

# HIST 202 - ROYALTIES AND REVOLUTIONS: PRE-MODERN TO MODERN WORLDS

Discussion Readings and Focus Questions for:

## Unit III:

### The French Revolution: Destruction of the Old World

#### A. The Third Estate Awakens

Document Readings - on Blackboard (.pdf)

Abbé Emmanuel Sieyès, from *What is the Third Estate?*

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen (.pdf)

#### Questions:

1. How does Sieyès define the 3<sup>rd</sup> Estate?
2. How does he define a nation?
3. Where would the monarchy, the Church and the nobility fit into this view?
4. How powerful/persuasive do you find Sieyès' tone and argument? In your view, how could this be "revolutionary?"
5. What "revolutionary" elements contained in the "Declaration of the Rights of Man/Citizen?" Is the Monarchy as we have seen it up to now effectively over?
6. Where does it locate "sovereignty" from now on?



#### B. Dismantling the System - Nobility and Clergy

Document Readings - on Blackboard (.pdf):

Decrees of the National Assembly - 11 August (.pdf)

Civil Constitution of the Clergy (.pdf)

#### Questions:

1. What does the Decree of August 11 say regarding hunting/keeping pigeons? What taxes are abolished?
2. What happens to seigneurial courts, tithes, privileges of different provinces, and the eligibility of Frenchmen to offices?

3. What does the Civil Constitution of the Clergy do to the French church? What happens to parish churches and church titles/offices?
4. How are bishops and parish priests (*curés*) chosen? Who provides their living? What power does the Pope now have in France?
5. What is the ultimate goal of the August Decrees and the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, as you see it? How do they demolish the old order?
6. What title does the Decree give Louis XVI? Did he earn it?



## C. The Death of the French Monarchy

### Document Readings – on Blackboard (.pdf):

Lynne Hunt, *“The Many Bodies of Marie-Antoinette: Political Pornography and the Problem of the Feminine in the French Revolution”* (.pdf)

Antoinette’s Last Letter (.pdf)

### Questions:

1. According to Lynne Hunt, what were the charges leveled against Antoinette by her judges?
2. What is the most shocking charge they level at her as a “bad mother?” Believable to them? To you?
3. Are there even more pornographic attacks on her character after 1789? What are they like?
4. What does Hunt say that the need to blacken Antoinette reveals about the Revolution and its view of feminine power?
5. What is on Antoinette’s mind in the letter written early on the morning of her execution? What is most important to her?
6. Do you get the sense Antoinette has learned anything at the end of her life at age 38? Do you think Louis and Antoinette deserved their ultimate fate? Why or why not?

