



# The French Revolution in pictures



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## Colophon

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Most black and white pictures are replaced by coloured. Some are replaced by others.

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# Introduction

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This collection of historical sources provides several possibilities for research by students:

## **Potentiality 1:**

The images of chapter 1 give students the opportunity to look into the causes of the French Revolution:

- The causes mentioned in the students textbook can be tested against the collection of images in chapter 1. The following questions can be used as the starting point:
  - 1 Which causes mentioned in the textbook do you recognize in which images?
  - 2 Which other possible causes do you find in these images?
- The students can also search for causes independent of their textbook. For instance, they can distinguish between types of causes, such as:
  - 1 Direct causes and indirect causes (or circumstances that contributed to)
  - 2 Causes of more or less importance

## **Potentiality 2:**

The images of both chapters, or a part of them (to be determined by the teacher or student):

- can be checked against the description of the course of the French Revolution in the textbook: which image is best for which part of the text?
- Or, based on the historical survey in the textbook, (groups of) students can search for, for example, one or two best fitting images per section or subsection.

## **Potentiality 3:**

Teachers can make or let their students make a selection of images from certain points of view. A few examples:

- The role of women in the French Revolution
- The French Revolution and other countries
- Supporters and opponents of the Revolution in France
- Selecting according to the viewpoint of the artist

# 1 Causes of the French Revolution



1

*Title:* 'The budget deficit'

*Artist:* Unknown

*Original:* English print from 1788, Photothèque des Presses de la Cité et Jérôme da Cunha

Nobility and clergy disappear with the contents of the treasury. The Minister of Finance, Calonne, tells King Louis XVI, he does not know where the money went.



**2**

*Title:* The Third Estate bears the French monarchy

*Artist:* Unknown

*Original:* Engraving 1789 Musée Carnavalet

The artist believes that the French monarchy (the lily on the orb is the symbol of the French royal house of Bourbon) is not borne by nobility and clergy, but by the people (the shovel and grain basket symbolize the working population, especially the peasants).



**3**

*Title:* 'In the past, the most useful were trampled' (First and Second Estate crush the Third Estate)

*Artist:* Unknown

*Original:* French cartoon from 1789, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Paris

This cartoon, the first in a series of two, draws the state of affairs during the Ancien Régime. The nobility and the clergy crush the Third Estate under heavy loads and taxes, while they themselves are not subject to tax. On the stone is written 'Taille, Impôts et Corvées'. The taille was a direct land tax; impôts means taxes and Corvées were services that farmers performed for nobility and clergy without compensation.