CHAPTER 18 SECTION 1
THE ROAD TO THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
FRANCE
1. FRANCE IN 1789

- Massive UNEMPLOYMENT

- Rise in BREAD PRICES cause PEASANTS to take up arms and protest.
2. A DIVIDED SOCIETY

• FIRST ESTATE: CLERGY that provided social services like HOSPITALS and SCHOOLS. PHILOSOPHES were critical of them because they did not tolerate all RELIGIONS.

• SECOND ESTATE: NOBLES, GENERALS, and LEADERS of the CHURCH. They did not pay TAXES.

• THIRD ESTATE: RURAL PEASANTS and the BOURGEOISIE (middle-class doctors and businessmen that lived in cities). They paid most of the TAXES.
FRENCH ESTATES

The First Estate

- It consisted of the Roman Catholic Clergy

Second Estate

- It consisted of the Nobles about 2% of the Population & owned 20% of the land

The Third Estate included

1) Bourgeoisie – wealthy Merchants & skilled workers
2) City Workers – poorly paid servants like cooks & attendance, etc... 
3) Peasants – 80% of the population were farmers

They had little rights & paid half of their Income in taxes
3. A BROKEN ECONOMY

- DECADES of DEFICIT SPENDING (when Gov’t spends more than it collects).
- 2 WARS: French and Indian, and helping U.S. during the American Revolution.
- LOUIS XVI is told by his FINANCIAL ADVISOR that France’s economy will fail unless the ROYAL COURT cuts spending and the NOBLES and CLERGY start paying TAXES.
LOUIS XVI
PALACE OF VERSAILLES
4. THE ESTATES GENERAL

• This was a MEETING called of REPRESENTATIVES from all 3 ESTATES to address France’s ECONOMIC woes.
• NOBLES were hoping to regain land taken from them by the CROWN.
• Each estate brought CAHIERS (list of complaints) some included: fair taxes, freedom of the press, and pay for apprentices.
5. THE TENNIS COURT OATH

• Third Estate (Peasants) wanted FULL SUFFRAGE, not just suffrage for land owners. When they do not get this, they form the NATIONAL ASSEMBLY and claim they REPRESENT the PEOPLE of FRANCE.

• When they are locked out of their meeting hall, they take over an INDOOR TENNIS COURT and take an OATH to never dissolve until FRANCE passes a CONSTITUTION.
TENNIS COURT OATH
6. STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

• On JULY 14th 1789 (BASTILLE DAY) there is a RUMOR that ROYAL TROOPS were going to OCCUPY PARIS (Bread Riots and Protests were happening).

• 800 people demanded that the guards of the BASTILLE hand over the ARSENAL of GUNS.

• A BATTLE ensued killing many protesters and 5 PRISON GUARDS, and the mob took over the prison.
THE BASTILLE