

# The French Revolution

ILLUSTRATED THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

France must preserve the gains of the Revolution without slipping into bloody anarchy and chaos..

The Feillant's Newspaper

Tuesday, November 25, 1791

Price : Free

## For Passive Citizen Distinction

*A constitutional monarchy for and with the people*

- Jean-Sylvain Bailly

Now that a few legislations have been passed by the National Assembly and sanctioned by the king, the revolution looks clearer every time more. As discussed in my previous article, a constitutional monarchy is the most favorable course France can possibly take. This is because not only, it keeps some of our most important traditions alive, but also, it allows us to include someone with the experience to rule into the government since the National Assembly has too much unchecked power.

Now, that we have a constitutional monarchy that has been passed in one session of the National Assembly, the terms of the monarchy should be discussed. First of all, some misconceptions about this model should be clarified: a constitutional monarchy does not mean that the king is useless nor does it mean that the king will have unchecked power. We have to take into account our French citizens because their will also matters. According to a previously established legislation, the king would only have the power to make a suspensive veto, appoint ministers, and suggest legislation to the National Assembly.

However, as I just mentioned above, what about the people? How is it that they're going to be put into consideration?

I'm conscious that having a constitutional monarchy requires a lot of changes and a lot of compromise from both sides: the monarchy and the citizens. Some might argue that this will leave France in shambles, some might say it's for the best of the nation. I insist on there being change for a reason: keeping the monarchy will anger the people because they will believe that nothing will change if the same, old monarchy is perpetuated. As a faction that represents a portion of the people, you should



consider that change is what this country needed, and change is what the country got. If the spilling of French blood in French territory does not scream for change, then I do not know what does. This is where the Jacobins might show discontent: they might argue that the change that the country is undergoing is not enough, but one must then take into account that people are not used to extreme change; homeostasis is comfortable, and people enjoy comfort. Because of this, sudden and intense change is difficult to adapt to.

After war unraveled in French soil, it became clear that people wanted change, but if our past were completely destroyed as I mentioned in my previous article, the revolution would have to disregard the very past that brought them to rebel. This being said, one of the most important changes, not only for the people, but especially the monarchy would be the fact that passive citizens must be distinguished as people with full rights and duties.

I'm conscious that our French nation has been terribly divided between passive and active citizens. And what have we done about it? Nothing. We have left the wealthy people take control over the right of others, just because they have tangible interests towards the nation. But what about the other 29 million citizens who's rights were taken away and live consequently due to decisions made by others?

I refer now to you, whom they decided to call passive citizens, don't let them do that anymore. Don't let them exclude you from your political right, because every citizen has a right to participate personally, or through his representative, in its formation. It must be the same for all, whether it protect or punishes. All the citizens, being equal in its eyes, are equally admissible to all public dignities, places, and employments, according to their capacity and without distinction other than that of their virtues and of their talents. Don't misunderstand me if I say we were being benefited by the people who were substantially property owners, however you women, slaves, children, and foreigners should not be called passive citizens anymore.

You are members of a nation and as a member of it you have the right to express yourselves and to claim what is also yours. I want you to feel recognized and part of a country that is willing to work together to progress.

Because of this, the figure of the king takes this role as a person that is raised to bring wisdom into the whole population. Going back to my past statement regarding the constitutional monarchy, which is crucial for the recognition of everyone, the king, having the knowledge of kings before him, can examine what decisions must be made for the greater good and will foment wise thinking by contributing the knowledge of the past in current arguments held by cabinets and assemblies represented by people from all over the nation.

John Locke once said: whenever law ends, tyranny begins. Let's not let this happen people of France; I implore you to raise your voice and exert your right to vote. Because France is not build up with 4 million wealthy people, France is build up with all of us. Let's not make them tear us down, we started the revolution for a reason, lets this reasons represent all who we are and the French nation we want to forge. By this means, a constitutional monarchy would appease the masses crying for change while checking itself for unhinged change that removes the bases for the country. If the Revolution wishes to make beneficial changes, then we must come together and realize that the power of a king has to be checked by some sort of constitution.

Then, we must realize that if the will of the people – the general will is truly what a government must adhere to, then the general will should be present in each branch of the government.

People of France: I implore that you pay attention to what happens in the National Assembly, because the future of France lies in our hands. Take into account that non-violent protests are the best way to have us hear your voice; if you disagree with the decisions being made in the National Assembly, civil discussion will make your message come through. It has been to long since the government asked for the will of the people and that must change as our country changes; conversations must be held between civilians, representatives, and figures of authority;

# Abolition of Slavery

*Retain slavery in Saint-Domingue*  
-Antoine Barnave

In 1791, the act of slavery was one that should have been kept in the mind of Barnave. Many people may have warned him about the consequences that may go along with it, but Barnave wanted to keep the slavery in tact in Saint-Domingue. Antoine wrote a letter explaining as to why they should keep the slavery, which will be talked about more later on. In the end, it can look either really good for Barnave, or it can look like he made one of the biggest mistakes of his life.

Many people may not stand with the fact that I want to keep slavery, but it is the thought that I have that would allow people to have a rule

under the government that will allow people to have their voices heard. It will allow the people to be free from France a little bit and have their own sense of freedom. Everyone will still follow the rule of the King, but if we can maintain the voice of slavery to have people be in control as well, then that would be the best option that would work in 1791. I gave a speech on this in the Colonial Committee on this topic for the National Assembly. The words that I said in this matter were, "public security and humanity itself would offer insurmountable obstacles to what your hearts might have inspired in you [the abolition of the slave trade or slavery itself]" (Speech). In this speech, I am in the middle of saying that people do

not have their voices heard enough and that this may be a way that they can get their voices heard, even though their hearts may have never desired to say it before. People should have a voice that should be heard by everyone, including the king. This would allow for a much smoother world and life for everyone to live. Everyone still gets paid and nobody gets hurt, which is the main goal in the end. We do not want to be in full control by the government anymore. Slavery is not even that big of a topic for many people to worry about in the end of the day that would not allow people to sleep at night. People knew that the thought of abolition of slavery is not a good idea considering the fact that it was not that idealistic. "Leaders tended to adopt a conservative church-and-king rhetoric and express contempt for those they called "lescitoyens,"

which complicates considerably the question of their relationship to the French "Revolution" (Geggus). With the way that the church-and-king style would work is that there is an equal say between the people and the government. If everything gets put to one side instead of the other, then it will create controversy all over the land, and that would make more people upset compared to if we retain the slavery in Saint-Domingue. Everyone should deserve a say in what happens in the world, and nobody should be the only person to have all the control in the end. I am not saying to get rid of the King fully, though. The King should still have a little bit of power, but the people should also have a little bit of say in what needs to happen in the world so that everyone will be happy. People do not want to live a life where they need to be told every second what to do and how to live their lives by one person

it is this constant cycle of conversation that promotes the spreading of the general will onto us all. As mentioned by Rousseau, the true general will never be harmful to the people because it is a will formulated by the people.

As our writing of the Constitution comes to an end, I ask you all to give feedback to the new government rather than raising up in arms because one cannot expect a newborn to be perfectly adapted to the new environment to which it is born. This new government will require constant communication from its people in order to ensure that the established legislature is not only ideal but reasonable; a Constitution written by angels may be perfect but it is not fair to judge men by those same laws. It is with this final note that I express my wishes to the French: may France be led into a new age of liberty, equality, and fraternity through the joint efforts of every Frenchman and Frenchwoman!

If everyone can have a voice in what happens, then the civilization there will be more controlled and will not have as many problems as it may have now. If the world can be a natural place where everyone can have a voice, then the slavery part of things will be easy to manage.

but for a voice in what these rights will be. That is why it is very important that this new constitution is passed. By passing this new constitution the people of the Third Estates will get to have a say in how they are governed. They won't be deprived of their rights and will not feel neglected by their king. Already in the Preamble the Third Estate is abolished. Not in a negative way, but in a way that empowers the people. "What is the Third Estate? It is the whole," (Sieyes, 111). What is this country without its people?

And when the majority of the country, "nineteen-twentieths of them [the people]," (Sieyes, 109), falls into this categorization, the country as a whole needs to be courteous towards this group. The constitution that the National Assembly is writing will give everyone an equal chance to rise and be heard. According to the preamble, public officials are the only people with superiority, and even then it is only in the environment of their functions. There is no more nobility, no more people with more say than the rest. A previous member of the Third Estate will be given equal say as a previous member of the First Estate.

Old rankings will not matter when taking the government into consideration.

Title I of the Constitution will allow the Third Estate to get rights that they were not given before. "Is it not evident that the noble order has privileges and expenditures which it dares to call its rights, but which are apart from the rights of the great body of citizens?" (Sieyes, 110). It has been evident that The First and Second Estate were always given more rights and abilities in life. But now, people can rise to offices, based on their talents and skills. The people will not be confined to the roles their parent had. New opportunities will be given to everyone. This is important as it gives everyone rights that they deserve. People are fighting to be heard and have a voice, people are dying for a chance to better the lives of future generations. This constitution will make

sure these people are heard and that they did not die in vain.

As with any country, there is an importance to the economics behind their success. Selling the churches lands has kept France from bankruptcy, and to keep the country surviving as it is, there needs to be funds for the future. This requires an equal tax, a tax that may take money away from a person but give it to the people. A tax is required to allow the country to prosper. This tax may seem unfair to the people, but it will ensure a stable government, a stable country that will allow everyone to begin with a new prosperity.

This constitution would allow the people to get free speech, the ability to speak their minds and have a say in how their country is run. People can speak for what they believe in and encourage the mutual acceptance of an idea. Anyone could be elected to be the voice of the people.

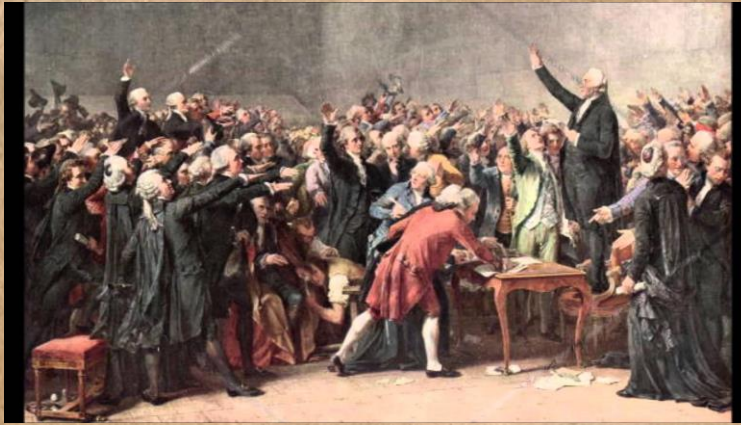


# The People in the Constitution

Our country is being re-written. People are getting a chance to be heard and not just sit in a poverty stricken city hoping to make it to their next meal, wherever that may come from. It is at times like these where the people's voices need to be heard. Not just for our rights,

•Free speech does not equate to violence though. Just because there is free speech does not mean that public order is to be deranged. The people can be heard without beheadings and slaughter. This means that meetings must be in peace, even if there is disagreeing. The disagreeing can be made without violence. If violence erupts, it will not end well for either side. Police have the right to execute the laws that are given to the people. If order is kept, it will end well for both sides as a peaceful discussion can take place to make both sides happy.

The constitution builds upon itself. With the passing of it, it starts new opportunities for everyone. People need to accept this constitution, as it will give them their freedom of voice and speech, allow their new government to begin to grow, and allow people to rise to new standings that were not believable before the new constitution.



Elections will begin to take place, and these elections will allow anyone to prosper and rise in class. Only the people that are seen to best fit the role and help the country, and therefore the people, will be elected to these roles. The king will also not be able to dissolve the Legislative power, which guarantees the voice of the people will be heard. This constitution is needed for the benefits of the people. The majority of the people are in this Third Estate. This being said, they have a vast group of people that are not just confined to farming and the basics of a society;

the amount that this group could amount to exceeds the prejudice against them. “Who then shall dare to say that the Third Estate has not within itself all that is necessary for the formation of a complete nation?” (Sieyes, 110). The skills found within the majority of the population are enough to run a country on its own. Giving these people a vote and a say in the governing of the country will allow the country to prosper and become so much greater than it is. The Constitution of 1791 will allow the people of the Third Estate to receive the rights that they

deserve so that they can prosper in life. The equality of the people, despite where they come from or their previous class, is important to allow the country the chance to grow. So many voices are hidden in the Third Estate, and by passing the constitution and abolishing this social class ranking, it allows the people a new chance to be heard by everyone.

