

History B 356

French Revolution and Napoleon

Privilege and Protest





Rigaud, *Portrait of Louis XV at the Age of Five* (1715)

Defining Privilege

Who has privileges? What are they?

First Estate

Second Estate

Third Estate

provinces

How is privilege related to protest?

the *parlements* and taxation

Flour Wars

Conclusions

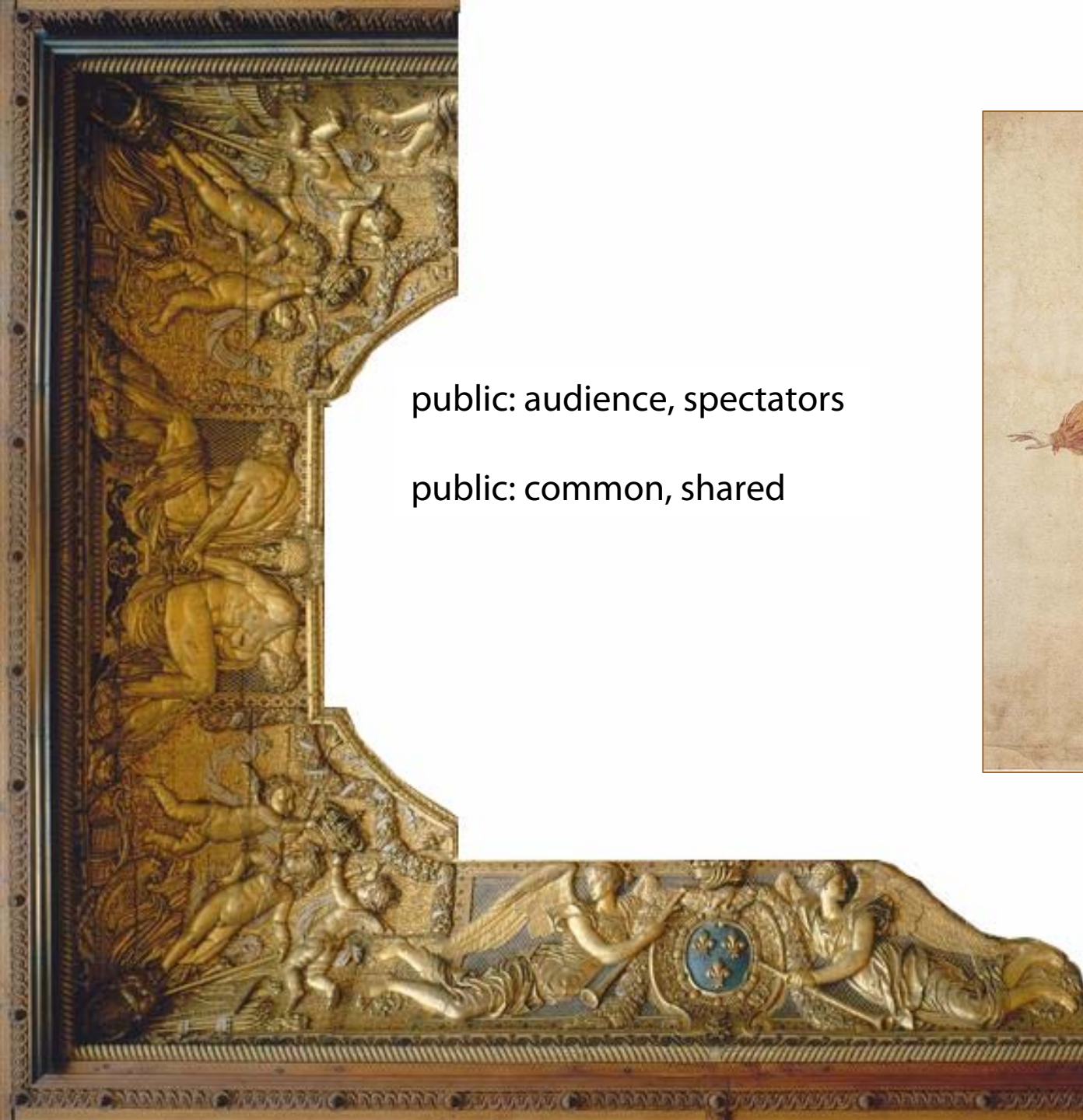


privilege, from the Latin *privilēgium*

prīvus = single, individual
leg or *lex* = law

public, from the Latin *pūblicus* or *poplicus*

populus = people



public: audience, spectators

public: common, shared



The “Privileged Orders”



First Estate (Clergy)

pays no “taxes”

collects its own tax or tithe (*dîme*)

separate ecclesiastical courts

Second Estate (Nobility)

does not pay the *taille*

collects feudal, seigneurial dues

fishing, hunting, pigeon raising

swords; coats of arms

if sentenced to death, never by hanging



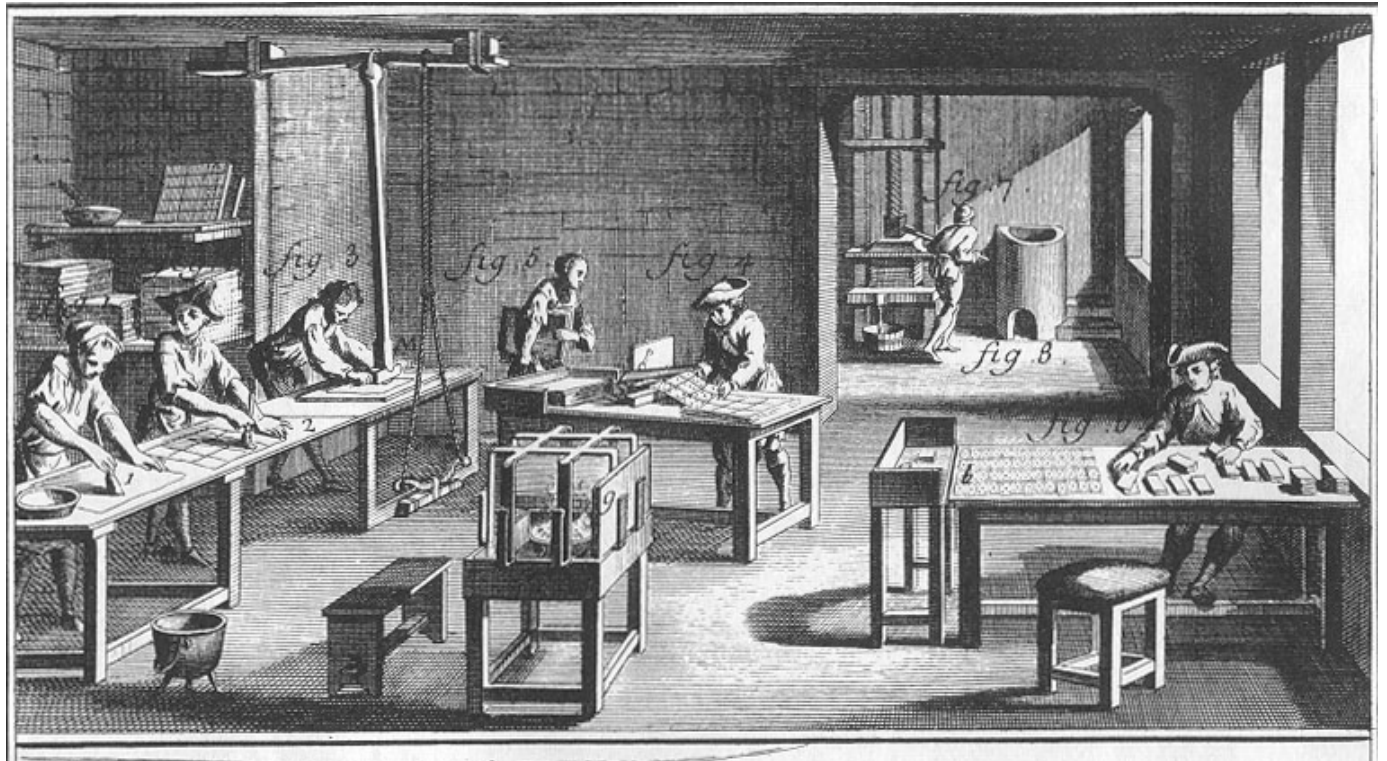
Privilege and Protest: The Guilds

corps (or "corporation") = guild

masters (or mistresses)

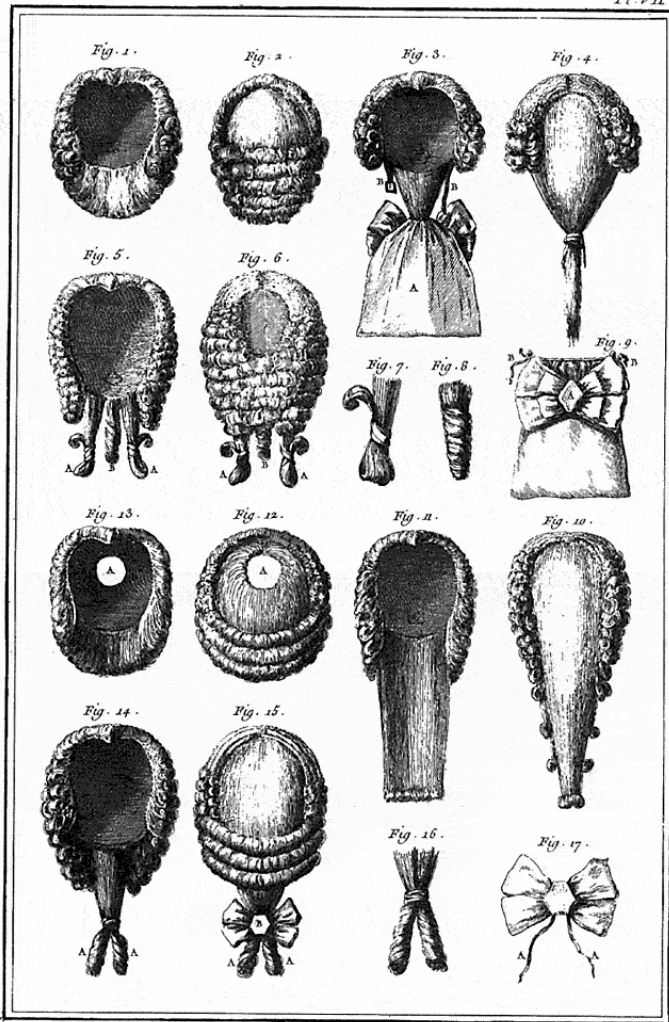
journeymen

apprentices



The manufacture of playing cards, from the *Encyclopédie* (1771-1772)

Who has privileges? The Third Estate



Louise Del.

Benard Fecit

Perruquier Barbier, Perruques.

To the Barbers, Wigmakers, Water and Steam bath providers alone belongs the right to shave and style facial hair, to give baths, to make wigs, to offer steam baths, and to create all other sorts of hair products... others can interfere only at the risk of having their products, hair supplies, and utensils confiscated, and paying a penalty of 300 livres.

Article 58, Statutes of the Paris Wigmakers' Guild (1718)



Who has privileges? The Third Estate

pays d'état ["lands with their own estates"]

- Brittany
- Burgundy
- Provence
- Languedoc
- Béarn
- Franche Comté

gabelle (salt tax)

- not levied in Brittany
- 10x market value in Anjou



Who has privilege? The provinces

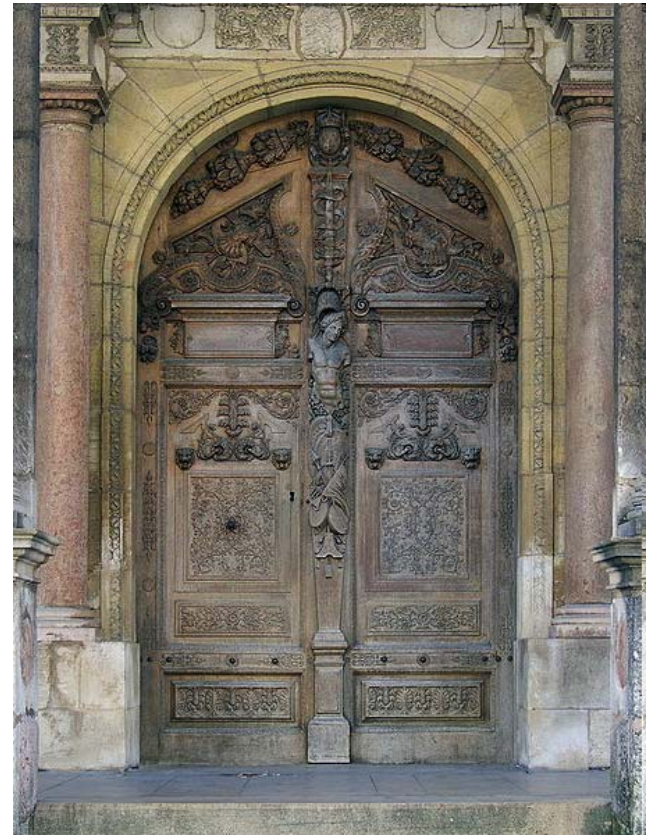
Privilege saturated the entire legal and social structure of the Old Regime;
from where, therefore, did opposition to it come?



Privilege and Protest: Who Protests?



parlement = sovereign court
50-200 judges, plus bailiffs, lawyers, clerks, etc.



entrance to the *parlement* building in Dijon

“It is our will that none of our Subjects of whatever quality and condition they may be, Ecclesiastic, Secular or Regular, Noble, Military or otherwise, shall be exempt from the said *capitation*.”

Royal Declaration, 18th January 1695.

“... a sort of despotism... and a violation of old and venerable conventions.... The presence of unauthorized administrators, who measure and examine everything,... will lead to the ruin of commerce and the desperation of the people.”

Protest by the Rouen *parlement*.



“The Head Tax,” engraved depiction of paying the *capitation* in 1709.

Bread, Politics, and Political Economy in Old-Regime France



Chardin, *A Servant Returning from the Market* (1738).

the staff of life

King as “father of his people”

“fair price” versus free market
The Flour Wars, 1774-1776



Privilege and Protest: The Flour Wars

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1. *Parlement* building in Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine), France; photo RL Spang
2. Hyacinthe Rigaud, *Louis XV at the Age of Five, Seated on His Throne* (1715), oil on canvas, Versailles; anonymous, "Ceremonial Costumes of the Three Orders" (1789), watercolor and engraving; both photos www.photo.rmn.fr
4. Louis XIV as Apollo; anonymous drawing, BNF; detail from the ceiling of the King's bedroom www.photo.rmn.fr
5. anonymous, "Ceremonial Costumes of the Three Orders" (1789), details; www.photo.rmn.fr
6. "Wokshop for making Playing Cards," illustration from the *Encyclopédie* (1751-1772); image from <http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu>;
7. "Wigs; Wigmakers and Barbers," illustration from the *Encyclopédie* (1751-1772); image from <http://encyclopedie.uchicago.edu>; Cadet de Beaupré, bust of Voltaire, Fine Arts Museum, Valenciennes (Nord), France; www.photo.rmn.fr
9. Rigaud portraits of Louis XIV and Louis XV (cited above); Duplessis portrait of Louis XVI.
10. Map adapted from one at <http://geography.about.com>; door of the *parlement* building in Dijon (Côte d'Or), France; photo from <http://commons.wikimedia.org>
11. "The Tax by Head," engraving from the Bibliothèque Nationale (Paris), *estampes*; reproduced on the cover of Michael Kwass, *Privilege and the Politics of Taxation* (2000); image from amazon.com
12. Chardin, *La Pourvoyeuse* (1738), oil on canvas, photo from www.photo.rmn.fr; photo of Poilane bread, www.bewitchingkitchen.com