



FRENCH REVOLUTION

Long answer

Question 1

Describe the structure of French society during the late 18th century.

Answer: French society in the late 18th century was divided into three estates. The First Estate consisted of the clergy, who owned about 10% of the land and were exempt from many taxes. The Second Estate comprised the nobility, about 2% of the population, who held large estates and enjoyed privileges like tax exemptions and high offices. The Third Estate, making up 98% of the population, included peasants, artisans, and the bourgeoisie. They bore the tax burden, had limited rights, and faced economic hardships, leading to widespread discontent that fueled the French Revolution.

Question 2

Explain the role of the Third Estate in French society during the late 18th century.

Answer: The Third Estate, comprising 98% of France's population, was the backbone of the economy but lacked political power. It included diverse groups like peasants, who worked the land and paid heavy taxes; artisans, who faced economic instability; and the bourgeoisie, educated merchants and professionals who sought reform. Despite their contributions through labor and taxes, they had minimal representation in the Estates-General, leading to resentment against the privileged First and Second Estates. Their grievances sparked the revolutionary movement in 1789.

Short answer

Question 1: What is a subsistence crisis, and why did it occur in France during the late 18th century?

Answer: A subsistence crisis is a situation where the basic means of survival, especially food, become scarce, leading to widespread hunger. In late 18th-century France, it occurred due to poor harvests caused by bad weather, rising population increasing food demand, and inadequate agricultural techniques. High food prices, coupled with heavy taxation on the Third Estate, made bread unaffordable, worsening poverty and fueling social unrest.

Question 2: What were the effects of the subsistence crisis on the French population in the late 18th century?

Answer: The subsistence crisis caused widespread starvation and malnutrition among the Third Estate, especially peasants and urban poor, as bread prices soared due to poor harvests. It led to social unrest, including food riots, as people struggled to afford basic necessities. The crisis deepened resentment against the monarchy and privileged estates, pushing the population toward revolutionary actions in 1789.

Picture-based question



Q: The image above depicts a key moment from the French Revolution.

Which event is shown, and why was it significant in the outbreak of the revolution?

ANS . The image shows the **Storming of the Bastille** on **July 14, 1789**. This event is significant because it marked the beginning of the **French Revolution**. The Bastille was a symbol of the king's absolute power and tyranny. Its fall demonstrated the people's resistance against oppression and inspired further revolutionary activities across France.