

History B357-Spang

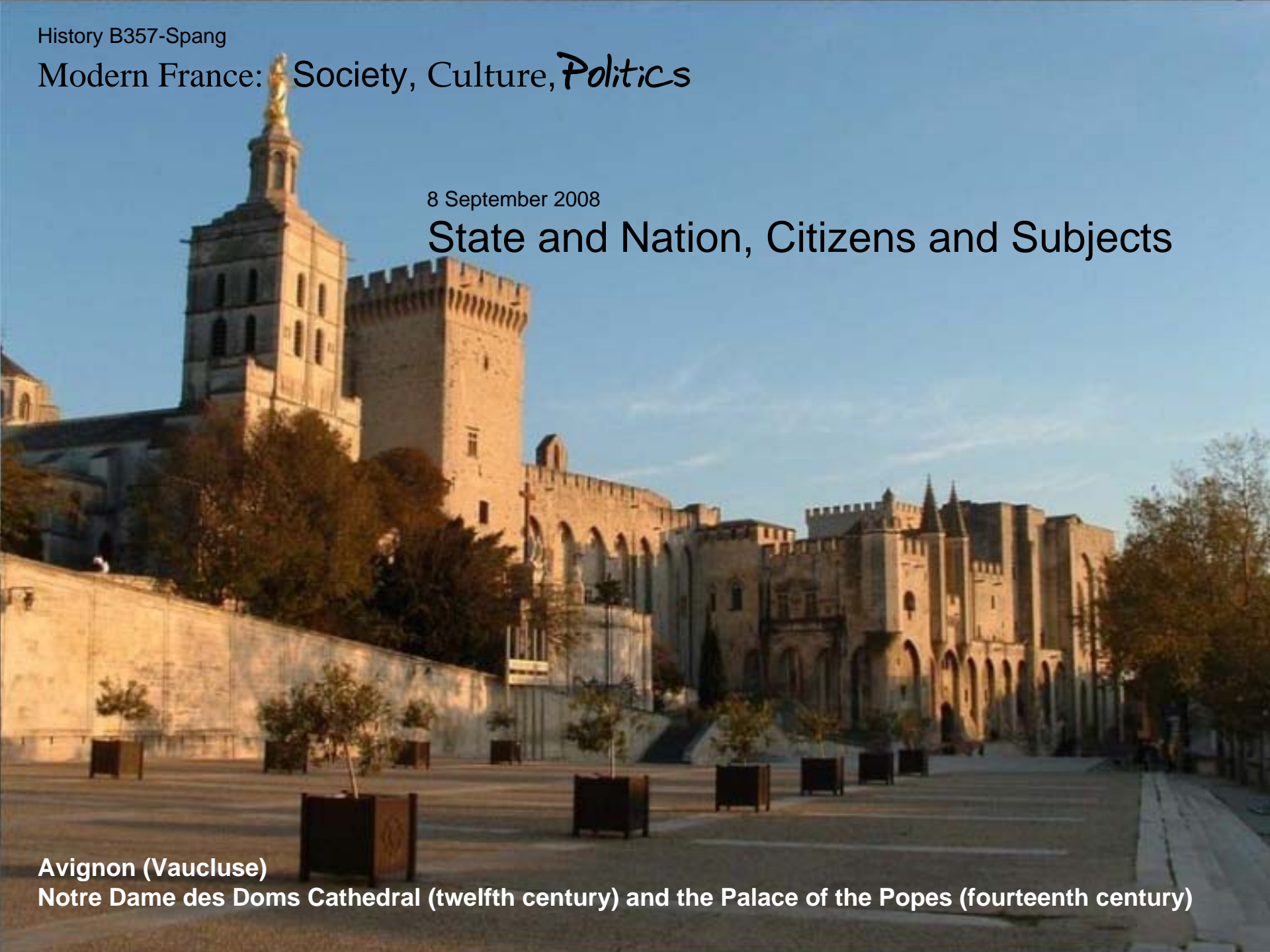
# Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

8 September 2008

## State and Nation, Citizens and Subjects

**Avignon (Vaucluse)**

**Notre Dame des Doms Cathedral (twelfth century) and the Palace of the Popes (fourteenth century)**



## Modern France: Society, Culture, *Politics*

two themes, continuing from last week

When is “modern France”?

—that is, how are periods in history defined?  
(can France be “modern” when Japan isn’t?)

Why do historians usually take the Revolution  
to mark the beginning of “modern France”?



“The French made, in 1789, the greatest effort that has ever been made by any people to sever their history into two parts, so to speak, and to tear open a gulf between their past and their future.”

Alexis de Tocqueville, *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* (1856).

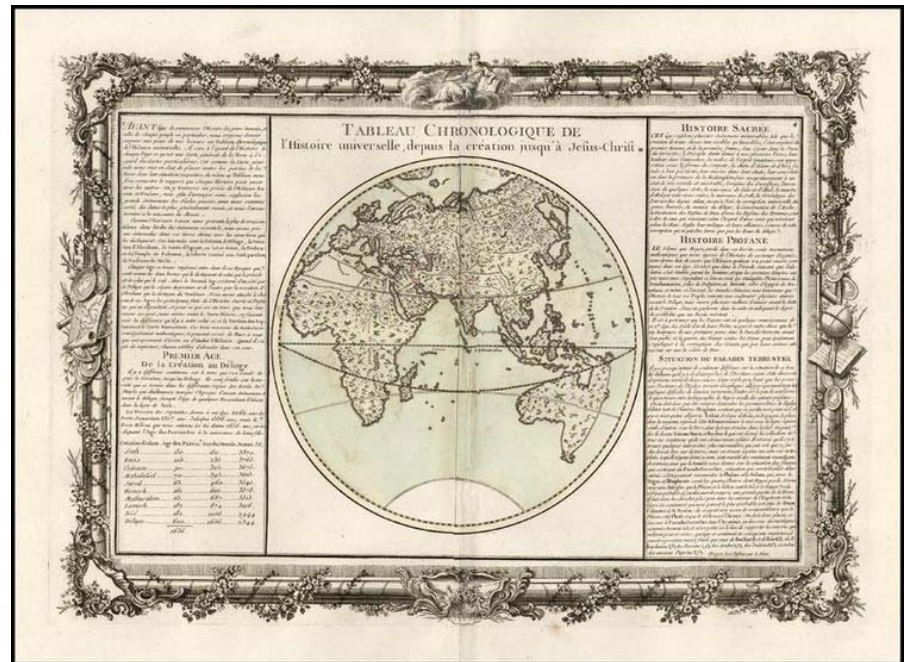
# Periodization of French history

*moderne*—1450-1789

*ancien régime* —former regime

Revolution + Napoleon—1789-1815

contemporary—1815 to present



“Chronological depiction of universal history, from the Creation to Jesus Christ” (Buy de Mornas, 1756)

When is modern France?

# Key events in the French Revolution

May 1789 King Louis XVI opens Estates-General (first meeting in 175 years)

June 1789 members of Estates-General call themselves “National Assembly”

14 July 1789 crowds storm the Bastille Prison in Paris

August 1789 National Assembly abolishes feudalism;  
Declaration of the Rights of Man  
*for the next three years, constitutional monarchy*

April 1792 declaration of war against Austria

10 Aug. 1792 popular uprising in Paris; King arrested

22 Sept. 1792 declaration of a Republic; rule by the National Convention

March 1793 beginning of counter-revolutionary civil war in west of France (Vendée)

August 1793 mass conscription; the “nation in arms”

Sept. 1793 intro of Republican calendar; beginning of period known as “the Terror”

Oct. 1795-Nov.1799 rule of The Directory (five-man executive; two-house legislature)



When is modern France?

# French Regimes since 1793

First Republic, 1792-1804

Directory, 1795-1799

Consulate, 1799-1804

First Empire, 1804-1815

First Restoration, 1814

Hundred Days, spring 1815

Restored Monarchy, 1815-1830

Louis XVIII, 1815-18

Charles X, 18 -1830

July Monarchy, 1830-1848

Louis Philippe, 1830-1848

provisional government; Second Republic, 1848-1851

Second Empire, 1851-1870

provisional government, 1870-1875

Third Republic, 1875-1940

French State ("Vichy") in south;  
German occupation in north, 1940-1942

all of France governed by German military  
with collaboration of Vichy state, 1942-1944

provisional government, 1944-1947

Fourth Republic, 1947-1958

Fifth Republic, 1958-present



# Palace of Versailles, built for Louis XIV in 1650s-1660s



Hall of Mirrors



Garden Fountains



grand courtyard

When is modern France?

# Bouches-du-Rhône department



statue in Aix of René,  
last king of Provence



Provence (became part  
of France in 1486)

--first province of Roman  
Empire outside of Italian  
peninsula (hence name)



old port of Marseille

# French Empire, 1600s-1960s



PLEASE NOTE: this is a composite map, showing all territories that were ever part of the French Empire, rather than the extent of the Empire at any given point in time. For instance, France gave up its North American colonies in 1763 (after defeat in the Seven Years' War) and did not claim land in North Africa until the 1830s. Yet these are both shaded on this map.

State = political, administrative entity; formed through law and bureaucracy

- city-states      ancient Athens or Sparta; medieval Venice; eighteenth-century Geneva or Hamburg
- imperial states      Roman Empire; Russian Empire; Ottoman Empire; British Empire
- federal states      United States of America; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR); Switzerland

Nation = group of people who are believed to have something in common (“ethnicity,” language, culture, history)

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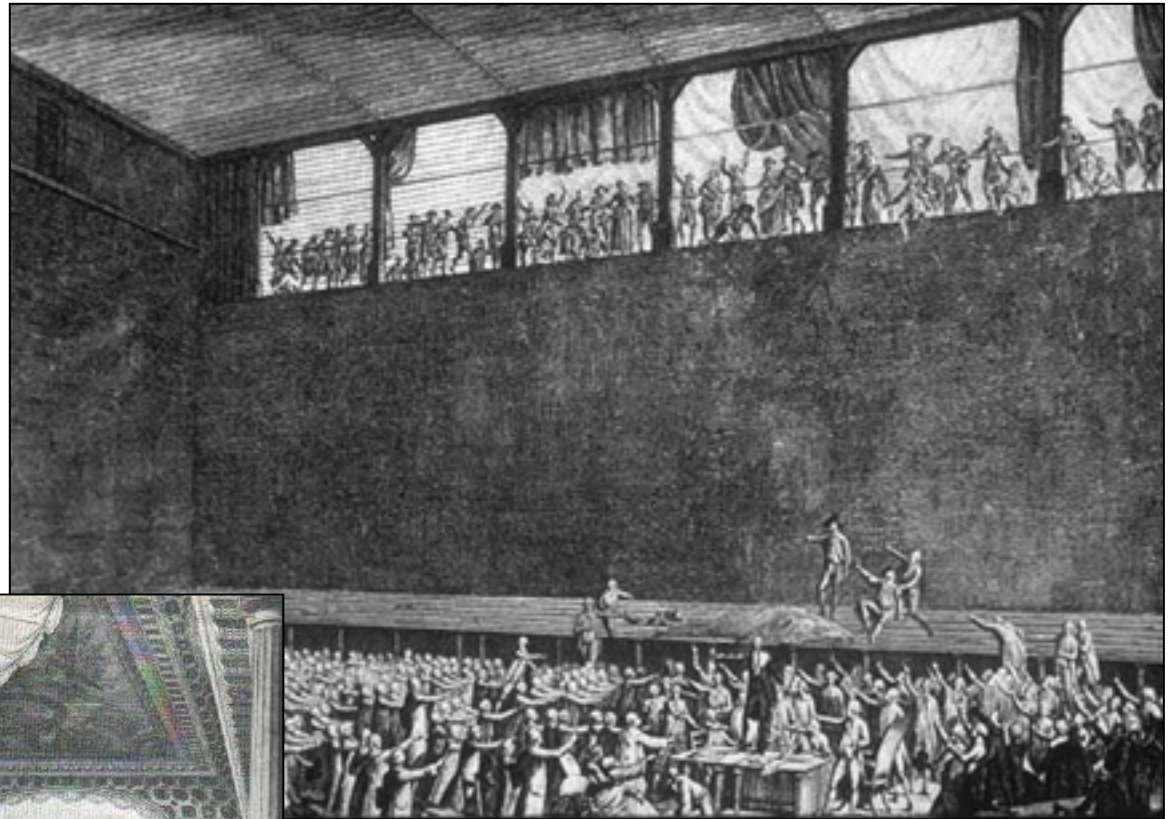
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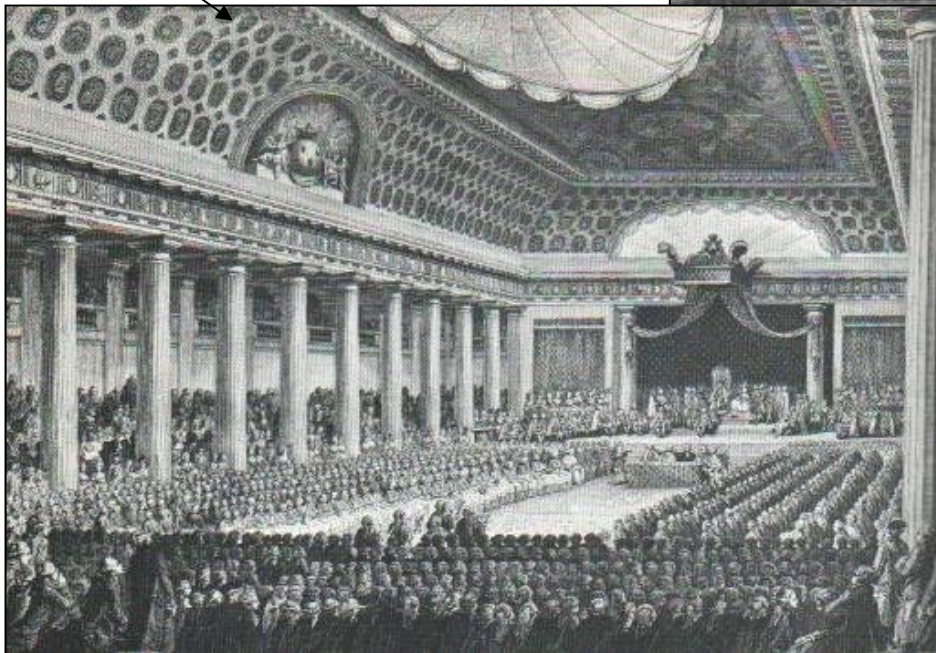




Opening of the Estates-General  
5 May 1789



The Tennis Court Oath  
20 June 1789



# The Tennis Court Oath (*serment du jeu de paume*)

20 June 1789

The National Assembly, considering that it has been summoned to establish the constitution of the kingdom, to effect the regeneration of public order, and to maintain the true principles of monarchy; that nothing can prevent it from continuing its deliberations in whatever place it may be forced to establish itself; and, finally, that wheresoever its members are assembled, there is the National Assembly;

Decrees that all members of this Assembly shall immediately take a solemn oath not to separate, and to reassemble wherever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established and consolidated upon firm foundations; and that, the said oath taken, all members, and each one of them individually shall ratify this resolution by signature.



Jacques-Louis David,  
final preparatory sketch for  
“The Tennis Court Oath”  
(painting never finished)



Three Estates of Old-Regime France:

<i>First</i>	Clergy
<i>Second</i>	Nobility
<i>Third</i>	everybody else



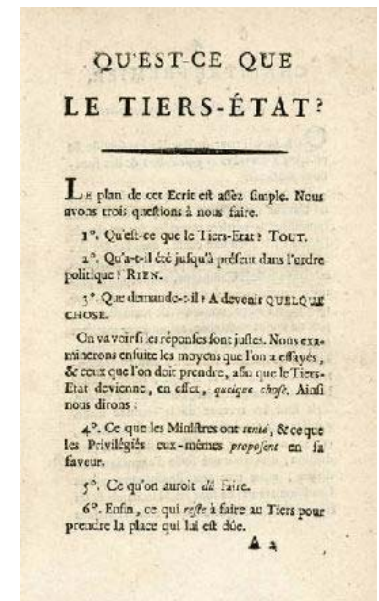
The Revolution and the making of modern France

# Sieyes, *What is the Third Estate?* (January 1789)

...privileged persons, far from being useful to the nation, cannot but enfeeble and injure it; ... the noble order does not enter at all into the social organization; it may indeed be a burden upon the nation, but that it cannot of itself constitute a nation.

In the first place, it is not possible in the nation to find a place for the caste of nobles. I know that there are countless individuals whom infirmities, incapacity, incurable laziness, or the weight of bad habits render strangers to the labors of society. ... The worst possible arrangement of all would be where not just isolated individuals, but a whole class of citizens should take pride in remaining motionless in the midst of the general movement, and should consume the best part of the product without bearing any part in its production. Such a class is surely estranged from the nation by its indolence.

The noble order is not less estranged from the generality of us by its civil and political prerogatives.



# Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, August 1789

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights.  
Social distinctions may be founded only upon the general good.
2. The aim of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
3. The principle of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation. No body nor individual may exercise any authority which does not proceed directly from the nation.
4. Liberty consists in the freedom to do everything which injures no one else; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no limits except those which assure to the other members of the society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by law.

