

# La Révolution française

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## The Crisis

The Bourgeoisie are sick and of the ancient regime; being taxed without representation, the bread prices shooting up after bad harvests and losing their jobs because companies can't afford wages.

In the mid 70's, the king and France were short of money, due to expensive wars and huge debts. To fight this problem, King Louis replaced his current finance minister with a Swiss banker named Necker (in 1776) who borrowed money and made up figures to stop the rich from paying taxes, and this made the government extremely short of cash.

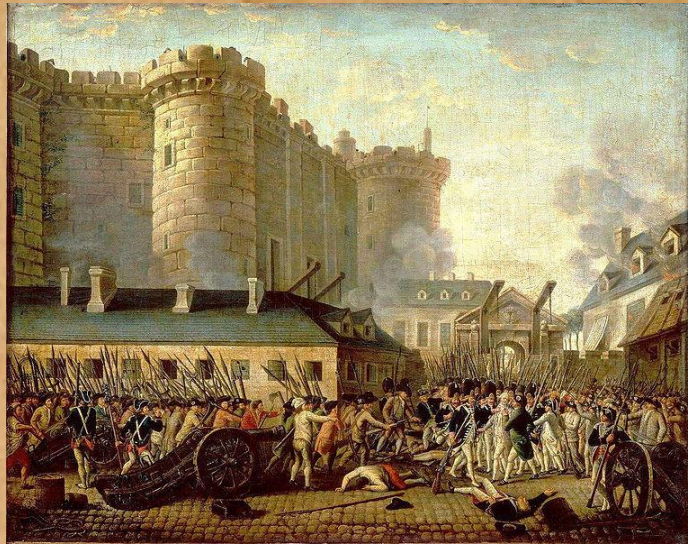
After Necker's resignation, the king hired a new finance minister, Calonne, who suggested a new land tax where the rich would pay the most. However, when he proposed his idea to the Assembly of Notables, he was rejected and sacked.

## The Revolution

The bourgeoisie were unhappy with their current situation, and wanted to take a stand.

Demonstrations were held in Paris yesterday against the King and the government. One of the leaders, Marat, has said, "The great are only great because we are on our knees. Let us rise!"

In order to fight the army, demonstrators in Paris looted the Invalides prison to find weapons, but they found no ammunition. To find ammo, the rebels headed to the Bastille, a royal prison in the centre of Paris. When they reached the prison, a rumour went around that there is a cannon positioned to fire straight at the demonstrators, who were enraged. The leaders of the demonstration,



demanding that the prison allow them access to the ammunition. The leaders of the demonstration accepted an invitation to lunch from the governor of the Bastille, and went into the prison and everybody was nervous.