more than **2 billion livres**.
- Now the lenders have also started charging 10% interest on that money.



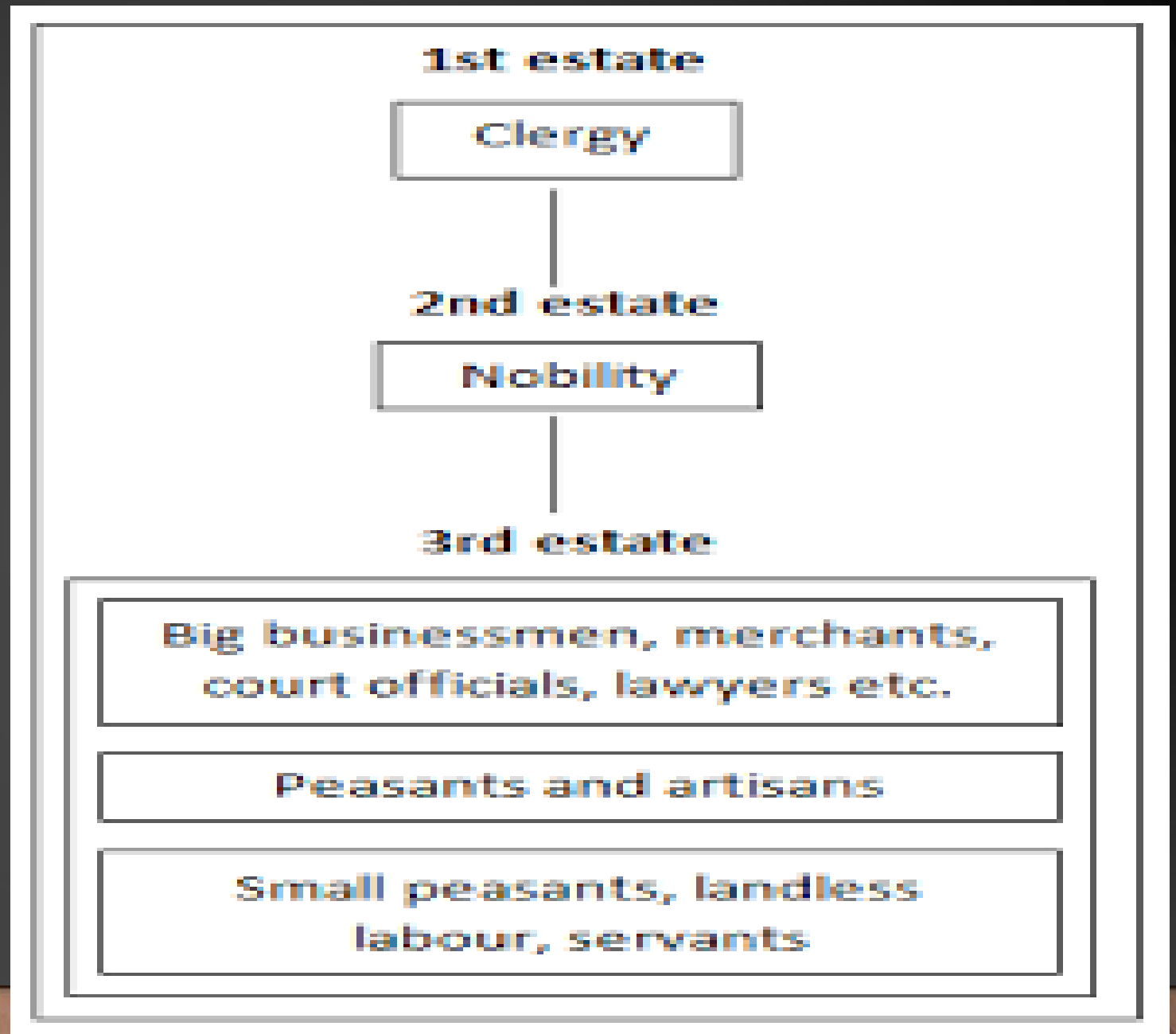


TYPES OF EXPENSES AND PROBLEMS FACED BY PEOPLE

- Meeting the regular expenses of the Court.
- Maintaining the Army.
- Running government offices and Universities.
- The King had to increase the taxes; it annoyed people as they were already suffering in numerous ways.



DIVISION OF FRENCH SOCIETY IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY



FEUDAL SYSTEM

1) CLERGY – 1st Estate

2) NOBILITY – 2nd Estate

3) COMMONERS – 3RD Estate

90% people in France belonged to the third estate.

Only the third estate had to pay taxes.

Paying taxes to the king was another annoying cause for the common people. People revolted against the government.



A QUICK RECAP



Locke: Natural Rights=life liberty and property.
Voltaire: Battled corruption, injustice and inequality.