



Reasons Why the French Revolution Was Unavoidable

Most people don't know it, but during the French Revolution, the number of executions could reach forty thousand cases (1). Indeed, this period of French history was turbulent, causing radical reforms in social, economic, and political spheres. The reign of noblemen ended, making room for new democratic movements.

Indeed, the dissatisfaction in the society snowballed and avalanched in revolutionary form. In this essay, I will prove that the French Revolution should have happened sooner or later due to several conditions.

First, France experienced an economic crisis in the late eighteenth century for quite some time. This condition was crucial because the poorest categories suffered the most. Although the country had almost a thirty-million population and triple the British GDP (2), some unfavorable conditions led to poverty and starvation. Bad harvests, overseas wars, and rising prices naturally caused resentment among the population.

Secondly, there was a striking inequality between the Three Estates of French society. At that time, most of the power and resources belonged to the Church and the aristocracy, which left scraps for the peasants. Nobles lived the most opulent lifestyle imaginable, while the poorest carried the most considerable tax burden, called *taille* (3). Considering that people didn't expect the situation to improve anytime soon, they finally decided to take action.

Eventually, the French Revolution happened because of ideas of enlightenment. Most famous philosophers like Voltaire emerged in France. They were spreading revolutionary notions about human rights and democracy. With time, reading anything besides the Bible became trendy (3). So, the radical thoughts spread in high-society salons and then infected the larger masses that strived for change.

Considering all the premises, it is safe to say that the French Revolution was unavoidable. Undoubtedly, there were valid social, economic, and cultural reasons for the change. Overall, background analysis helps to understand why certain historical events take place.



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