

Marie-Antoinette and the French Revolution (1787-1791)



Marie-Antoinette and politics: little to no influence until 1787

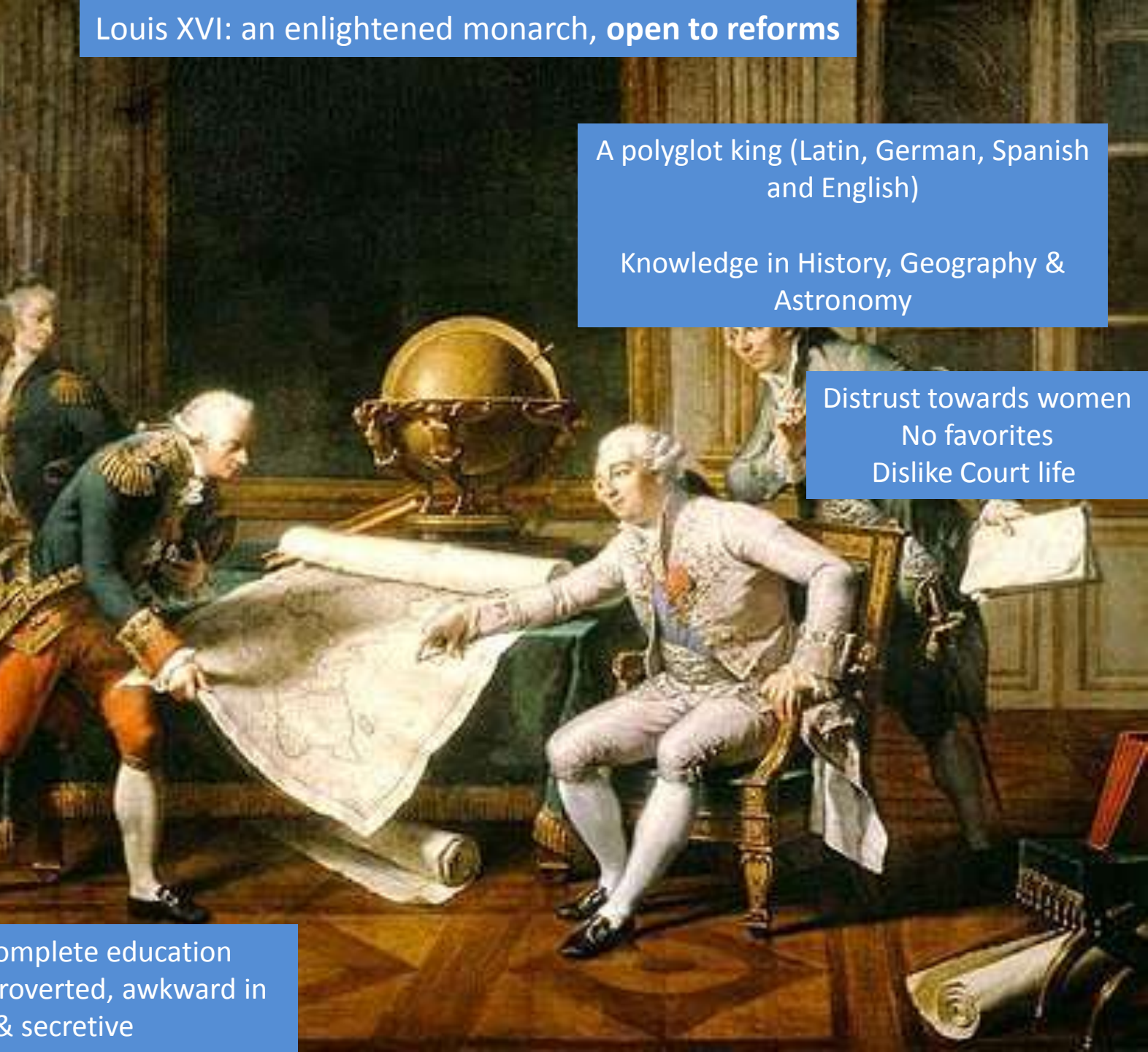


Louis XVI: an enlightened monarch, **open to reforms**

A polyglot king (Latin, German, Spanish and English)

Knowledge in History, Geography & Astronomy

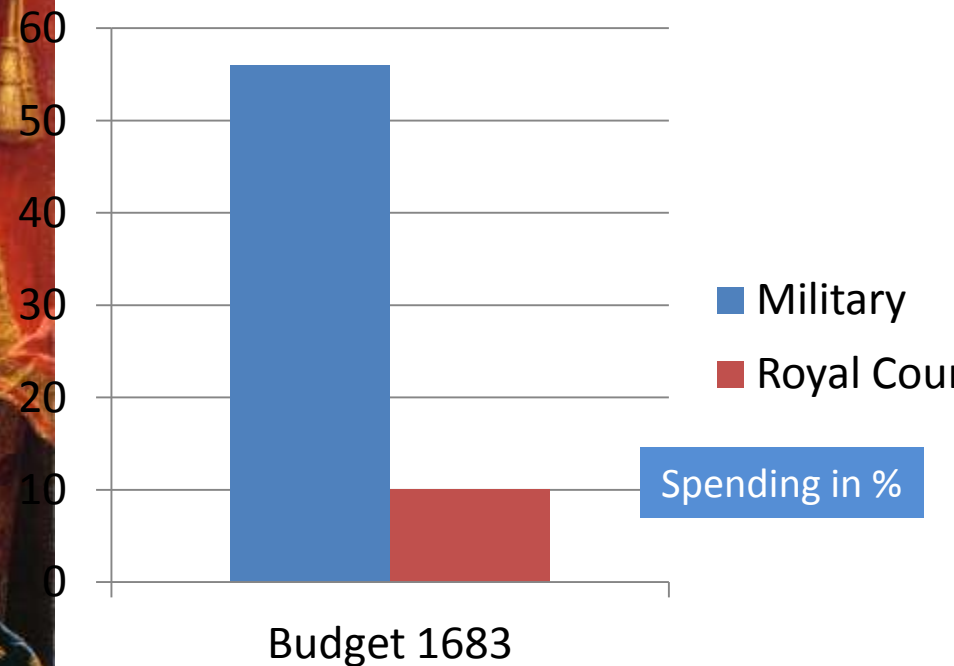
Distrust towards women
No favorites
Dislike Court life



A good but incomplete education
Extremely shy, introverted, awkward in public & secretive

A debt crisis spiralling **out of control** – The King's finances in a **desperate** state

1. A tax system way too **complex & unequal**
2. Widespread corruption
3. Wars (**the main cause**)



War: a **quasi-permanent phenomenon** in 17th century Europe
Taxes become permanent

The nobility & the clergy exempt
of most taxes

Nobles supposed to defend the
country

1445: King Charles VII grants nobles
the privilege of not paying the *Taille*
(oldest, heaviest & most humiliating
of taxes)



France's involvement in the American War of Independence (1776-1783)

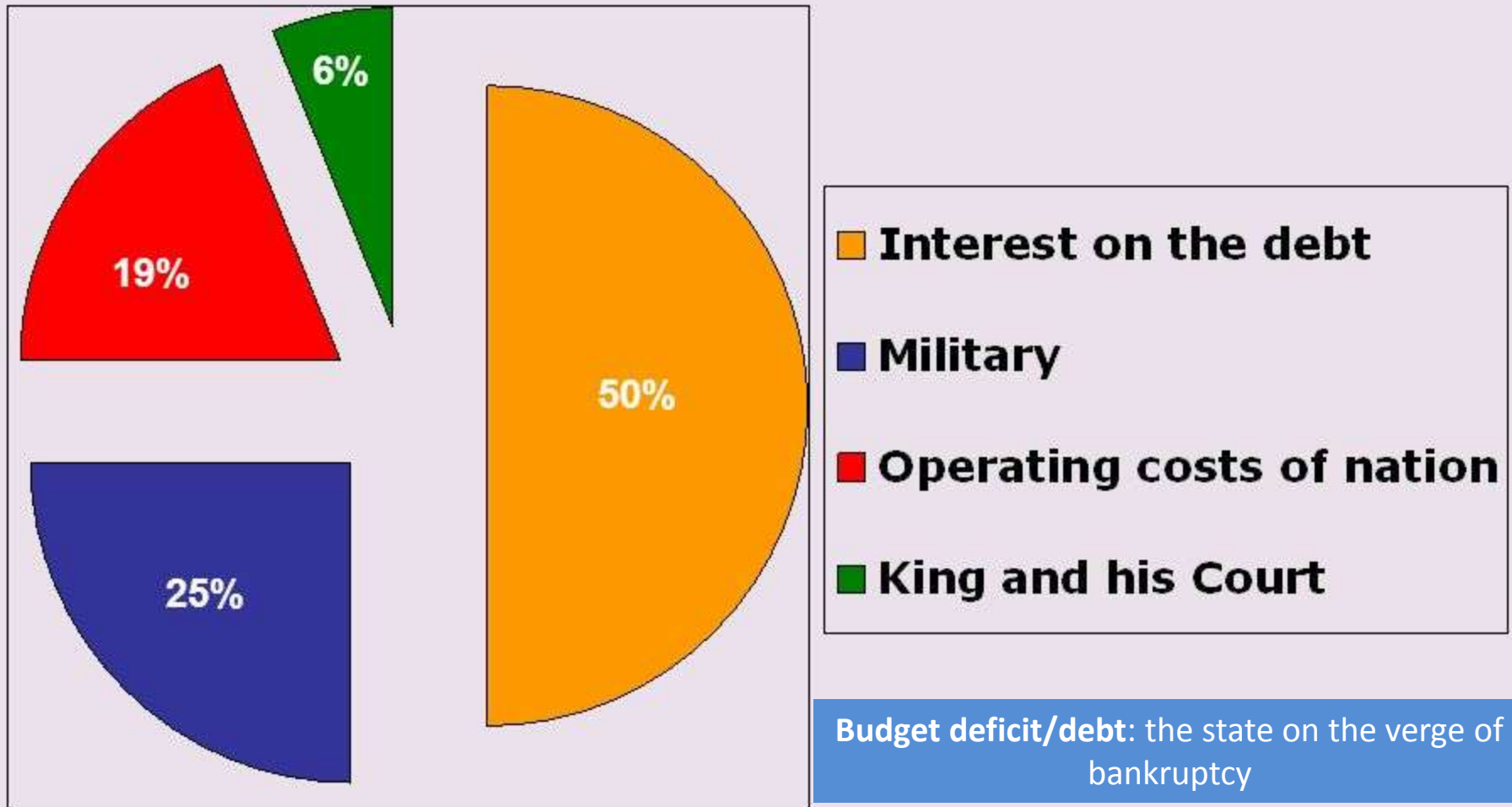
Victory over Great Britain = **renewed prestige**

BUT

A heavy financial burden for France (1.3 billion livres)



By 1788 the national budget broke down like this



A dangerous policy of **borrowing** rather than raising taxes to finance the war effort in America (500 million livres in 5 years)



Fiscal system made public for the first time
Royal pensions = 28 millions

Jacques Necker (1777-1781)

COMPTE RENDU AU ROI,

Par M. NECKER,
Directeur général des Finances.

An roi de Janvier 1781.

Imprimé par ordre de SA MAJESTÉ.



A PARIS,
DE L'IMPRIMERIE ROYALE.

M.DCC.LXXXI.

A 10 million surplus in “ordinary revenues”
Real cost of war NOT reported

Charles Alexandre de Calonne (Controller-General of Finances)
1783-1787

SPENDING (through more borrowing) to bring confidence back



The purchase of Saint-Cloud
(6 millions)

1786: Severe budget crisis
Bankruptcy is looming

Urgent need for reforms

26 August 1786: Calonne's "*plan d'amélioration des finances*": a revolution

A new land tax payable by **ALL** landowners: the end of fiscal exemptions to the nobility, clergy and crown lands

The new tax system to be administered by **provincial assemblies** (Local owners without social distinction)

HOW TO PREVENT THE PRIVILEGED ORDERS FROM OBSTRUCTING THE PLAN?

THE ASSEMBLY OF NOTABLES

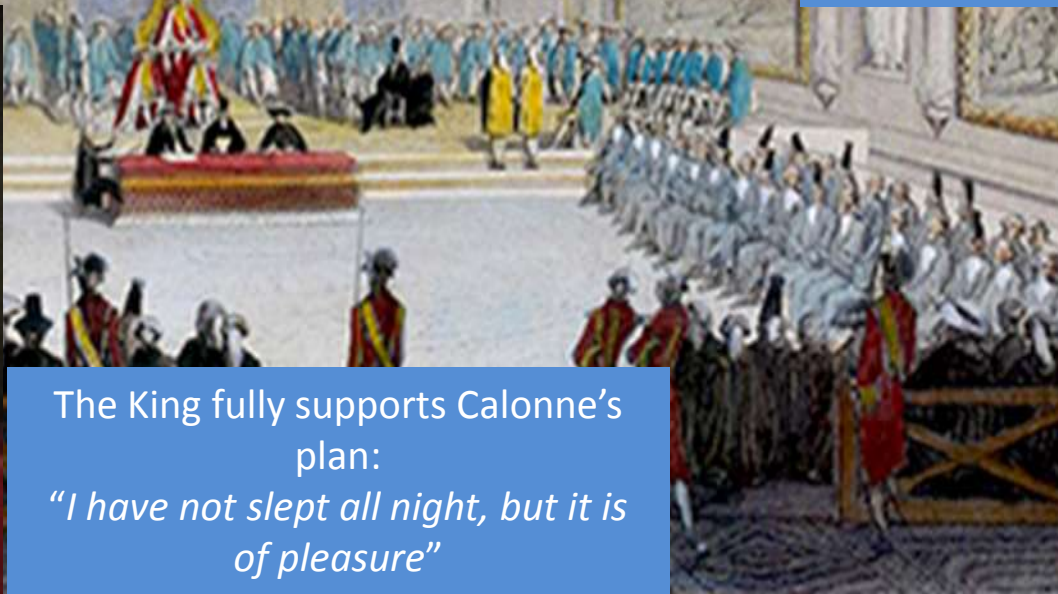
December 1786 – April 1787

22 February 1787: the Assembly's opening
144 members designated by the King & Calonne
(clergy, aristocracy & high-ranking judges)



Stiff opposition to reforms
Feudal system must remain
untouched

A permanent land tax unthinkable
Aristocratic “counter-revolution”



The King fully supports Calonne's
plan:

*“I have not slept all night, but it is
of pleasure”*



1 April 1787: the King appeals to the people
The king accused of "despotism"
8 April: Calonne dismissed

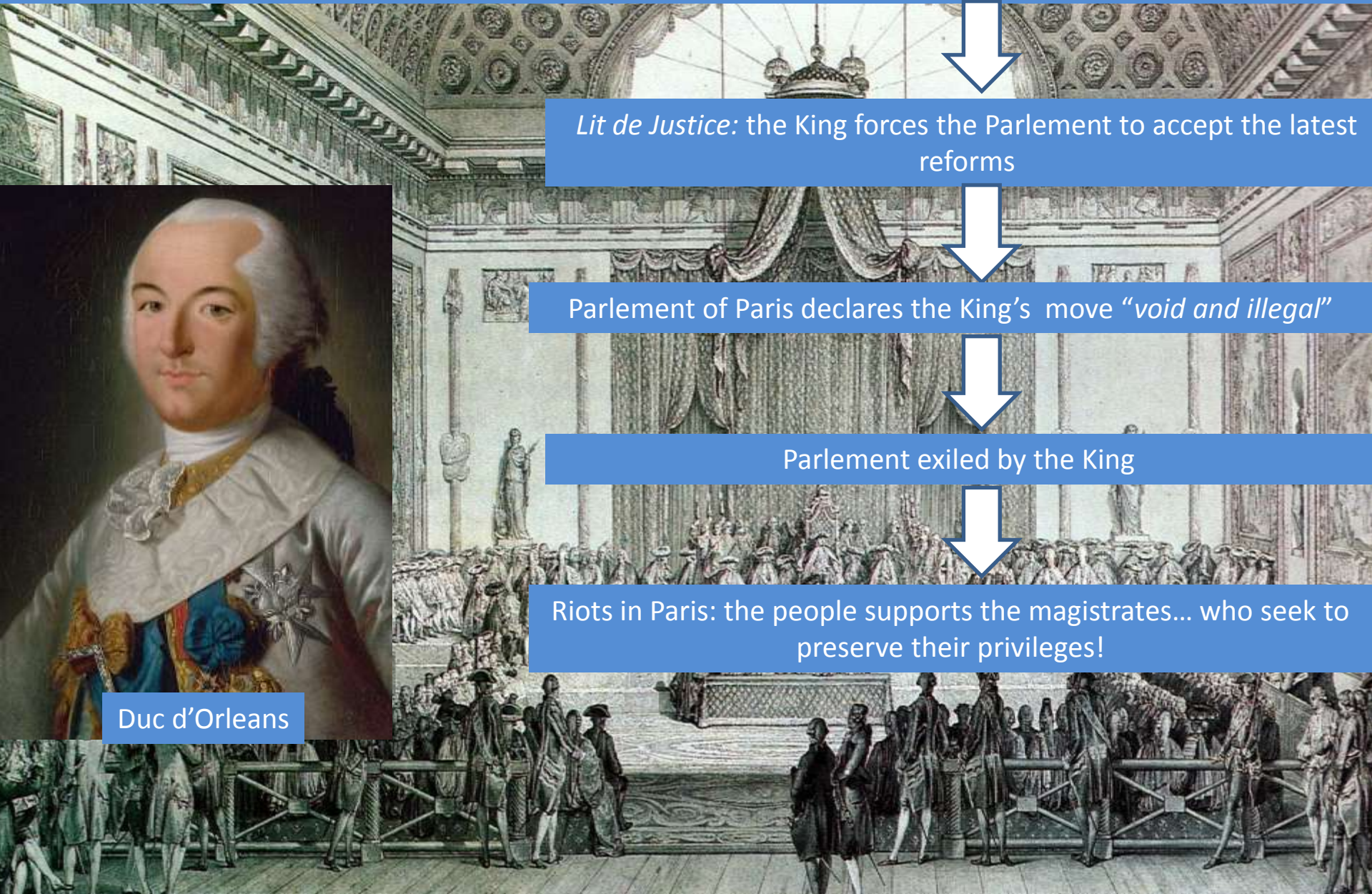


The King is discouraged and suffers from depression
"He trusts only the Queen and it appears that it is she who does everything"



The Queen's political role: Lomenie de Brienne (Calonne's principal opponent) appointed State Minister & Head of the Council of Finances

The *Parlement* of Paris (highest court of appeal) opposes the King
Brienne's reforms (to make Calonne's land tax temporary) rejected as "*contrary to the rights of
the nation*"



Lit de Justice: the King forces the Parlement to accept the latest reforms

Parlement of Paris declares the King's move "*void and illegal*"

Parlement exiled by the King

Riots in Paris: the people supports the magistrates... who seek to preserve their privileges!

Duc d'Orleans

May 1788: worsening financial situation – **Estates General** (consultative assembly composed of deputies representing the **three large social** categories) to be convened in 1789
December 1788: the royal council announces the Third Estate will have twice as many representatives

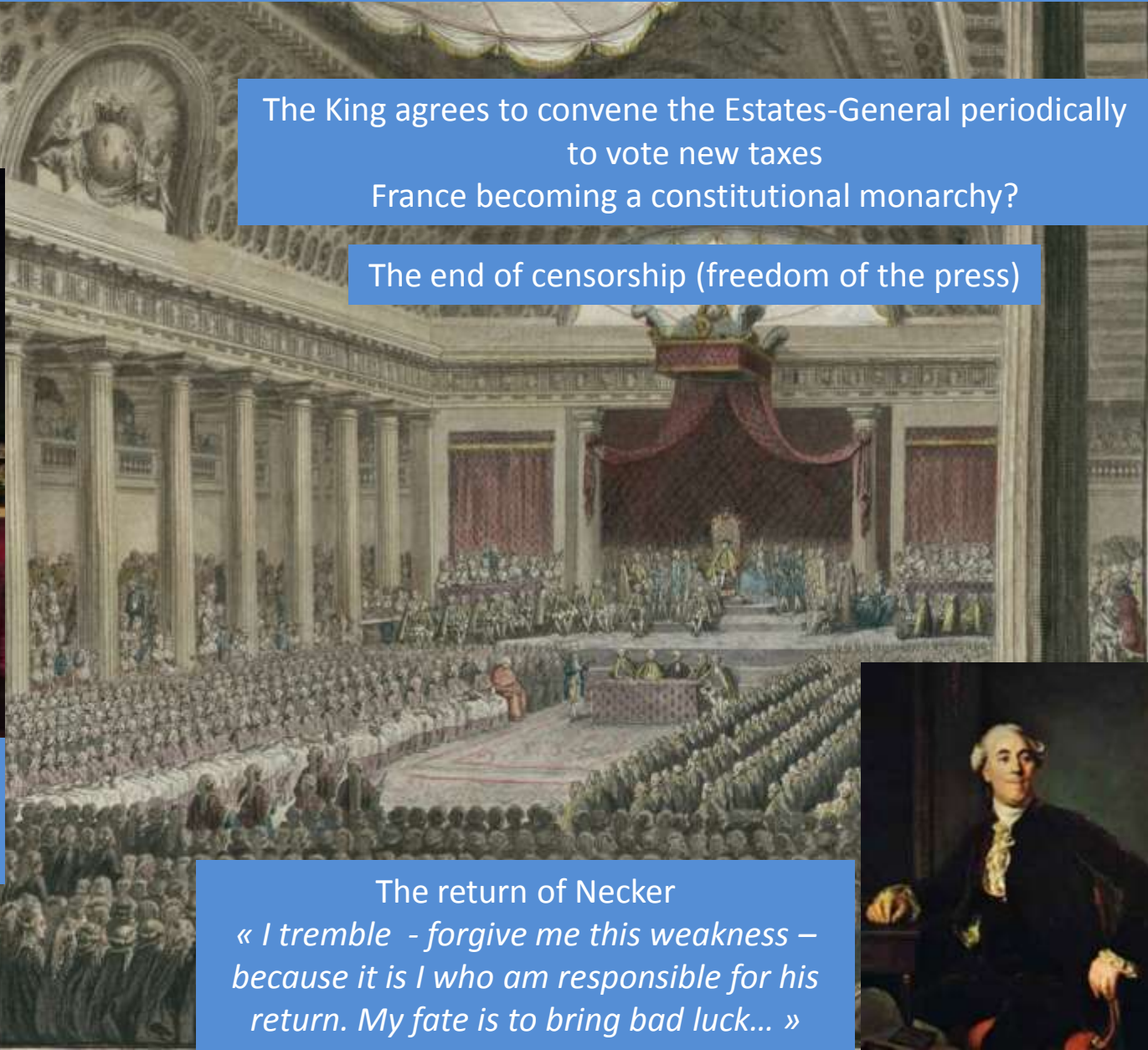
The King agrees to convene the Estates-General periodically to vote new taxes

France becoming a constitutional monarchy?

The end of censorship (freedom of the press)



"I am the queen of the Third Estate"
(Marie-Antoinette)



The return of Necker

« I tremble - forgive me this weakness – because it is I who am responsible for his return. My fate is to bring bad luck... »



A queen changed beyond recognition
Constant state of anguish – No support from royal family & friends
“Do you know a woman more to be pitied than me?”



4. avril 1789
Sealer

Le 24. 89

Cahier de Doleances
Plaintes & Remontrances des Habitans de la
paroisse de Saint Evêche de Courmoult

CAHIER

DE

DOLEANCES

De Messieurs les Députés, Négocians
& Avocats de la Ville de Mar-
seille.



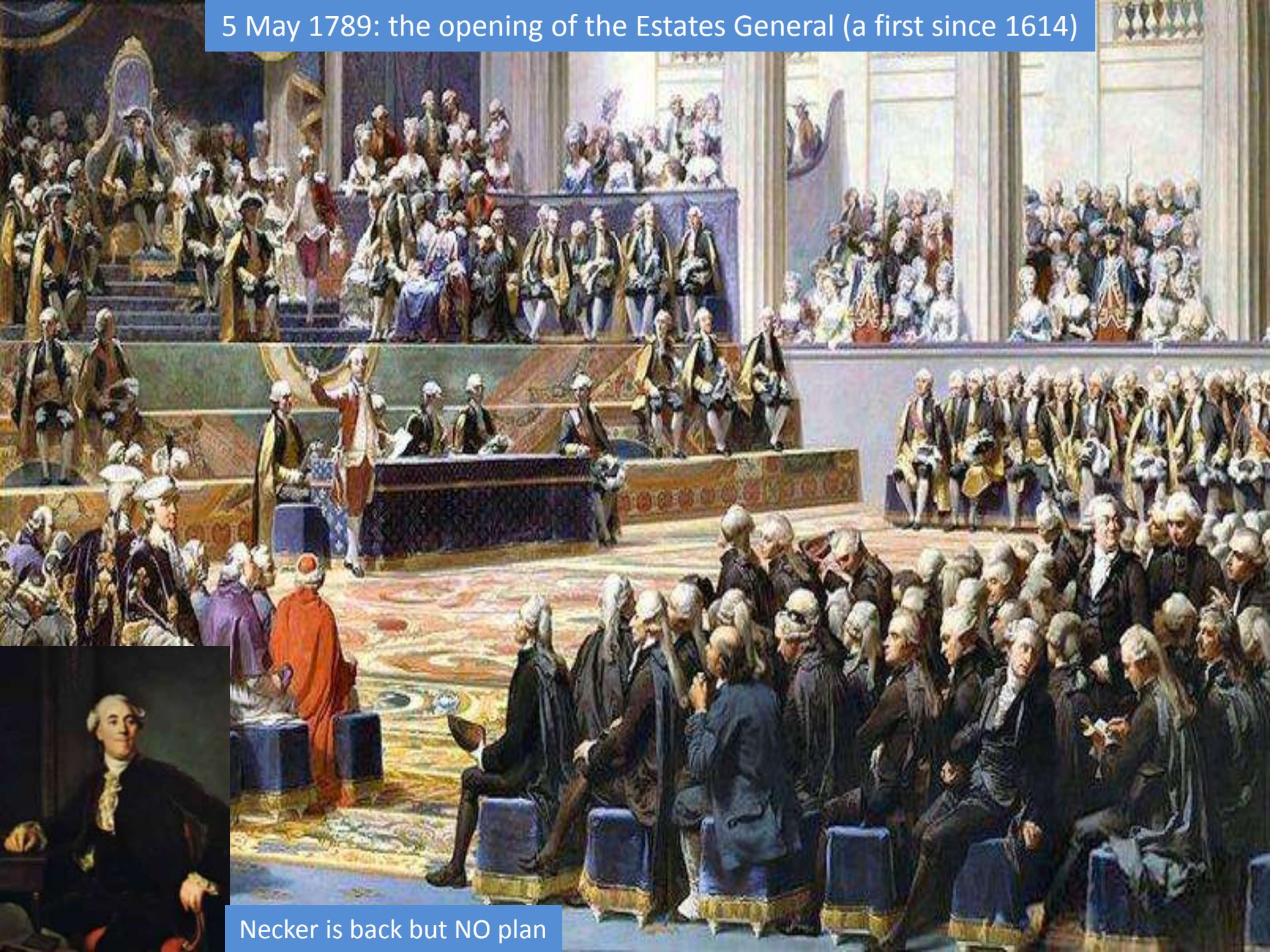
60 000 Cahiers de doleances (lists of grievances)

1. A republic not an option
2. Louis XVI much loved and trusted
3. A national representation to approve new taxes & loans
4. Taxation for all: the end of privileges

Alliance between the Crown and the Third Estate?

*De Mr. Delaurent Delabarre, Secrétaire
assistent aux Com. de la Ville*

5 May 1789: the opening of the Estates General (a first since 1614)



Necker is back but NO plan

4 June: the death of the Dauphin
The king irresponsible: vacuum of power

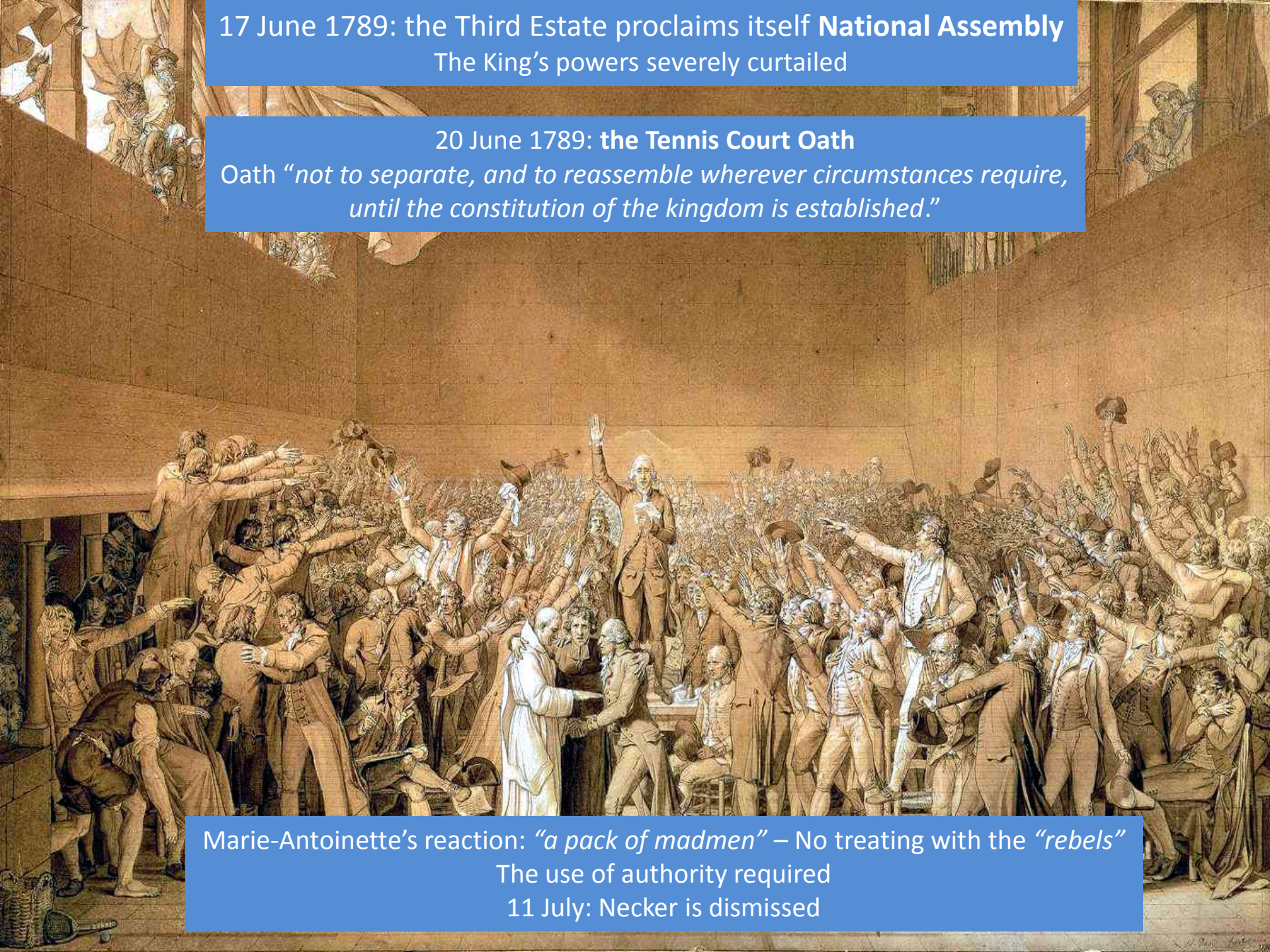


17 June 1789: the Third Estate proclaims itself **National Assembly**

The King's powers severely curtailed

20 June 1789: **the Tennis Court Oath**

Oath *"not to separate, and to reassemble wherever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established."*



Marie-Antoinette's reaction: *"a pack of madmen"* – No treating with the *"rebels"*
The use of authority required
11 July: Necker is dismissed



A monarch **desacralized** – His prerogatives to be discussed and decided by the Assembly

A new “contract” between a hereditary monarchy & a National Assembly

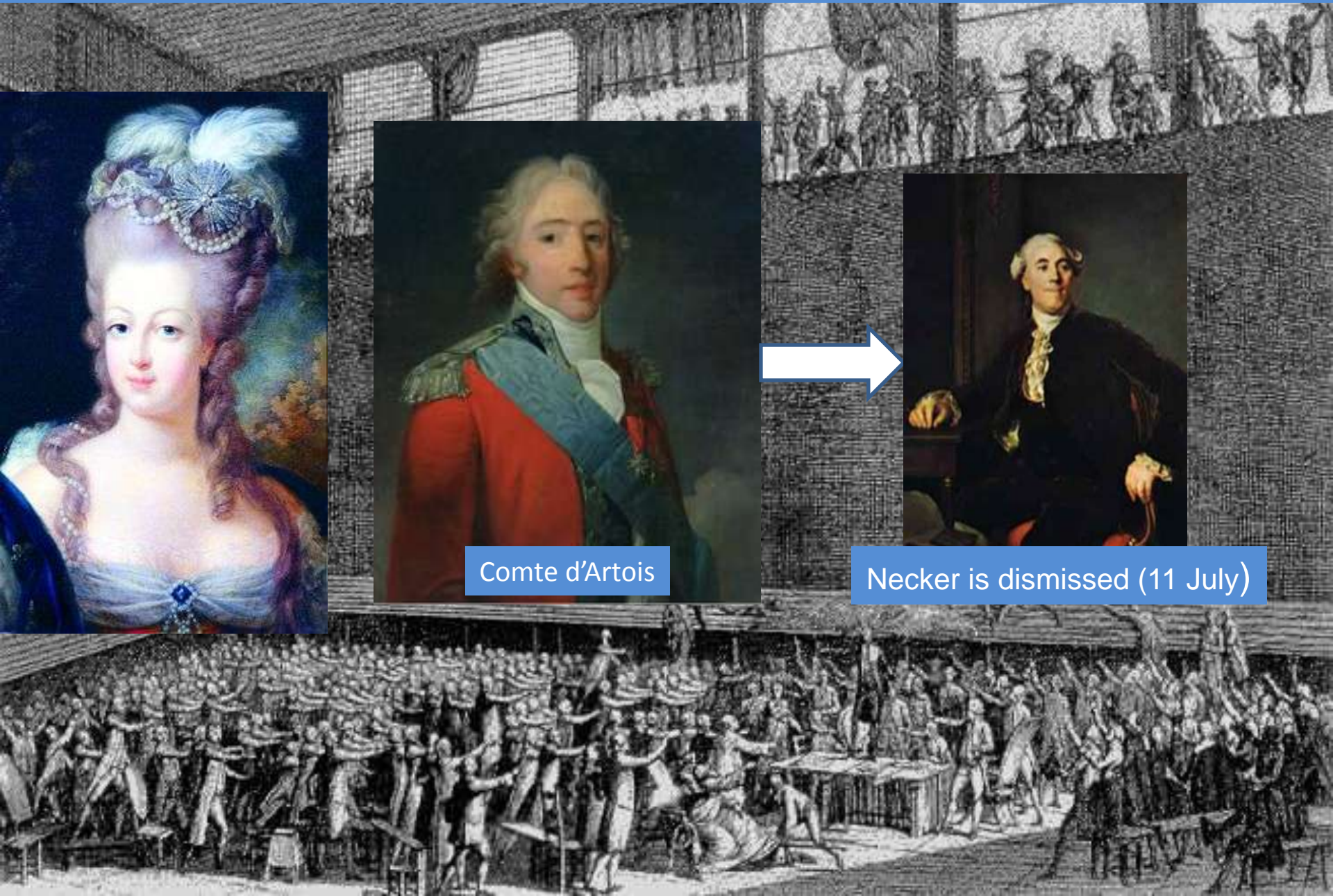
9 July: The Assembly renames itself *National Constituent Assembly*, and begins to function as a **governing body** and a **constitution-drafter**



Comte d'Artois



Necker is dismissed (11 July)





14 July: the storming of the Bastille
Repeated calls to kill the Queen and her friends



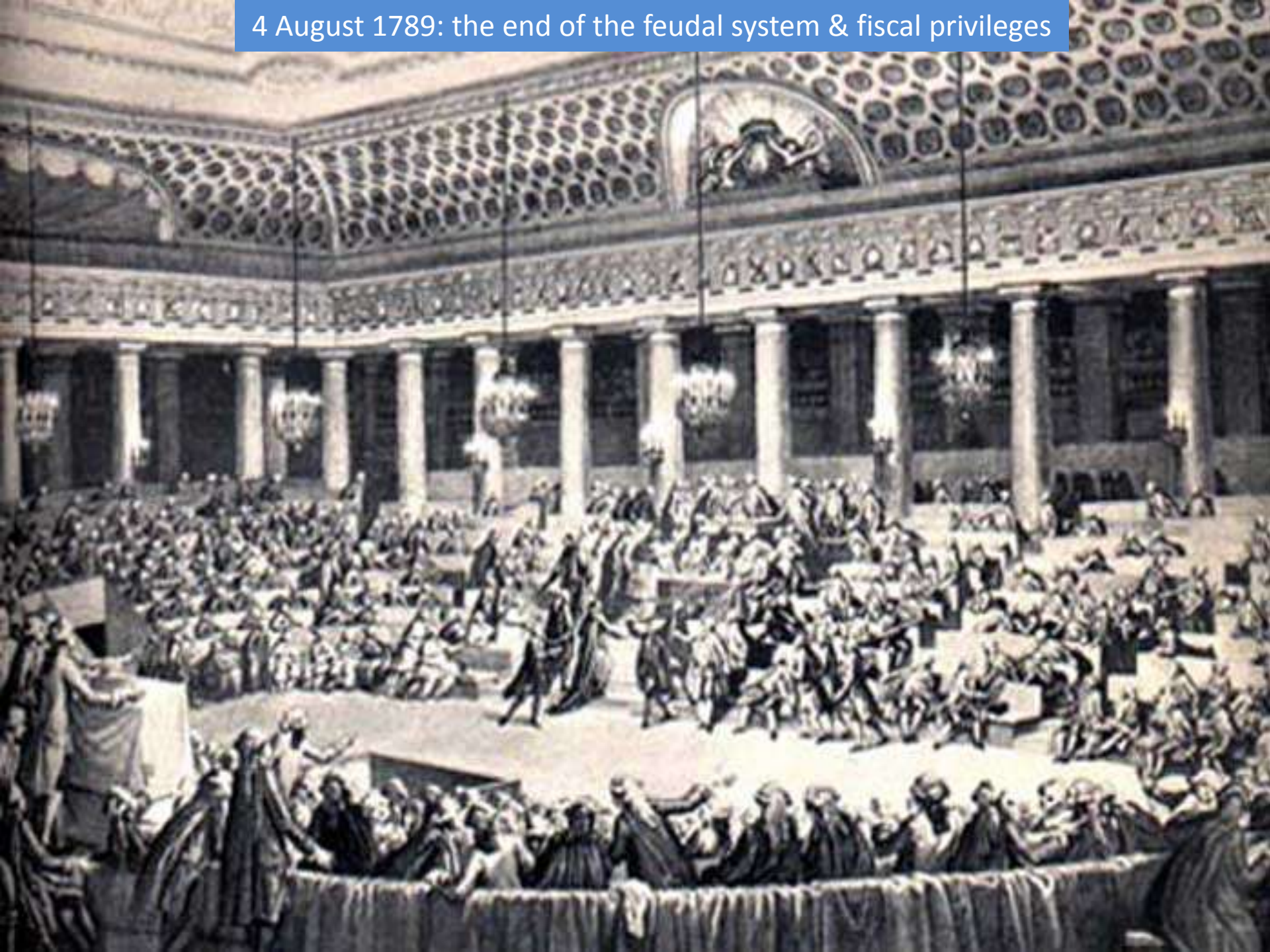
Governor of the Bastille arrested &
decapitated

17 July: Louis XVI in Paris
Necker is called back



La Fayette appointed Commander-in-Chief of the
National Guard

4 August 1789: the end of the feudal system & fiscal privileges



[illegible]

CITATIONS.

Décreté par l'Assemblée Nationale le 17. 1790. —
 Approuvé par le Roi le 22. 1790.

[illegible]

ABSTRACT

E. Il faut de toute nécessité publique, et la conservation des droits essentiels et imprescriptibles du Peuple, que les décrets soient le résultat de propositions, la suite, et la réalisation de l'oppression.

L'Assemblée constate à nouveau, dans ce qu'elle vient pas à autres Amis, l'existence des droits naturels de chaque homme, et à de bon sens que celles qui assurent aux autres membres de la société la jouissance de ces mêmes droits, ces hommes ne peuvent les déléguer que par la loi.

What power:
A “**suspensive veto**”: the K
for a period

Les doubles et promulgués antérieurement au décret, se trouvent
ici appliqués.

TOUCHE humaine dans personnel immense jusqu'à ce qu'il ait
des défilés coupables, et ne peut continuer à l'extérieur.
sans équilibre, et ne peut pas continuer pour l'ensemble de
la population sans être véritablement représentée par la loi.

Sur ces deux états, l'impulsion pour les entreprises, notamment celles
travaillant pour les États, est de leur reconnaître une véritable personnalité
publique établie par la loi.

2. A libre communication des pensées et des opinions
ou au des droits les plus précieux de l'homme. Tous citoyens
ont donc parer les autres, empêcher l'abus. sans à re-
pondre de libous de ceux libérés dans les cas déterminés
par la loi.

XII.
L'Administration des droits de l'Immense et des étrangers, redécouvre
une force publique; cette force est donc trouvée pour l'avan-
tage de tous, et pour pour l'utile particulière de ceux à qui
elle est destinée.

Les lois édictées de la force publique, et pour les dépenses d'administration, une commission composée au moins de quatre membres, elle doit être également répartie entre les citoyens en raison de leurs facultés.

Les citoyens ont le droit de constater par eux-mêmes ou par leurs représentants la réalité de la contribution payée, de la constater directement, d'en vérifier l'emploi et de contrôler la qualité de la dette, le recouvrement et la durée.

It is possible to be drawn to a person who is not a good person.

1. **பெரிய செய்தி** - பெரிய செய்தி
 2. **சிறிய செய்தி** - சிறிய செய்தி

des établissements scolaires,
universités, bibliothèques,
etc., et avec la société

these diverse parts as profitable investments

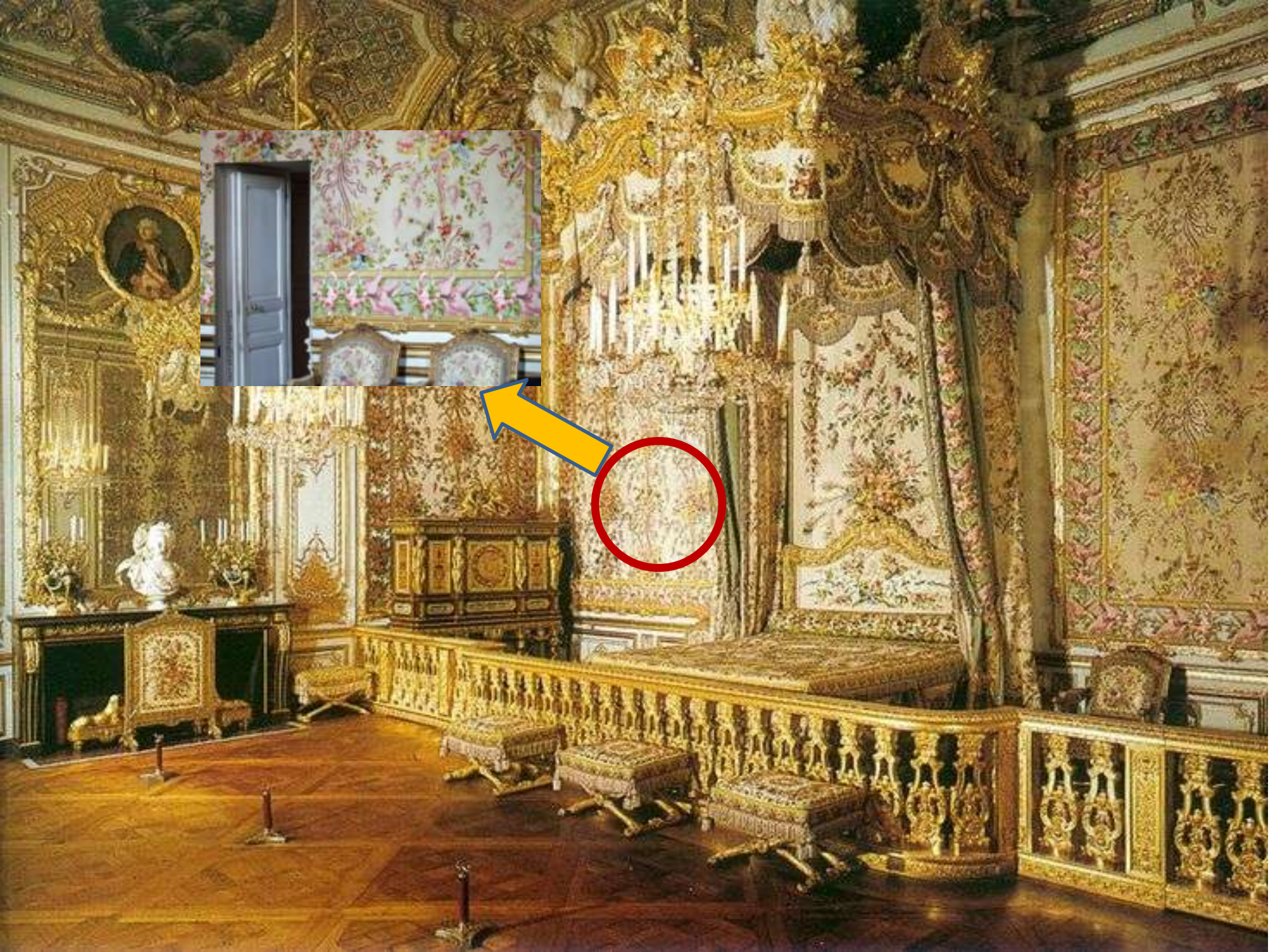
AUX REPRESENTANS DU PEUPLE FRANÇOIS 25

5 October 1789: women's march on Versailles

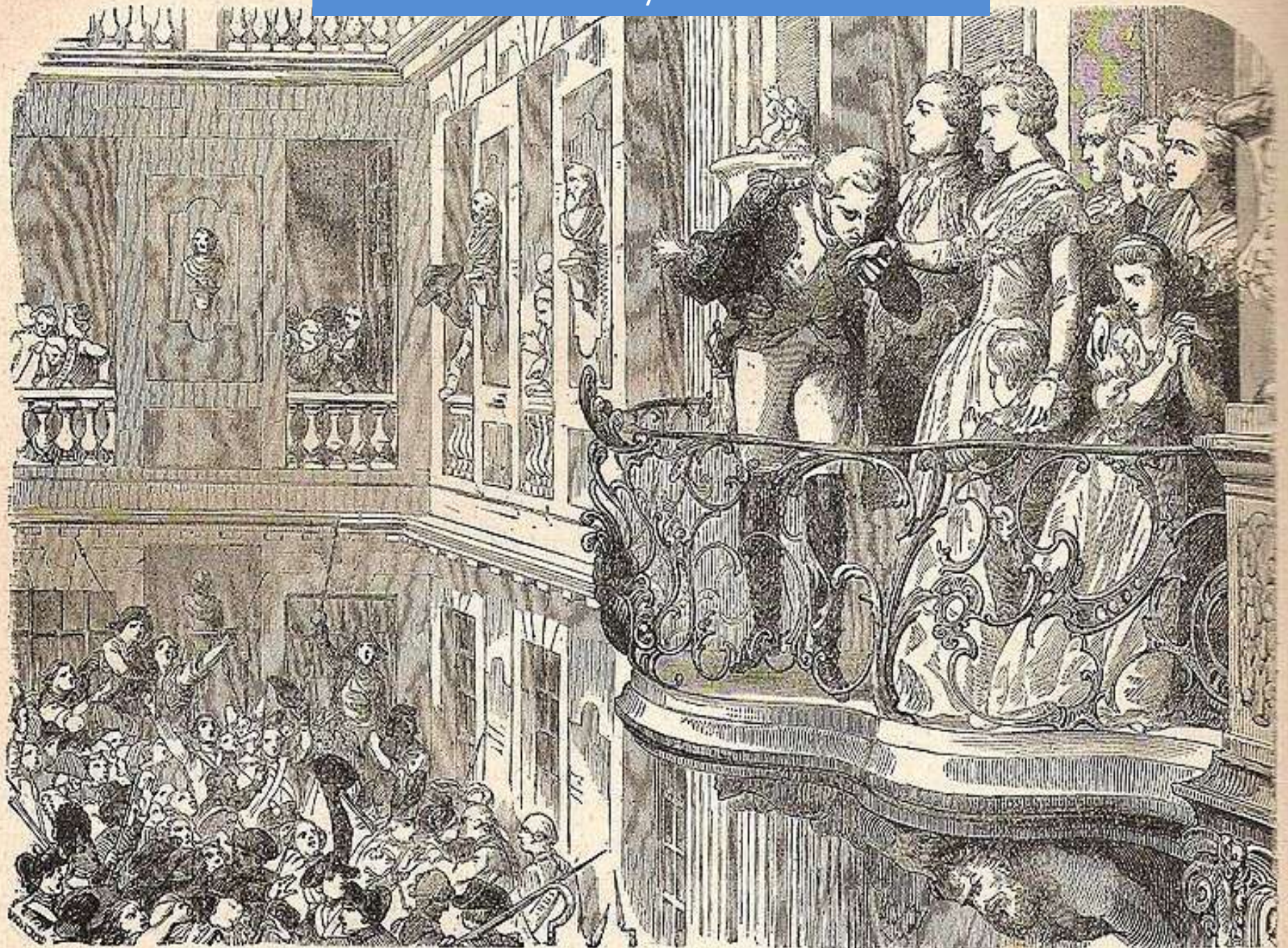




Massacre d'un Garde-du-Corps a la porte de l'appartement de la Reine, par des brigands.



Marie-Antoinette nearly assassinated: a trauma



A 7 hour journey to Paris – The royal family humiliated



The royal family forced to take residence in Paris (Palais des Tuileries)

The Tuileries deserted since 1722

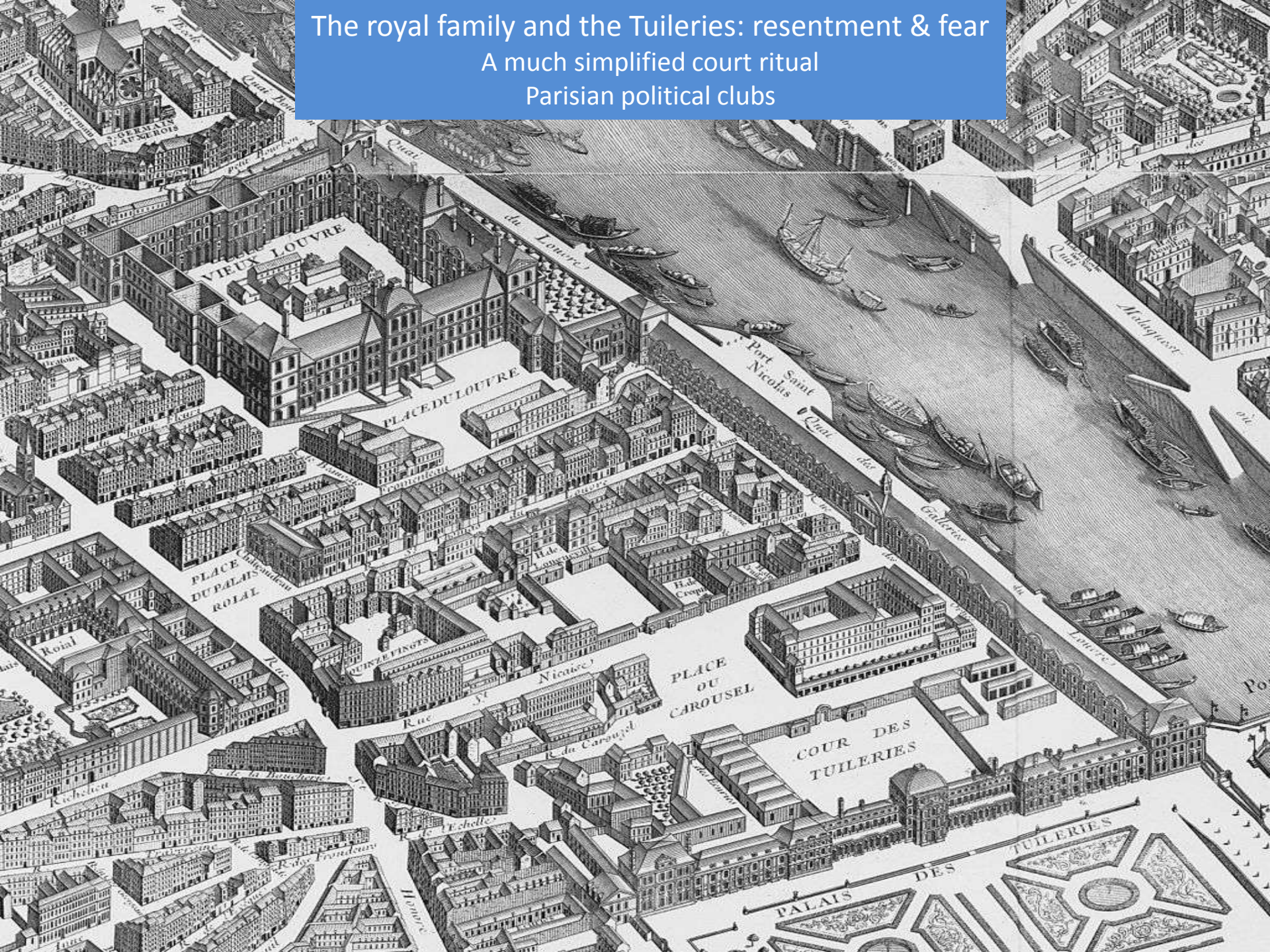
"No one would believe all that has happened in the last 24 hours and yet whatever one imagined would be less than what we have had to endure."



The National Assembly in Paris
Constant riots in the streets

The royal family and the Tuileries: resentment & fear

A much simplified court ritual
Parisian political clubs





1790: the last summer at Saint-Cloud



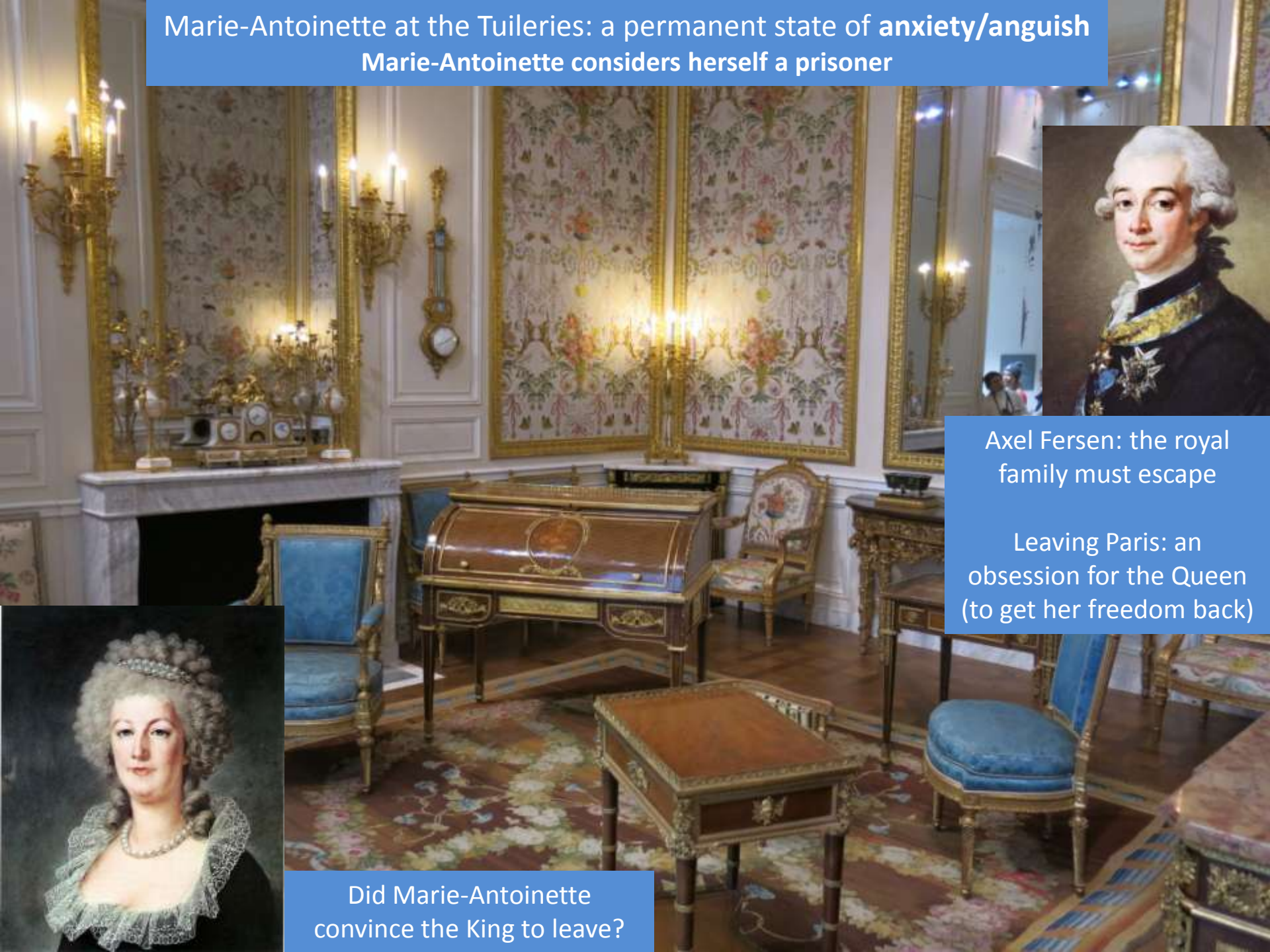
"She is great, noble and unfortunate; but I shall save her" (3 July 1790)



14 July 1790: fête de la Fédération
« An abomination » (Marie-Antoinette)



Marie-Antoinette at the Tuileries: a permanent state of **anxiety/anguish**
Marie-Antoinette considers herself a prisoner



Axel Fersen: the royal family must escape

Leaving Paris: an obsession for the Queen (to get her freedom back)

Did Marie-Antoinette convince the King to leave?