

RichMUNd II

The French Revolution: Ancien Régime

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Dear Delegates,

We are pleased to serve as your chairs for the committee of Ancien Regime. This committee is joint crisis, along with the committee of the National Assembly. The committee begins around the time period of 1787.

The French Revolution began during the rule of the Ancien Regime, and was due to the result of the economic failure after the Seven Year's War and the American Revolution. Beginning in 1787, Louis XVI's rule over France led to economic tensions rising within the country; Along with France suffering from a harvest crops loss. Both these tensions led to conflict struggles between upper and lower classes. This committee deals with the struggle between classes, and the new rising National Assembly held by the middle and lower class.

Topic 1 is the preventing of a revolution. Louis XVI calls for the Assembly of Notables, as ideas are discussed regarding tax and trade, there are multiple disputes on how to solve the financial crisis of the National Treasury. The Estates Generals are called upon, therefore needing the people to vote for representatives within each of the three estates. The committee attempts to resolve the conflict between all three classes, as well as preserve the economy within the country; as tensions rise there is anticipation to prevent a revolutionary outbreak, and appease the struggles through the meeting of the Estates Generals.

Topic 2 is on the Estates Generals. The Estate Generals consisted of three classes, the upper class, the middle class, and the lower class. France's population anticipated the arrival of the meeting of the Estate Generals, especially the lower class. It was popularly accepted that the meeting of the Estate Generals would create a voice for the lower class, and aid in the decline of their struggles. As the committee discusses the issue of bankruptcy within France, it also addresses the issues regarding the conflicts between the three classes and how the meeting of the Estate Generals will affect the struggle.

In committee, we are looking for diplomatic solutions to each crisis. It is important to work together in order to let the *Royaume de France* thrive and continue to exist, but you must undoubtedly achieve your personal agenda as well. By finding the balance known as compromise, we can ensure the prosperity of the King and the French Kingdom.

We are extremely excited to see you in committee. Best of luck with your research and feel free to contact us with questions at any time!

Best,

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Introduction

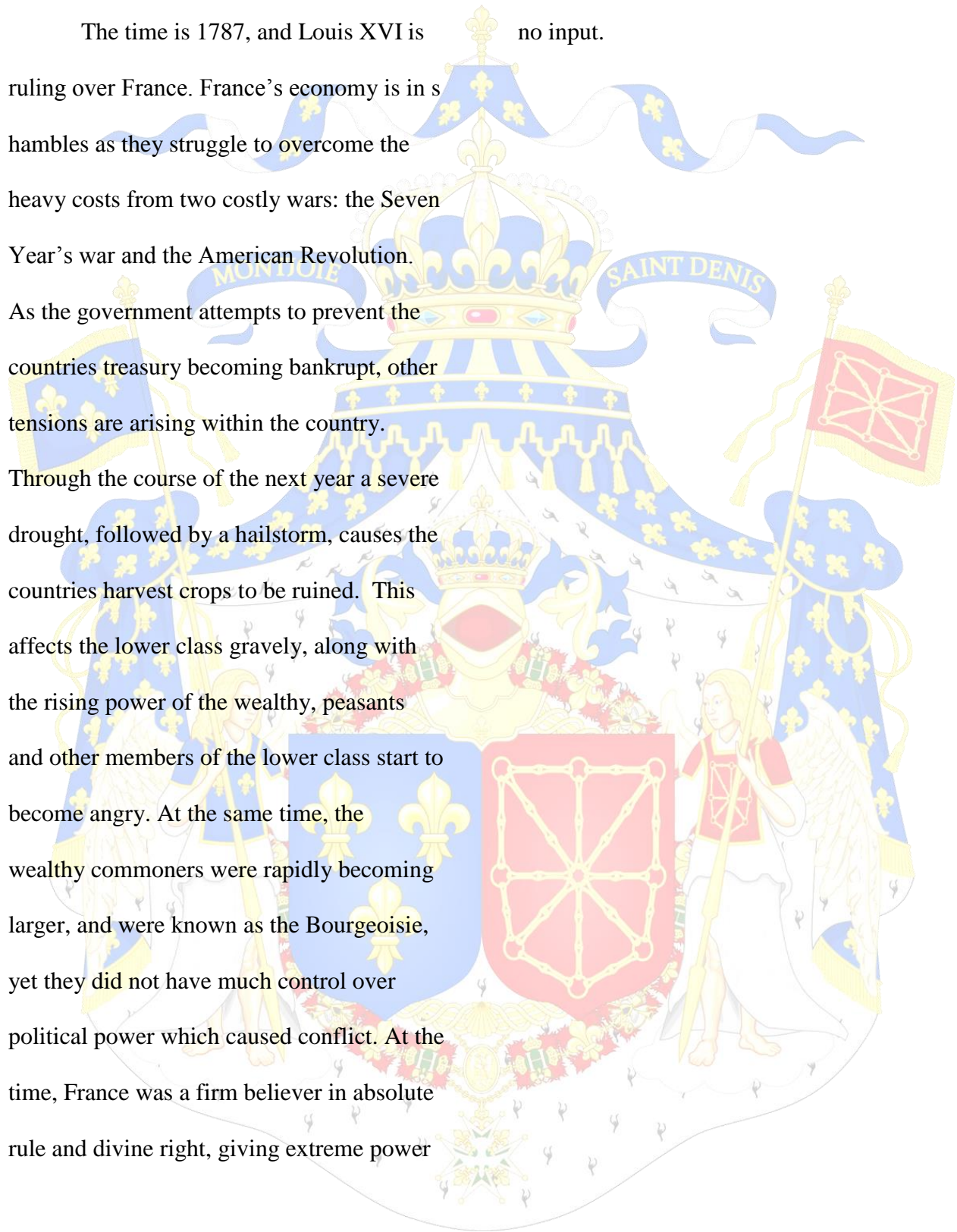
to royalty and leaving the commoners with

The time is 1787, and Louis XVI is ruling over France. France's economy is in shambles as they struggle to overcome the heavy costs from two costly wars: the Seven Year's war and the American Revolution.

As the government attempts to prevent the country's treasury becoming bankrupt, other tensions are arising within the country.

Through the course of the next year a severe drought, followed by a hailstorm, causes the country's harvest crops to be ruined. This affects the lower class gravely, along with the rising power of the wealthy, peasants and other members of the lower class start to become angry. At the same time, the wealthy commoners were rapidly becoming larger, and were known as the Bourgeoisie, yet they did not have much control over political power which caused conflict. At the time, France was a firm believer in absolute rule and divine right, giving extreme power

no input.



Topic One: Preventing Revolution

France was not only struggling with economic certainty, but class structure was rising as an issue in France, as society conflict began. As French citizens begin to form the idea of political freedom, determinations of the merchants, tradesmen, and other wealthy members begin to advance. As the economy was at a downfall, the Assembly of Notables was called upon by Charles- Alexandre de Calonne in order to handle the finances of the country. Charles-Alexandre de Calonne was a statesman who was born raised as the son of a magistrate. Charles-Alexandre de Calonne prompted major reform in France to recover the economy, and this was through taxation on noble land. The Assembly of Notables had last met in 1626, and the Assembly of Notables consisted of mostly noblemen, and a few members from the Bourgeoisie. Their main task at the next meeting was to discuss the taxation of the upper class, as Calonne

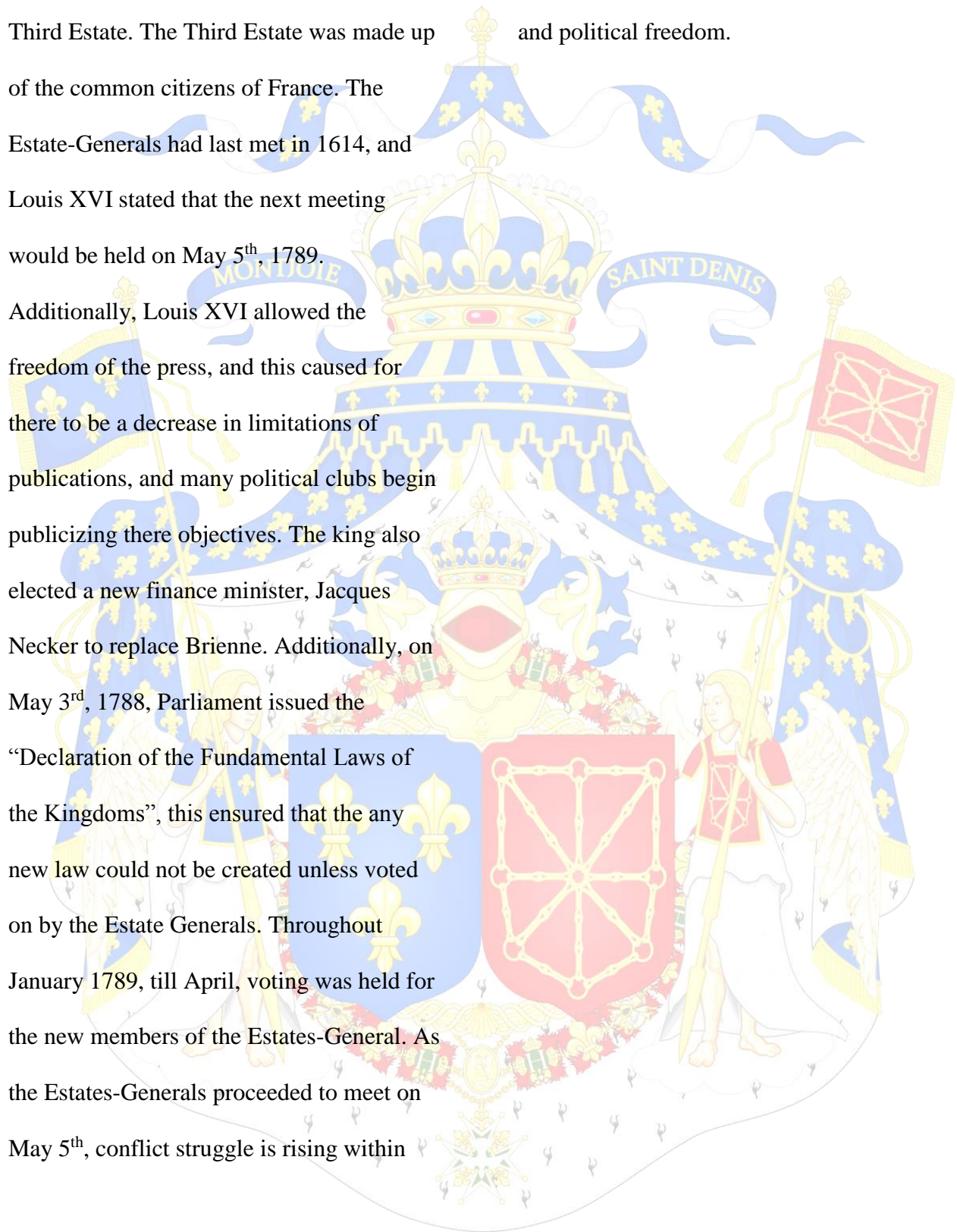
had submitted. Charles-Alexandre de Calonne suggested new reforms to decrease the budget, and this included higher taxes for the wealthier class. As the Assembly disagreed with Calonne's ideas of increasing taxes, a new minister was appointed in 1787, Étienne Charles de Loménie de Brienne. Brienne was in the position of the Director-General of Finance, and was previously a Churchman, being a doctor of theology. Brienne attempted to make new free trade and new assemblies, the Paris Parliament opposed Brienne's new ideas. As a result, Brienne requested Louis XVI to hold a lit de justice, which would enforce the free trade establishments, furthermore Brienne urged Louis XVI to dismiss the Parliament. Although these measures were taken in an attempt to build France's economy, there was a direct opposition between Parliament and Brienne. Therefore, Louis XVI called upon a meeting of the Estates-Generals. The Estates-Generals consisted of the three

classes: The Clergy, The Nobility, and The Third Estate. The Third Estate was made up

society as social classes fight over power and political freedom.

of the common citizens of France. The Estate-Generals had last met in 1614, and Louis XVI stated that the next meeting would be held on May 5th, 1789.

Additionally, Louis XVI allowed the freedom of the press, and this caused for there to be a decrease in limitations of publications, and many political clubs began publicizing their objectives. The king also elected a new finance minister, Jacques Necker to replace Brienne. Additionally, on May 3rd, 1788, Parliament issued the “Declaration of the Fundamental Laws of the Kingdoms”, this ensured that any new law could not be created unless voted on by the Estate Generals. Throughout January 1789, till April, voting was held for the new members of the Estates-General. As the Estates-Generals proceeded to meet on May 5th, conflict struggle is rising within



Topic Two: Estates-General

The King, along with his ministers,

On May 5th, 1789, the King (King Louis XVI) the Estates General met at the Palace of Versailles to find a solution to the bankruptcy problem. The Estates-General had not met since 1614. Over 1,200 representatives of the three estates- clergy, nobility, and commoners- assembled and discussed the matter at hand in front of the King. The first estate comprised of the clergy, the second of the nobility, and the third of the commoners (in other words the lower classes). This meeting was extremely important, especially to the poorest people who wished to have their voices heard by the King. These poor commoners were excited; they believed their voices were finally going to be heard and that change would soon follow. The third estate made up the majority of the crowd during the meeting.

tried to end forced labor and establish judicial reforms. The King and his advisors wanted to alter the French tax system. Jacques Necker believed that taxing everyone would be the solution to the political crisis; he wanted the approval of the Estates-General. The plan was to tax everyone in France, ignoring the estate from which they were from. At the time, the third estate was the only estate subject to taxes. The clergy was in charge of education while the nobility was responsible for the land. The King's plans, however, were rejected by the nobility. The nobility regarded the King as ill-advised; they disagreed with almost everything the King wanted to do with the country. Tensions grew between the King, the nobility, the clergy, and the commoners.

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