

Name: _____ Date: _____

The French Revolution

Q1. What were the economic causes of the French Revolution?

Ans. _____

Q2. How was the taxation responsible for the French revolution?

Ans. _____

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Q1. What were the economic causes of the French Revolution?

Ans. The economic conditions that led to the French Revolution were as follows:

1. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France.
2. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes.
3. French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, and only members of the third estate paid taxes.
4. The population of France rose rapidly which led to a rapid increase in the demand for food grains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread rose rapidly.
5. Wages of the workers did not keep pace with the rise in prices. This led to a subsistence crisis.

Q2. How was the taxation responsible for the French revolution?

Ans. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes. French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, and only members of the third estate paid taxes. The members of the first two estates, that is, the clergy and the nobility, enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these was exemption from paying taxes to the state. The Church too extracted its share of taxes called tithes from the peasants, and finally, all members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state. These included a direct tax, called taille, and a number of indirect taxes which were levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco. The burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the third estate alone. This is how the taxation policy was responsible for the French revolution.