

Causes of the French Revolution

France was a powerful country with 29,000,000 people. It was ruled by King Louis the 16th who was known as the “Sun king”. He got his right to rule from God and not the people. This idea was called the “The divine right of kings”. Louis was an absolute ruler. This meant that he could do whatever he wanted, without consulting anyone. He lived in luxury in the palace of Versailles. He wasn't very confident and hated making decisions. He spent a lot of time making keys for locks or hunting. The ordinary people of France liked him but not his wife, Marie Antoinette, who loved clothes, jewellery and lived a high life.

France at this time was split into three different estates which were like three different political parties. The first estate contained the clergy and the catholic church. They owned one fifth of the land of France. They were super rich and paid no taxes but the ordinary people of France had to pay a tax called a “tithe” to them. The people resented this.

The second estate included 300,000 nobles. They all lived in chateaux's which were big country houses. Peasants paid feudal dues which were taxes to them and worked for them for nothing. The nobles like the clergy didn't