

History B356 : *French Revolution and Napoleon* *France in 1774*



LAN 1774
LE 13^{ME} DU REGNE DE
LOUIS XVI
LE BIENFAITANT
CE MOMENT FUT TENU
LOUIS JEAN MARIE
DE BOURBON
DUC DE FENHIEUX
GOUVARNEUR
LE COMTE DE THIAIS
COMMANDEANT
LE DUC DE CERESTE
DE BRANCAIS
GOUVARNEUR DES VILLES
CHATEAUCENANTAIS
DE BERTRAND
DE MOLLEVILLE INTENDANT

opera
LA
CENERENTOLA
Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux
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SEINT ROULONS MAIRE
SEINT PIERRE RICHARD
E LA VERONIQUE
E CHEVINS
EDREUX MAIRE
CHARLES GERBIER
LES BOGINS DEPLANTES
HENRI GELIN
SEINT PLUMARD DE SEUR
JACQUES VABAN MESLE
CUREUR DU ROY SINDIC
SE GUILAUME HENRY
GHAUD DUPLENS
RUE LES DEBENS
VENHORN CLUCY ARCHITECTE
T VOYER DE MANIES



Joseph Duplessis, "Louis XVI
in his Coronation Robes" (1774)



Hyacinthe Rigaud,
"Louis XIV, King of France" (1701)

France in 1774

approximate population 24,000,000

area (rough estimate) 200,000 sq. miles

2010 figures for comparison

Texas approx. 25,000,000 people; 268,000 sq. miles

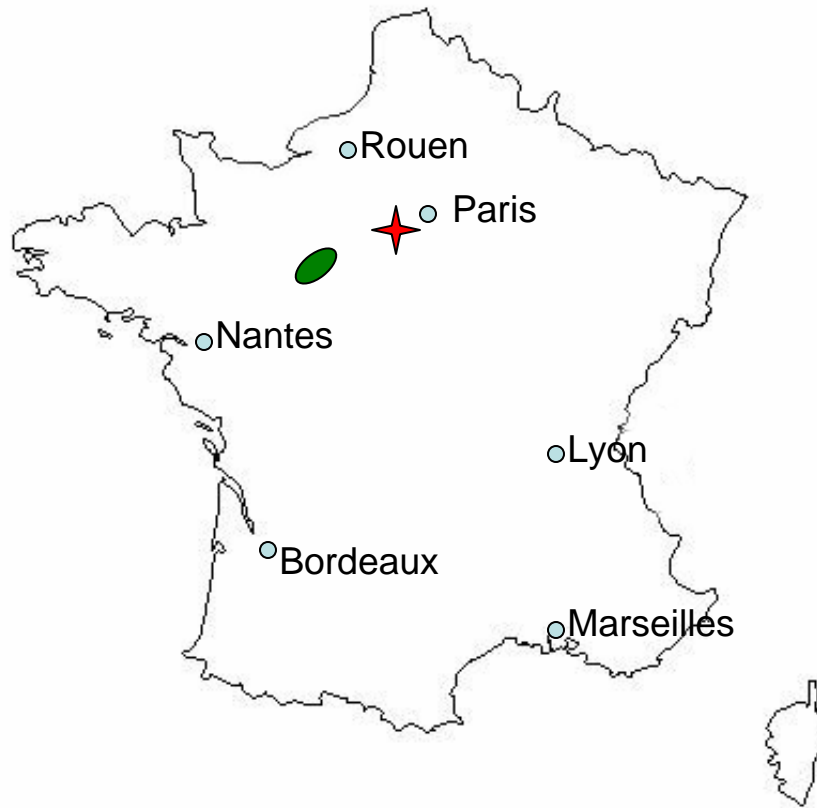
Indiana 6,483,000 people; 36,400 sq. miles

California 37,253,000 people; 163,000 sq. miles



| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| First Estate | approx. 125,000 |
| Second Estate | 200,000-400,000 |
| Third Estate | 23,500,000 |

France in 1774



stagecoach, Paris-Lyon: 5 days
stagecoach, Paris-Marseilles: 9 days

● 3000 parish marriage contracts *
35% of men were from outside
8% of women from outside

* Study by Jean Vassort,
cited in Daniel Roche, *France in the Enlightenment* p. 63.



Manchester

Leeds

Birmingham

Hamburg

Warsaw

London

Rotterdam

Berlin

Dunkirk
Lille

Prague

Brest

Le Havre

Caen

Rouen

Reims

Rennes

Paris

Nancy

Nantes

Orleans

Strasbourg

Munich

Vienna

Budapest

Dijon

Besancon

Geneva

Limoges

Lyon

Milan

Bordeaux

Clermont-Ferrand

Turin

Belgrade

Toulouse

Montpellier

Marseille

Madrid

Barcelona

Rome

Naples

Cadiz

Oran

Blida

Bejaia

Skikda

Annaba

Sotif

Casablanca

Tiamcen

Bakra

France in 1774

basic money of account, *livres* (pounds)

6 *livres* = 1 *écu*

3 *livres* = ½ *écu**

20 *sous* = 1 *livre*

12 *deniers* = 1 *sous* (or *sol*)

“fair price” for *large* loaf of bread = 8 *sous*



Heads and tails of a silver *écu* depicting Louis XV on one side and the shield (*écusson*) of France on the other. The inscription on the “heads” side is abbreviated Latin for “Louis XV, by the grace of God, King of France and Navarre.” On the “tails” side, is the Latin for “Blessed be the Name of God, 1772.”

* I know it’s confusing, but there were no coins called a “*livre*” (or even a half-*livre*). The denominations in which people kept accounts were different from those of the coinage. To make matters even less clear, the 3 *livres* coin was itself usually referred to as an *écu*, not as a half *écu*!

France in 1774

Introduction and Numerical Estimates

Continuity and Change

First Estate

who, what, where

key issues: religious minorities

Jansenism

Second Estate

who, what, where

key issues: robe vs. sword

privilege (Weds. lecture)

Third Estate

who, what, where

key issues:

France in 1774: The Church Elite

130 bishops; 18 archbishops

Rouen diocese—1,385 parishes

Toulon diocese—28 parishes



Joseph Vivien, *The Archbishop Fénelon* (1714)

annual income, Bishop of Paris—500,000 *livres*

Bishop of Marseilles—50,000 *livres*

Church held 6-10% of the property in France

33% of urban areas of Toulouse and of Rennes

20-40% of land in northwestern plains



anonymous pastel portrait of the Bishop of Orléans,
Louis Sextius de Jarente de La Bruyère (1758)

France in 1774: The Parish Priests



Bouillotte, parish priest,
deputy to the National Assembly
from Burgundy, 1789

approximately 27,000 parishes

basic unit for information (sometimes literally translating)

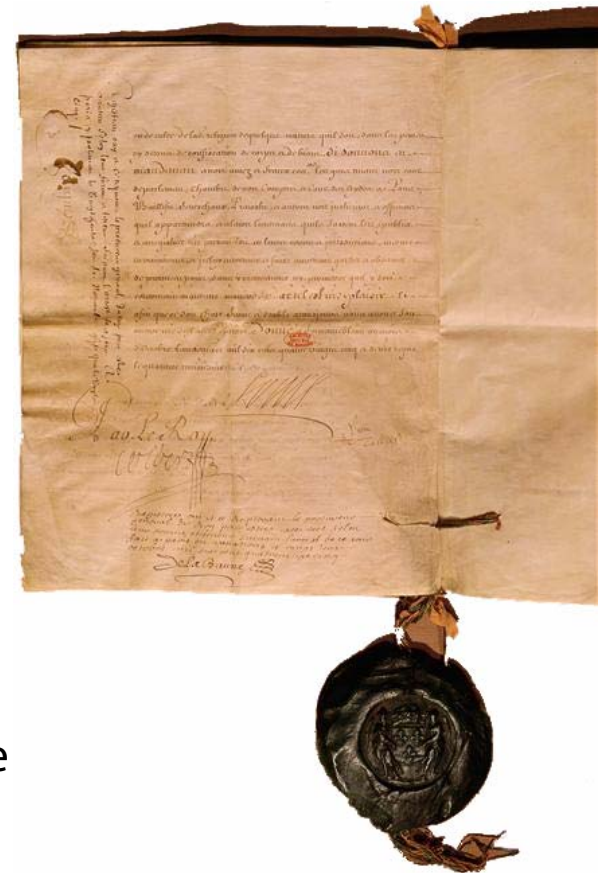
record keeping (baptisms; marriages; deaths)

basis of charity and poor relief

sons of minor officials, merchants, farmers,
successful artisans (less than 1% noble)

Protestants and Jews in France, 1350-1685

- 1395 Jews banned from France
- 1492 Jews banned from Spain
- 1562-1598 eight wars of religion in France between Catholics and Protestants (Huguenots)
- 1598 Henri IV (Henri of Navarre) converts from Protestantism to Catholicism; issues Edict of Nantes guaranteeing toleration for Protestants
- 1618-1648 Thirty Years War
- 1675 Alsace, with its comparatively large Jewish population, becomes part of France
- 1685 Louis XIV's Edict of Fontainebleau revokes the Edict of Nantes

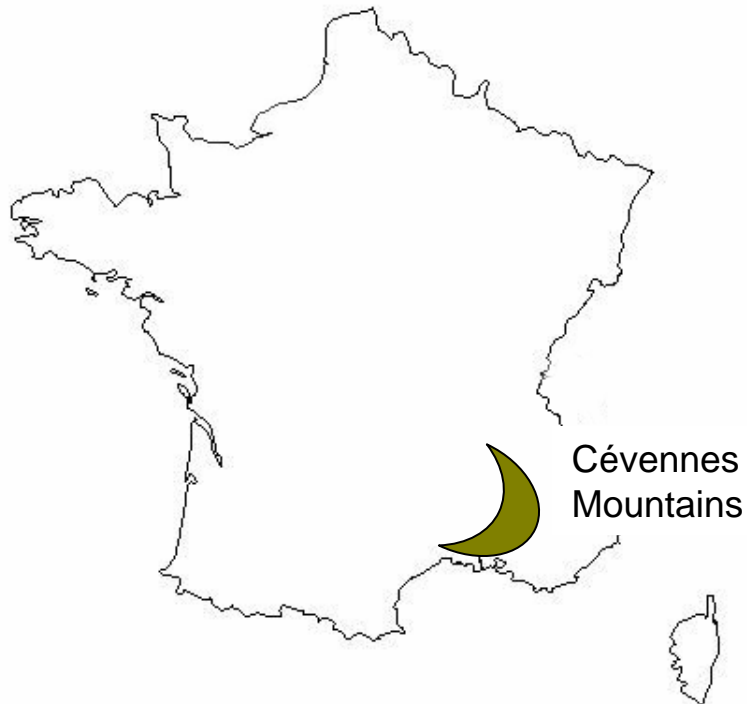




The Camisard Wars

“camisards” from “chemises” (same word as “camisoles”)=white shirts

Protestant (Calvinist) opposition to forced conversion, 1702-1715



Jansenism and Jansenists

Jansenists—within Catholic Church, a movement based on writings of Jansenius (1585-1638) who called himself “Augustinian”;

Jansenius emphasized:
contrition;
salvation through faith (not actions);
God’s grace has to be given
 (“efficacious grace”), it cannot be earned.



Philippe de Champaigne,
*Mother Arnaud and Sister Catherine** (1662)

Attacked by Jesuits (Society of Jesus, founded 1540) as crypto-Protestant; Jesuits themselves accused of worldliness, greed, spreading doctrine of human “Free Will.”

Condemned by Pope in 1713 (in text called *Unigenitus*); controversy over “enregistering” the text (making it law in France) divides Crown and *parlements*.

* Catherine is one of the painter’s daughters; the women are depicted in the Port-Royal Convent, one of the centers of French Jansenism, destroyed in 1711

France in 1774: The Nobility

at most, 1% of the population

exempt from paying most direct taxes

could be deprived of noble status (*dérogradation*) if:

- worked with hands (other than goldsmithing and glassmaking)

- engaged in commercial activity (other than shipping and other wholesale trade)

- committed common, “ignoble” crimes

all military officers had to be noblemen



château de La Brède (Gironde, France)—oldest sections built in 1306; Montesquieu’s birth place

“At the start, all the Franks* were free and perfectly equal and independent... Then they quit the countryside... and thought only of advancing through positions at court. The road to fortune no longer conformed to the old ways. Until then, one needed to have essential merit grounded in high birth; afterwards, it was all a matter of being *pleasant* and of being *accommodating*, both of which quickly degenerated into a sort of baseness and a total *subjugation of self....*”

Boulainvilliers, *Essais sur la noblesse de France* [*Essay on the French Nobility... its Origin and its Fall*] (Amsterdam, 1732)

* In many accounts, the French nobility are said to be descended from the Franks, who conquered the Gauls (ancestors of French commoners) in the sixth century.

“Without doubt it is admirable to suffer and die for one’s fatherland... But do you think commerce does not have its own dangers, its own combats? Is there no glory in exploiting the natural advantages of one’s country, in putting men to work, in making the land productive, in seeing that money circulates throughout the body of the state, in expanding the realm’s wealth into a new world that nature tried to conceal from us?”

Coyer, *La Noblesse commerçante* [*Commercial Nobility*] (London, 1756).

France in 1774: The “Commoners”

wholesale merchants, international trade

professions (law, medicine, “men of letters”)

families living “in a bourgeois fashion” (investments)

farmers owning their own land

urban tradesmen and artisans

watchmakers, printers

butchers, bakers

carpenters, shoemakers

household servants

sharecroppers

rural migrant laborers, menial laborers



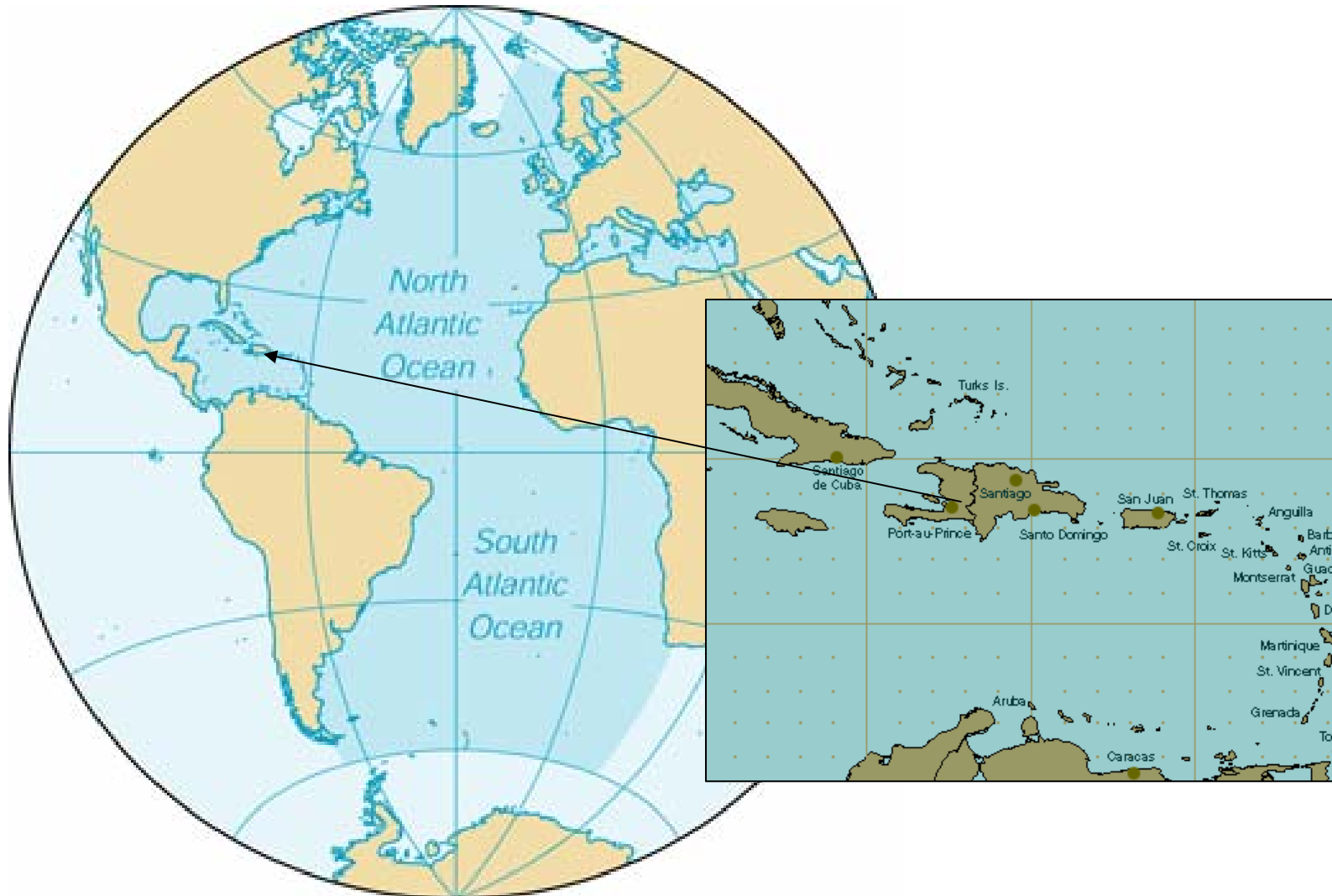
Rigaud, portrait of Samuel Bernard, banker to the Court in early 1700s



Boucher, *The Beautiful Cook* (1735), Third Estate: Who, What, Where detail.

France in 1774: The Empire outside Europe

value of colonial trade increases ten-fold, 1700-1789
approx. 3700 French slaving voyages
approx. 6 million people enslaved in Africa



Key Issues: Growth of Colonial Trade



Les trois Ordres avec leurs attributs, sous le niveau.

Image and statistics credits

1. Opera House (Théâtre Graslin), Nantes (Loire Atlantique); photo RL Spang
- 2.
3. "The Three Estates with their attributes, all level" —print, 1789; image gallica.bnf.fr
5. Topographical map of Europe, *Millennium Atlas* (London: Dorling Kindersley, 2000)
6. photos of coins from <http://www.cgb.fr>
8. Oil painting, *Archbishop Fénelon* and pastel portrait, *Bishop of Orléans*; www.photo.rmn.fr;
all statistics from John McManners, *Church and Society in Eighteenth-Century France* (Oxford, 1998)
9. Engraving, "Bouillote, representative," (1789-1790); image gallica.bnf.fr
10. Edict of Fontainebleau, photo; www.photo.rmn.fr
11. Photos of the Cevennes and the Roussillon, www.flickr.com
12. Philippe de Champaigne, *Mother Arnaud and Sister Catherine* (1662); oil painting on canvas, Louvre;
photo from www.photo.rmn.fr
- 14-15. Boulainvilliers and Coyer cited in Jay M. Smith, *Nobility Re-imagined* (Ithaca and London, 2005).