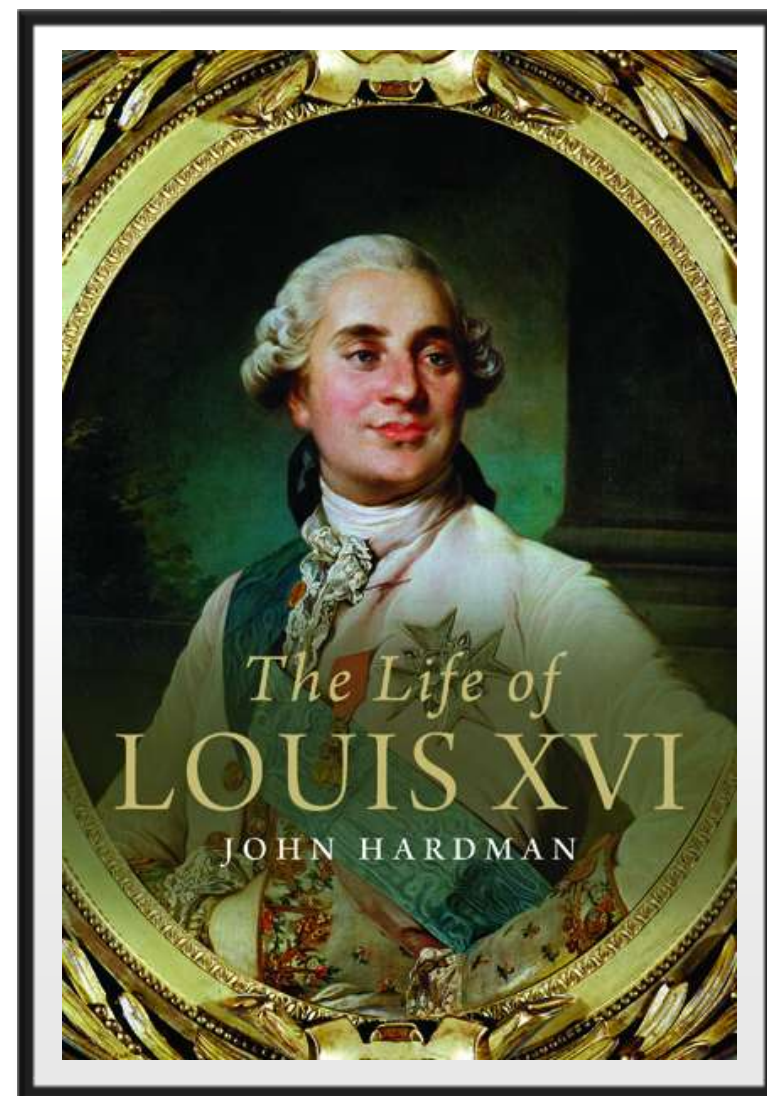
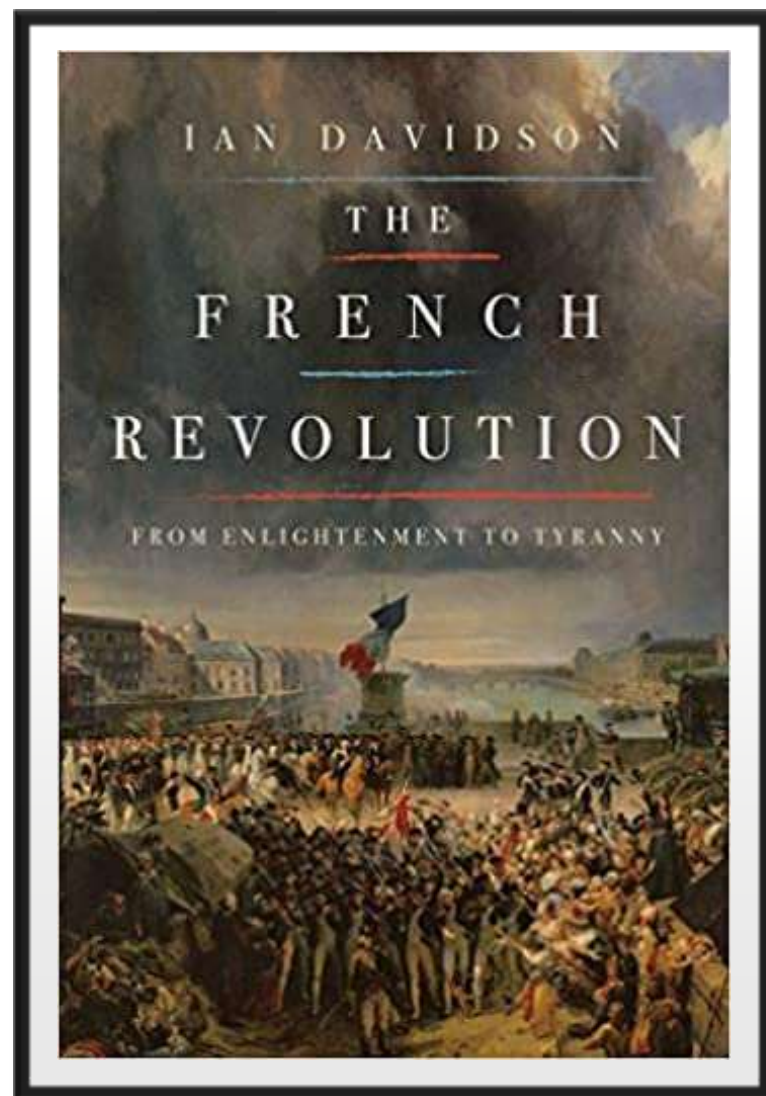
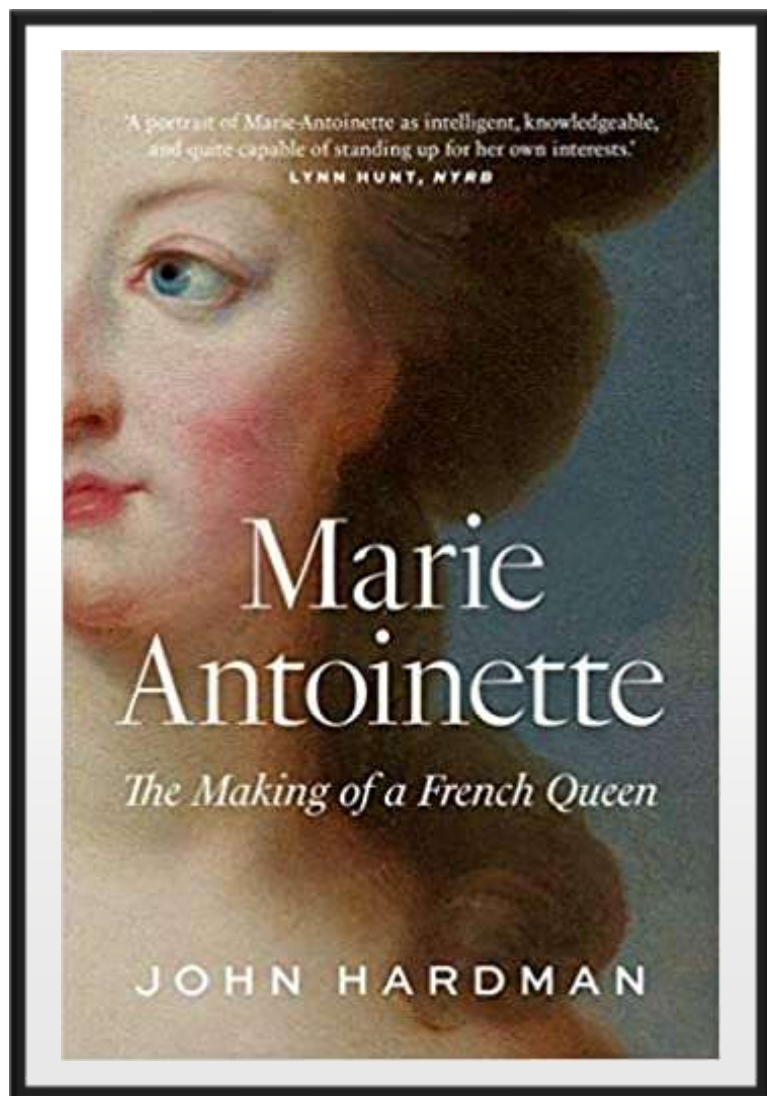




22 June 1791

The night the French monarchy died...



Varennes

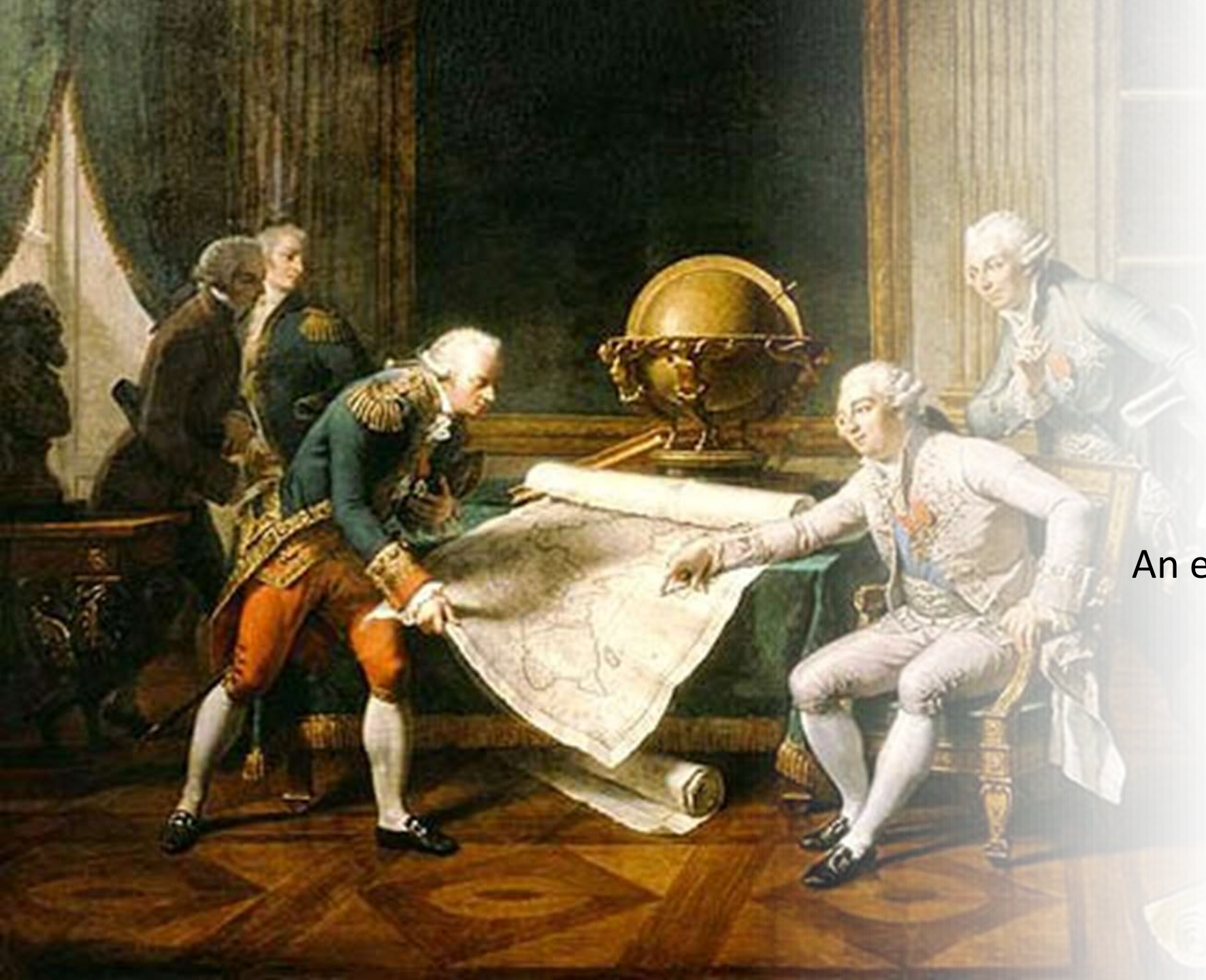
22 June 1791, 12.15am

A group of travellers entered the grocery (plain wooden house) run by the local magistrate

A Russian aristocrat, her 2 children, their governess (Madame Rochet), a maid & Monsieur Durand?

Or could it be the King of France?





Louis XVI

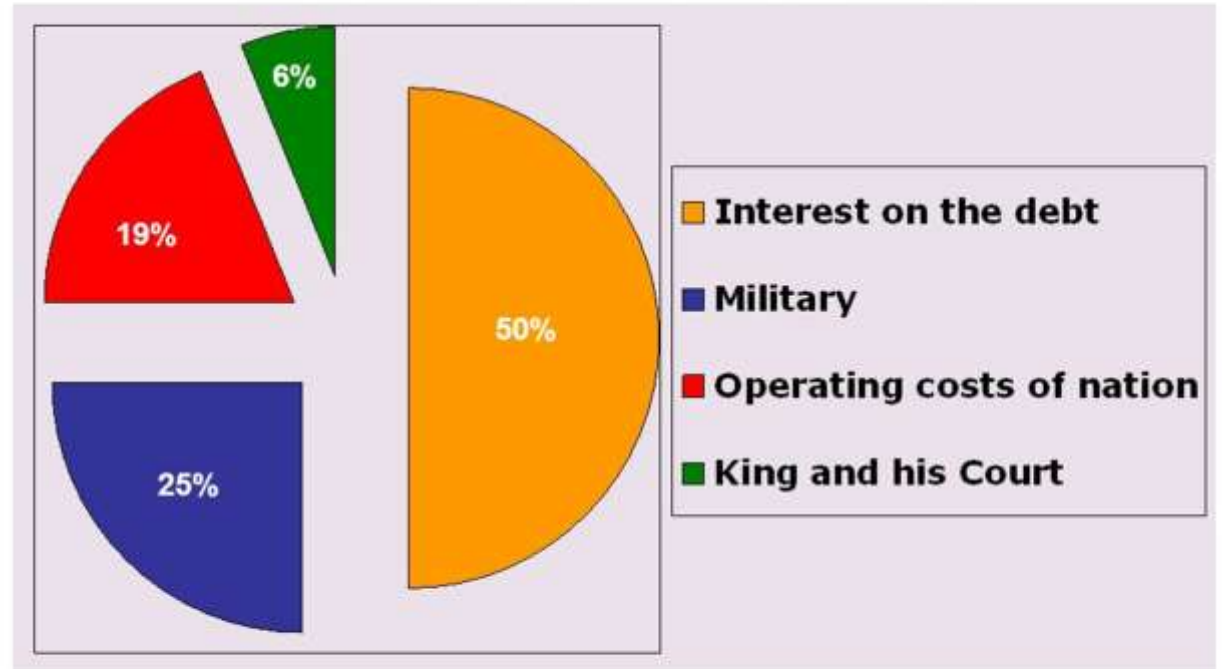
An enlightened monarch
Open to reforms

A **debt crisis** spiralling
out of control

A tax system complex and
unfair (nobility & clergy
exempt of most taxes)

The cost of wars

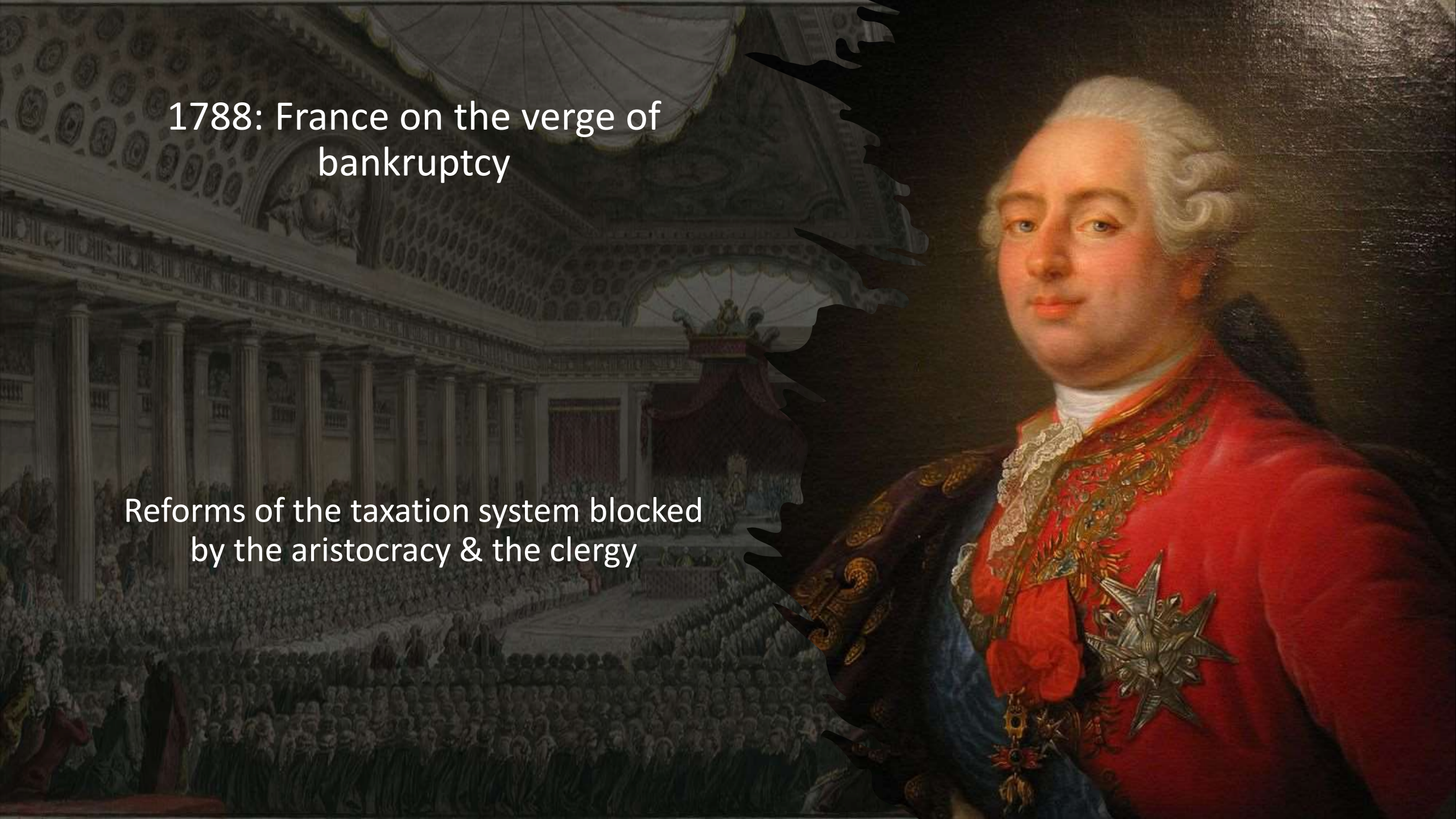
**By 1788 the national budget
broke down like this**



The American War of Independence (1776-1783)

Victory over Great Britain
Renewed prestige but **heavy
financial burden**





1788: France on the verge of
bankruptcy

Reforms of the taxation system blocked
by the aristocracy & the clergy

A queen changed beyond
recognition

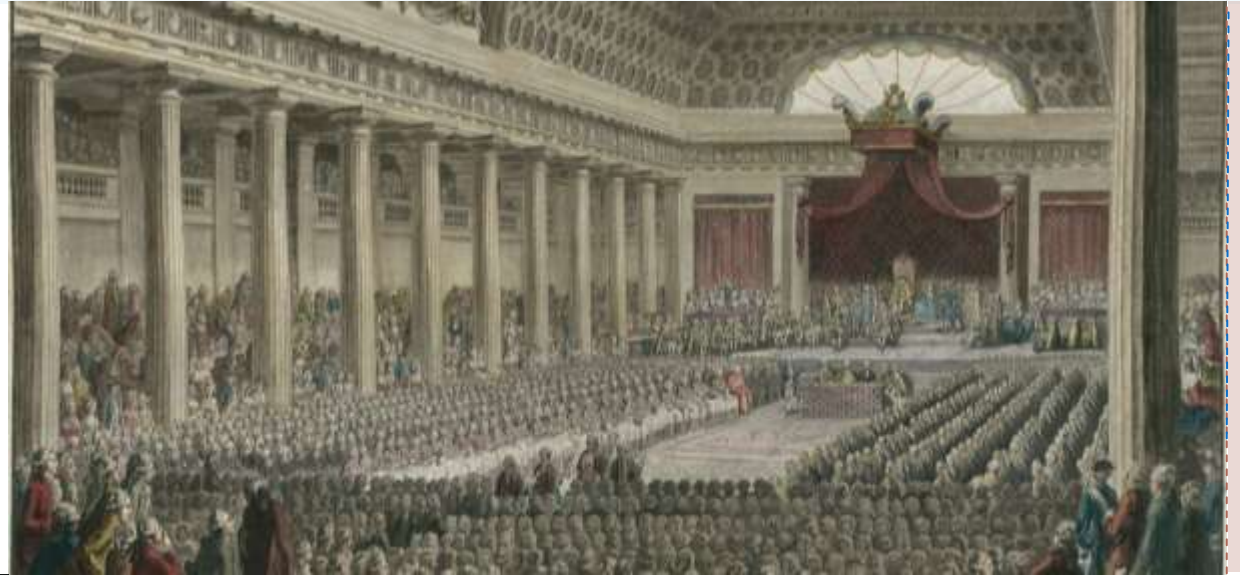
Growing unpopularity (*"Madame Deficit"*)
*"Do you know a woman more to be pitied
than me?"*





A peaceful transition to a constitutional monarchy?

May 1789: the *Estates General*
(consultative assembly composed of
deputies representing the **three social**
categories)



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."*



A monarch desacralized

His prerogatives to be discussed
and decided by the new National
Assembly

A new “contract” between the
concept of hereditary monarchy
and the Assembly

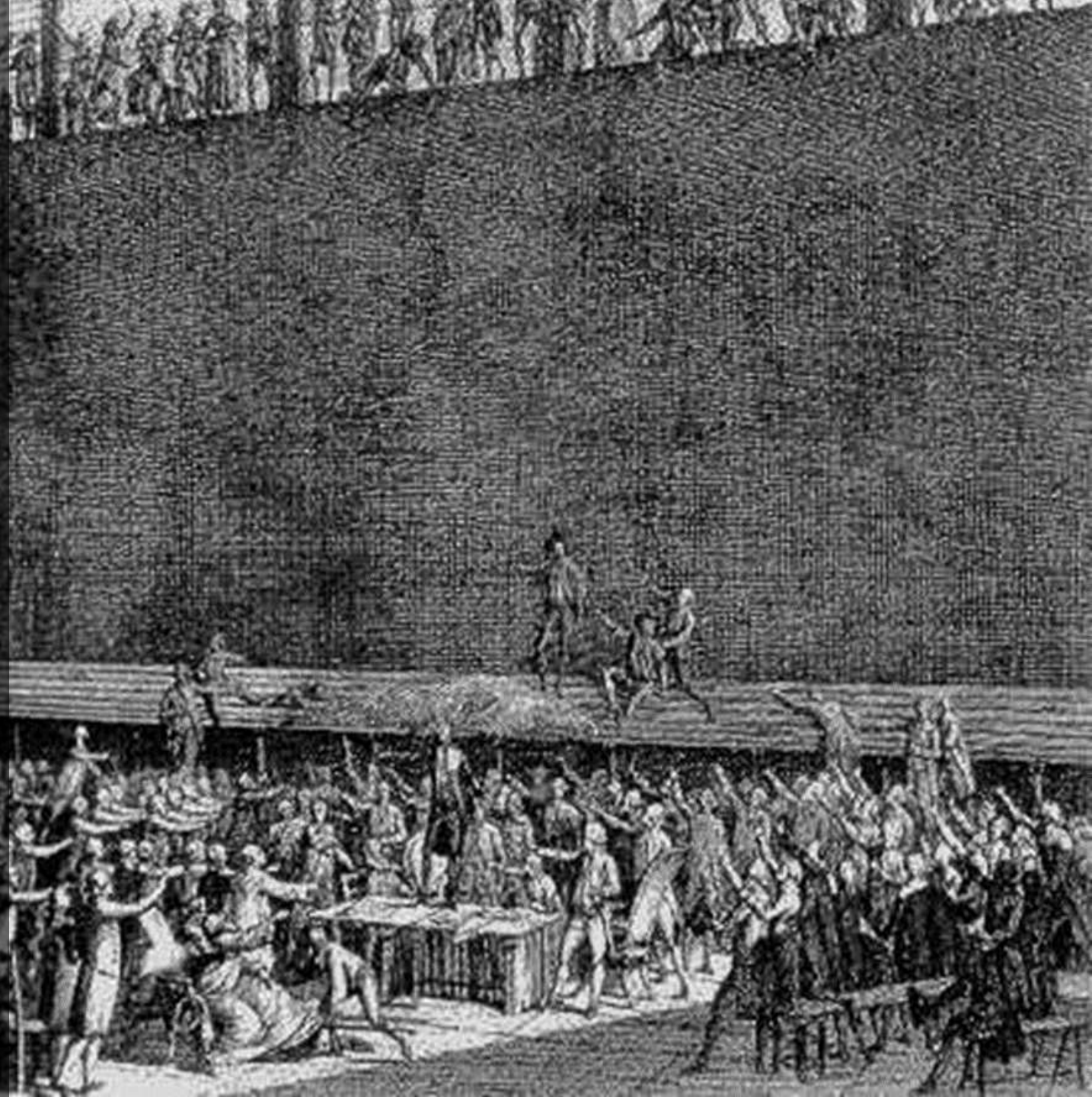




9 July

The Assembly renamed itself
National Constituent
Assembly

**A governing body & a
constitution-drafter**



Declaration of the Rights of Man & Citizen

What powers for the King?

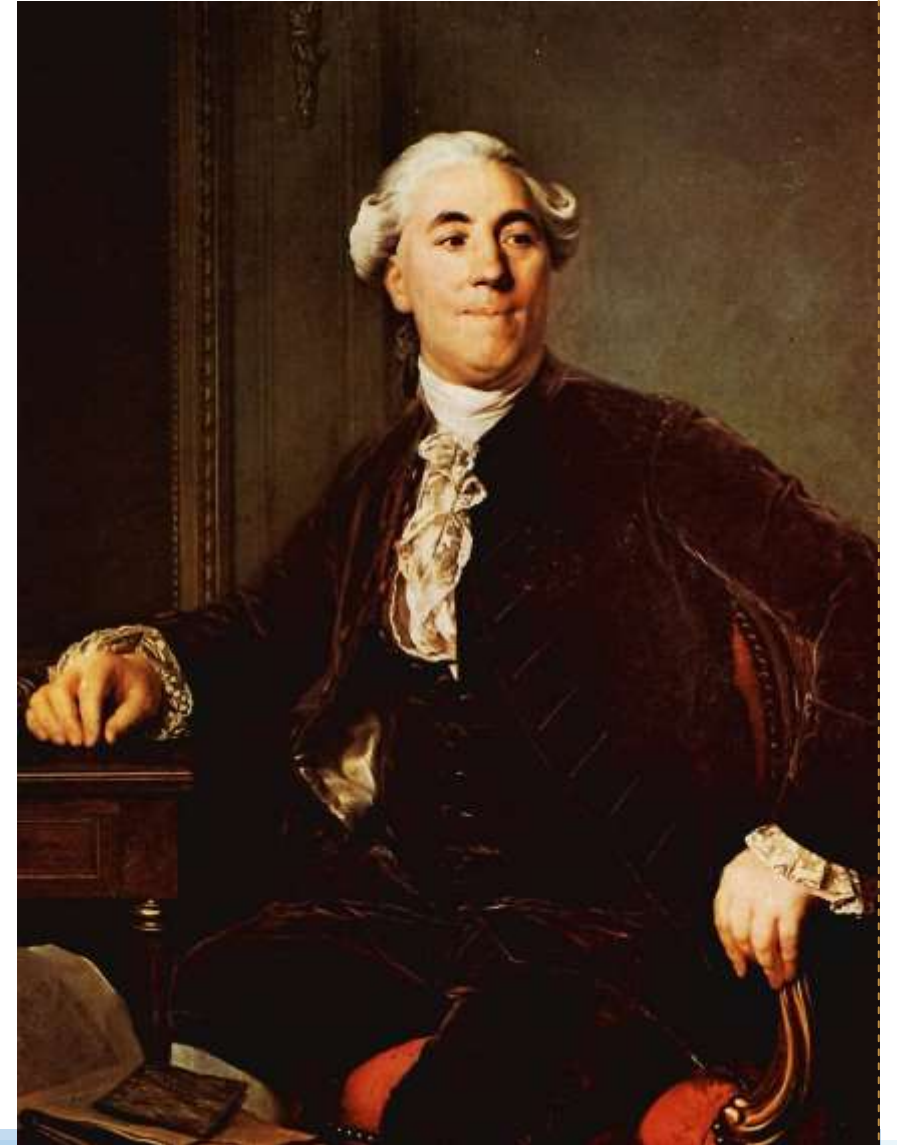
A “suspensive veto”: the King can oppose any new law for a period of 4 years



11 July: Necker dismissed

Outrage in the streets of Paris
(belief he was the only one able to
save France from economic
collapse)

Shift towards a more conservative
government (concentration of
troops near Paris)



A royal counter-revolution?

The **National Guard**: a citizen's militia

The task of protecting Paris from external threats and maintaining order



14 July

The storming of the Bastille



15 July

Marquis de La Fayette appointed
commander-in-chief of the National
Guard

A political moderate and veteran of the
American War of Independence



Today it is the man
who has the right to

5 October 1789: women's march on Versailles






*Massacre d'un Garde-du-Corps a la porte de l'apparte-
ment de la Reine par des brigands*

From Versailles to the Tuileries Palace

The royal family prisoner in Paris?

The King and Queen did everything
they could to show they were not
free





The Tuileries: the King's
official residence since
1682

Only a small apartment for
the Queen when she
visited Paris

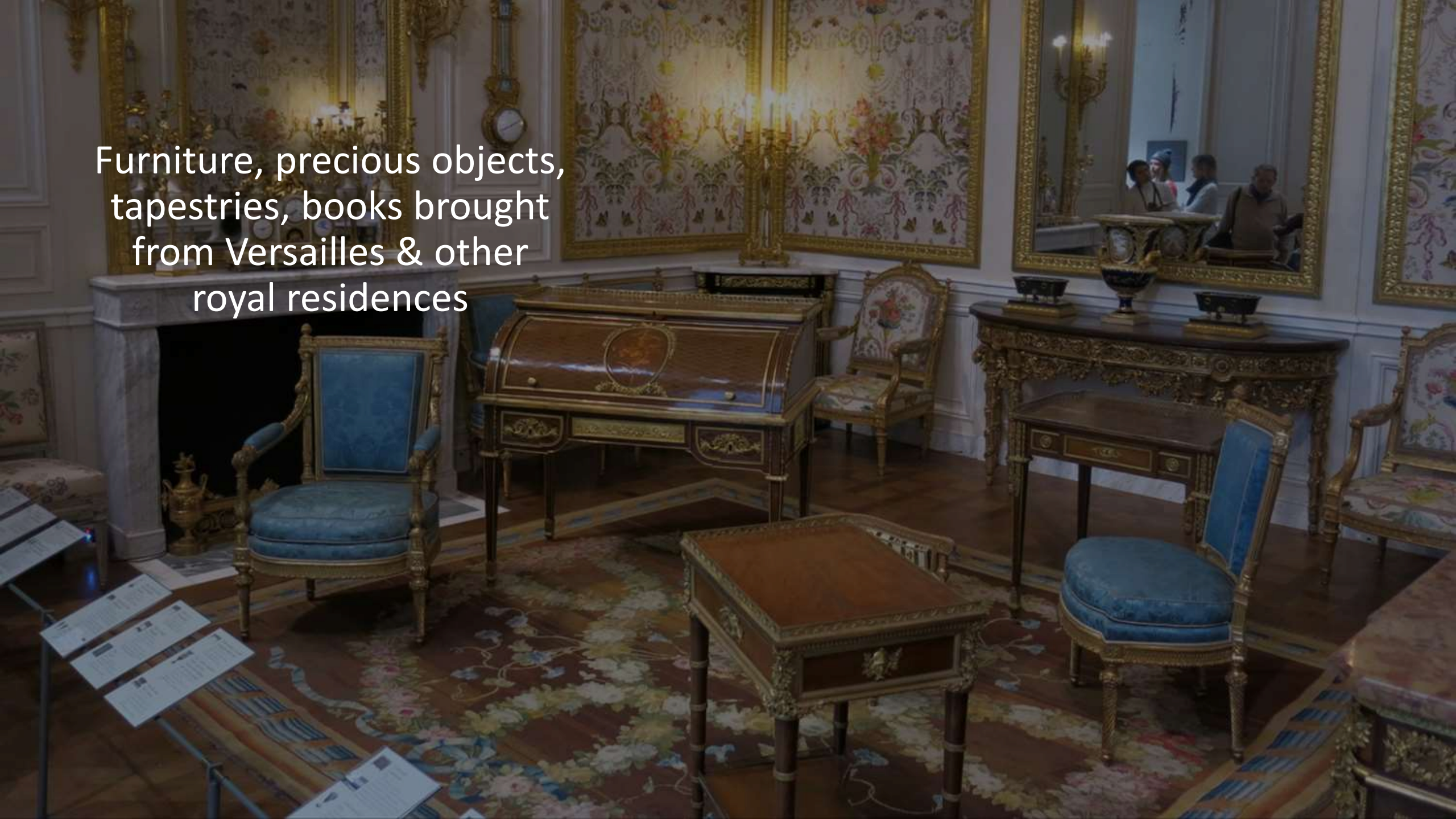
7 October: improvisation

The Tuileries: temporary residence for courtiers
& artists

800 workers renovated the royal apartments

Cost: 280 000 livres (granted by the National
Assembly)

Furniture, precious objects,
tapestries, books brought
from Versailles & other
royal residences



What about the Queen?

A permanent state of anguish
Considered herself a prisoner

Her central objective and
obsession: **to flee** Paris and recover
her freedom

Axel Von Fersen: to serve and
protect the Queen



A love story that continues to
fascinate...

The true nature of their
relationship: a mystery



Who was Fersen?

The Fersen: a powerful
Swedish dynasty

*"In the world, there is France,
Sweden and the Fersen"*

A strong connection with
France



30 January 1774

A Masked Opera Ball in Paris
Marie-Antoinette incognito





A spark

"The Dauphine talked to me for a long time without me knowing who she was. At last, when she was recognized everybody pressed around her and at 3 o'clock she retired into a box. I left the ball."

25 August 1778

Fersen officially presented to the
royal couple

Marie-Antoinette: *"ah! It's an
old acquaintance"*




Gossips and rumors

"The Queen treats me with kindness. I go often to pay my court to her at the card-table and she always speak to me. She is the most amiable princess I know"

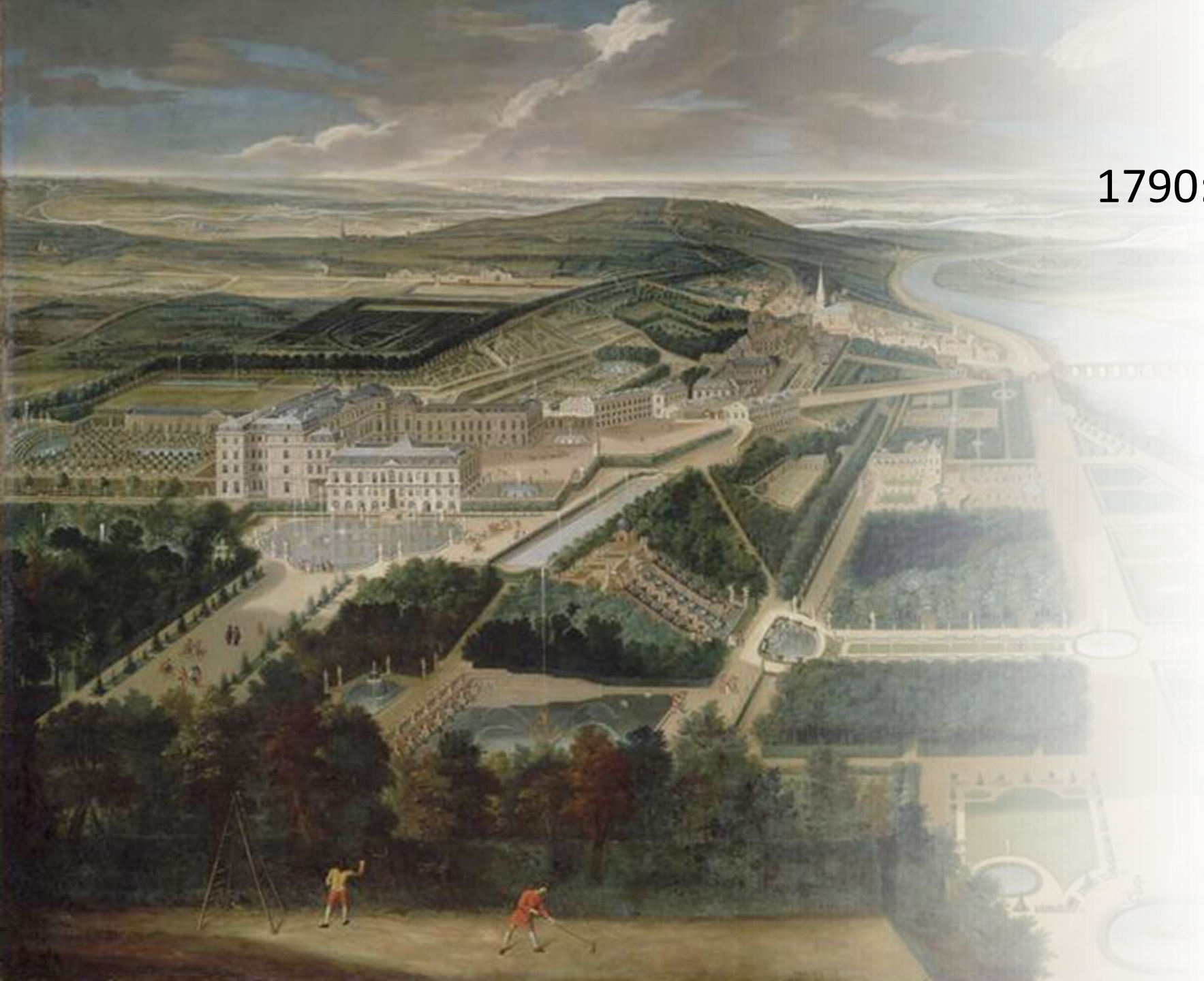
April 1780: left for America





A correspondence with a
mysterious Josephine

Josephine: Marie-Antoinette
Frequent visits to Versailles (1786-1789)
Hostile to the Revolution



1790: summer at Saint-Cloud

A reprieve

*“She is great, noble and
unfortunate, but I shall save
her” (Mirabeau)*

Early escape plans

*“A king must leave in broad
daylight if he wants to
remain king”*



The king vs. The **National Assembly**

Several factions

Those who favored a strong constitutional monarchy

Those who wanted to keep Louis XVI as a figurehead without real powers

The Republicans: a minority

Louis XVI forced to ratify a series of decrees he disapproved



12 October 1789

Louis XVI's letter to the Spanish and Austrian governments protesting *"against all the acts contrary to the royal authority that had been obtained from him by force since July 15th of this year"*

Louis XVI: decrees counter-signed by him under duress and therefore not valid

Yes to reforms but on his own terms



12 July 1790

The Civil Constitution of the Clergy

The Catholic Church reorganized without the Pope's agreement

Church land confiscated

Members of the clergy to be elected

Mandatory oath to France

Louis XVI **opposed** to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy



The Civil Constitution of the Clergy

A **determining factor** in the King's flight

Louis XVI refused to give immediate sanction but eventually forced to approve the decree (December 1790)

A deeply divided clergy: to refuse the oath was to oppose the Constitution (**refractory priests**)



Pope Pius VI

March-April 1791: the Civil
Constitution & the Rights of Man
condemned

The refractory priests perceived as
counter-revolutionaries



The “Saint-Cloud Departure”

The royal family’s plans to
spend Easter 1791 at Saint-
Cloud

A decision that **aroused
suspicion**: the king wanted
to go to Saint-Cloud to avoid
having to receive Easter
Communion from a priest
who had taken the oath



18 April

The royal family
prevented from leaving
Paris by the mob



Lafayette



The point of no return

Marie-Antoinette to the
Austrian ambassador: *“the
king wants it (to escape)
even more than me”*

20 April





Escape plans

The royal family to travel in
disguise

Passports issued to one
Baroness de Korff

The Swedish widow of a
Russian colonel



The Fersen connection

The carriage for the royal family ordered in her name





A large carriage

Large enough to accommodate 7 people

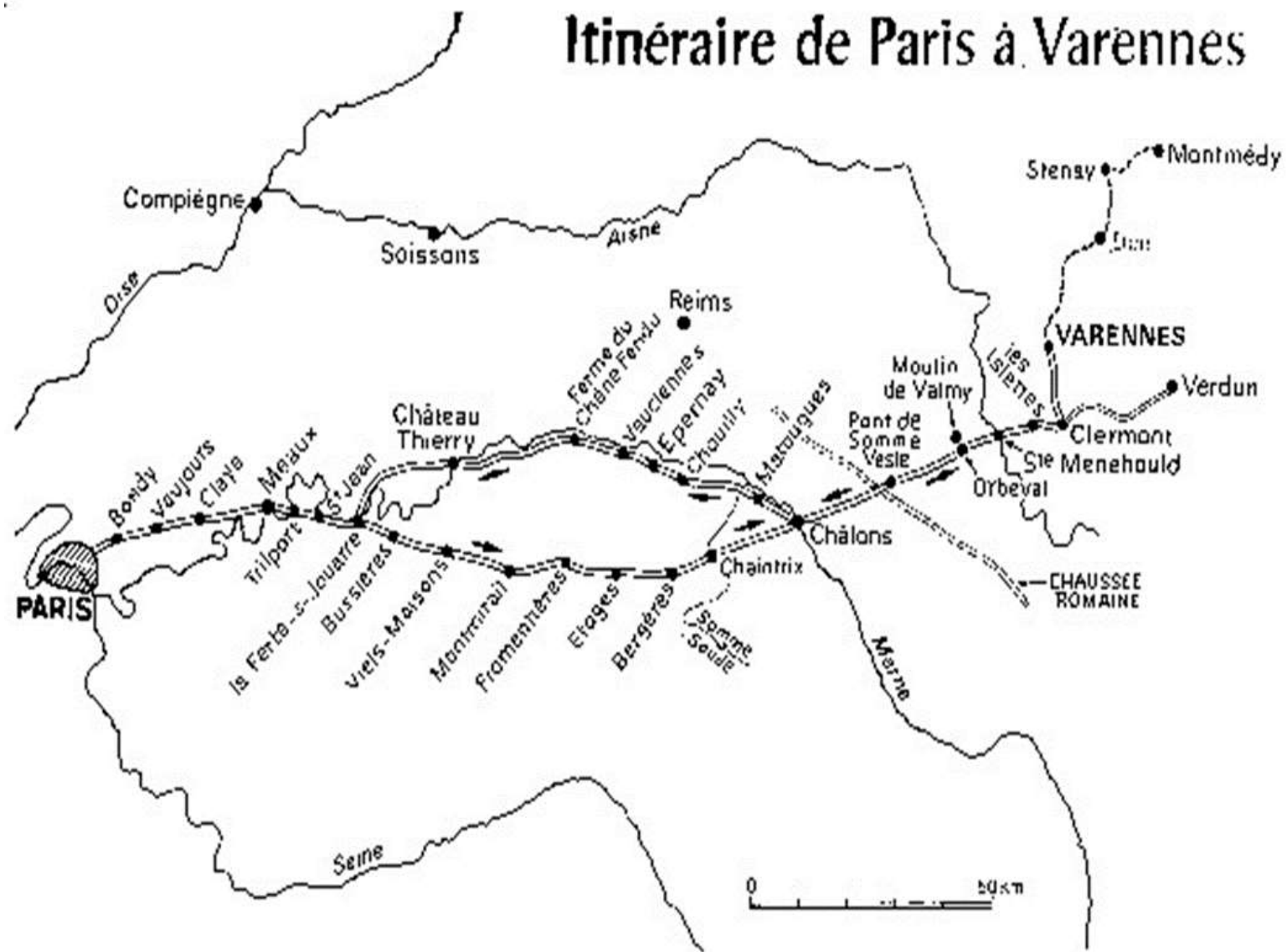
Dark green with yellow wheels

Louis XVI refused to be separated from his family

6 people + 2 maids in a separate carriage + 3 bodyguards

An expedition!

Itinéraire de Paris à Varennes





Detachments of cavalry to escort the royal family to Montmedy



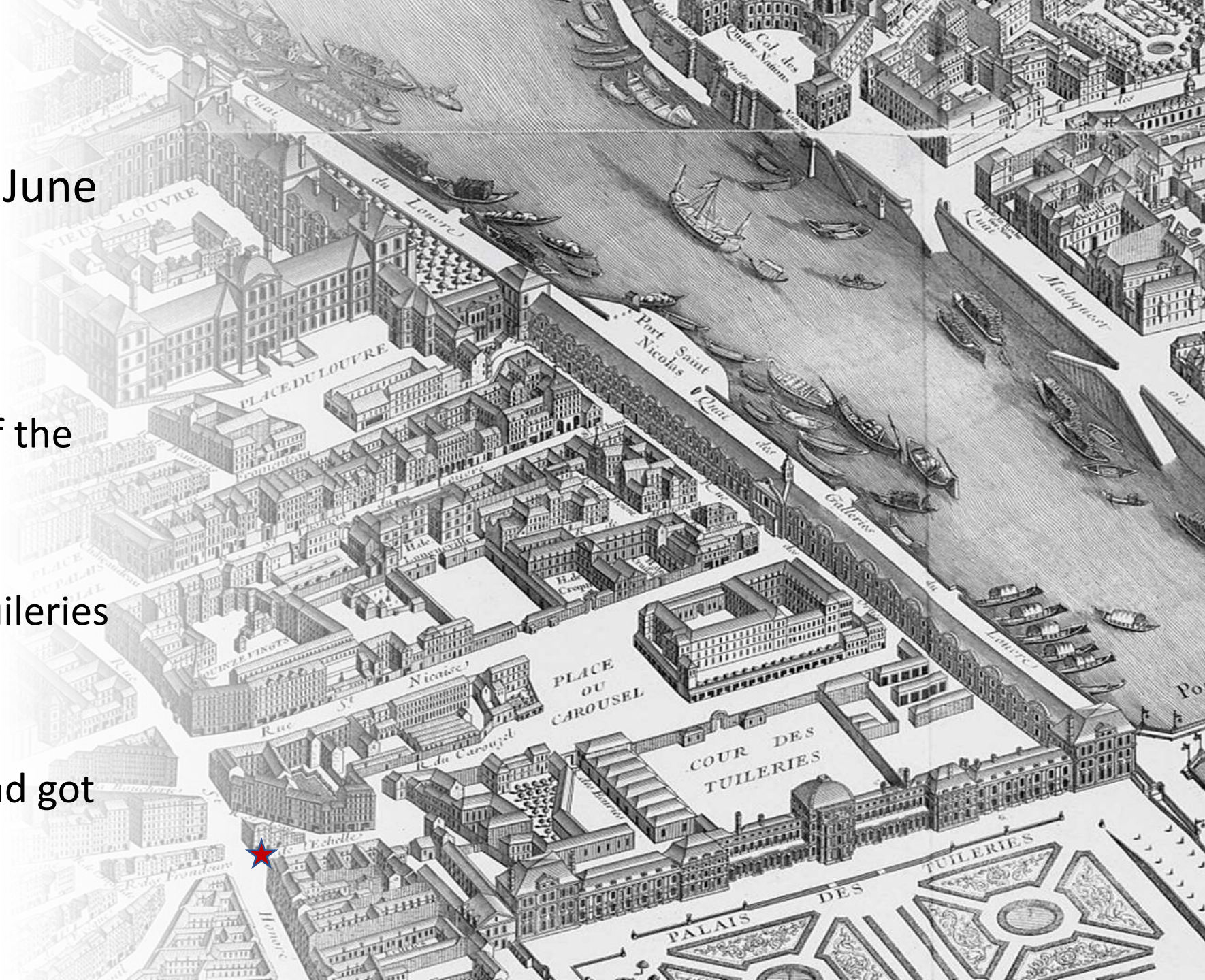
Marquis de Bouillé

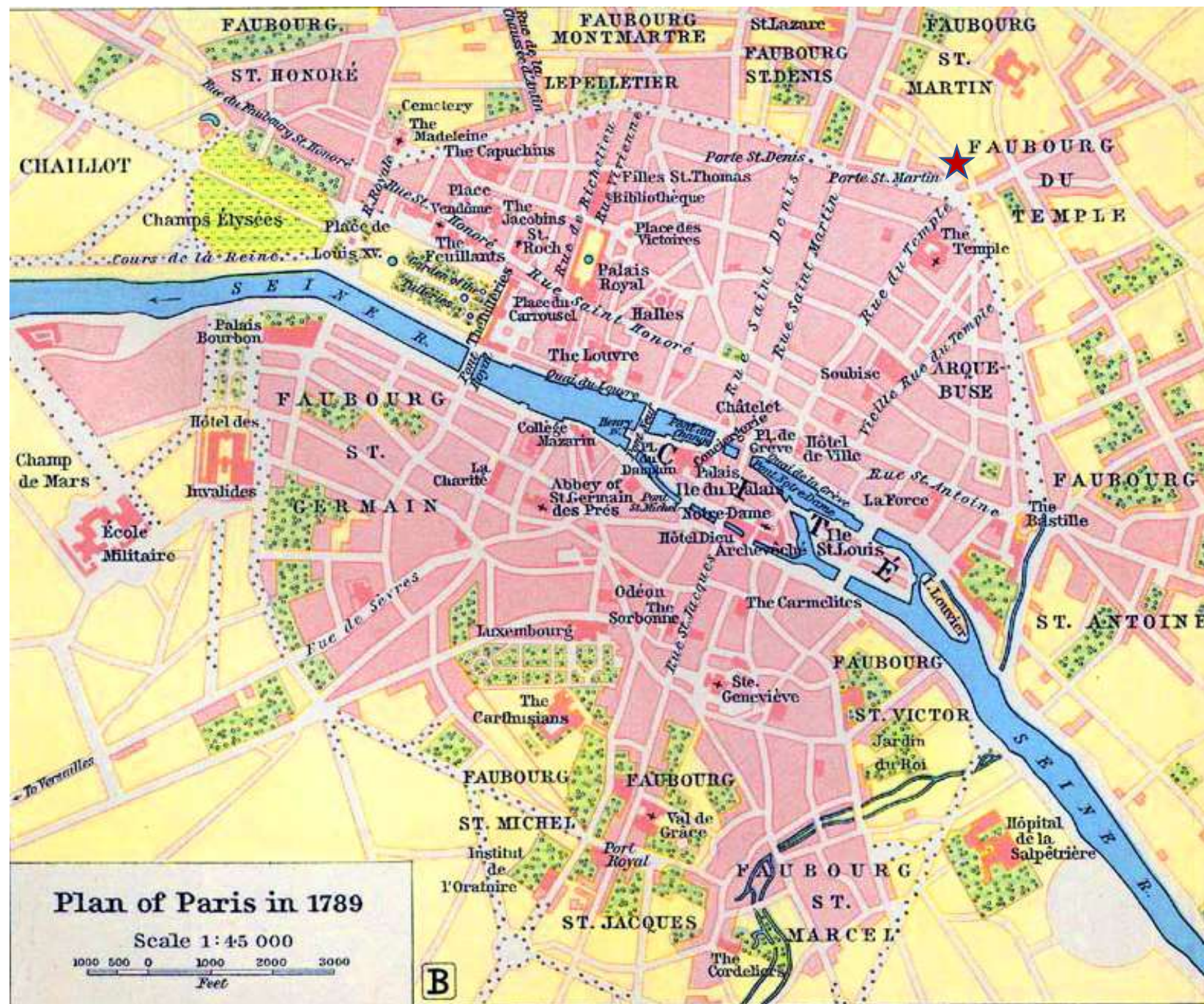
The night of 20-21 June

The shortest night of the
year

Royal family left the Tuileries
separately

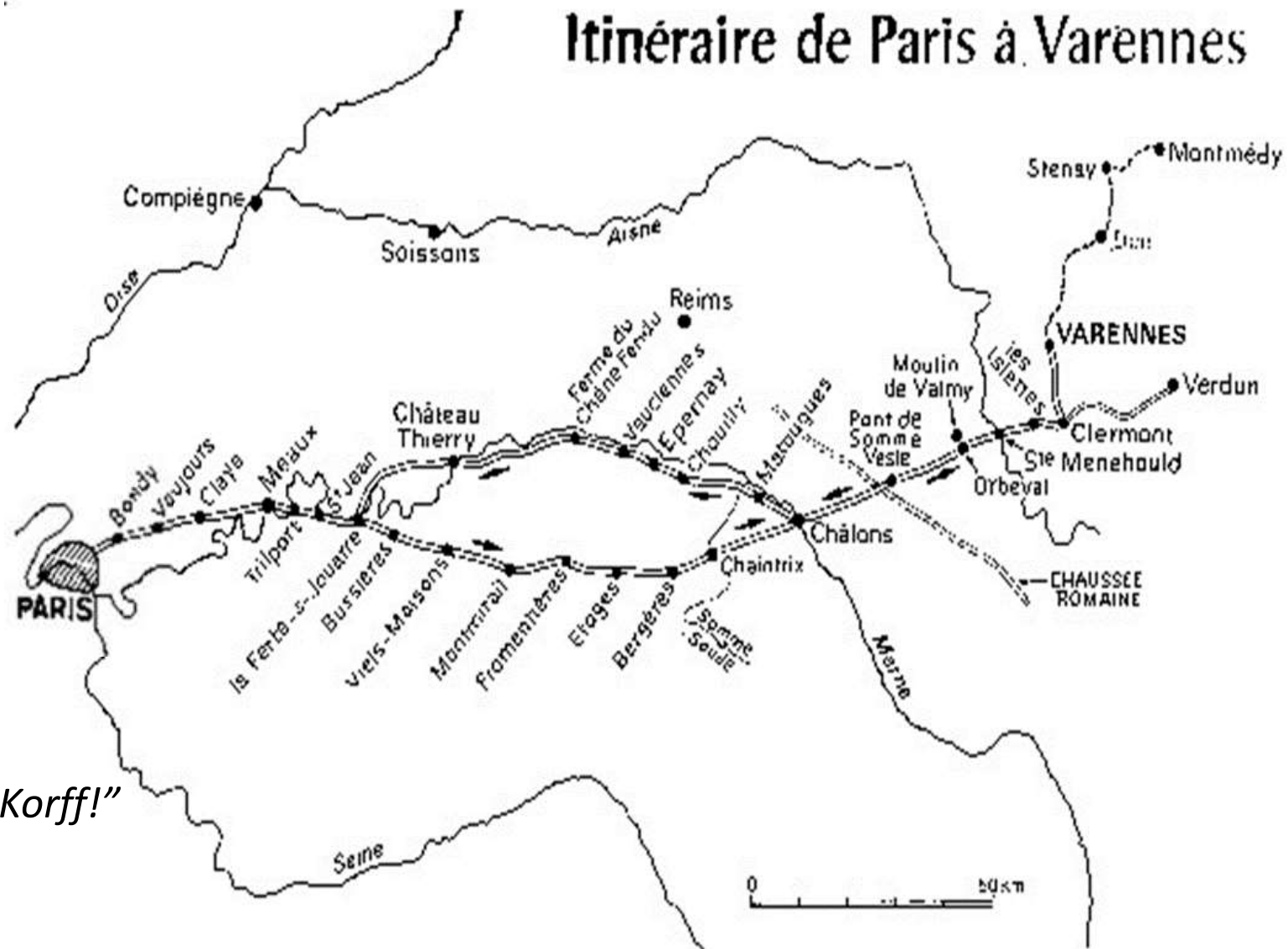
The Queen left last and got
lost



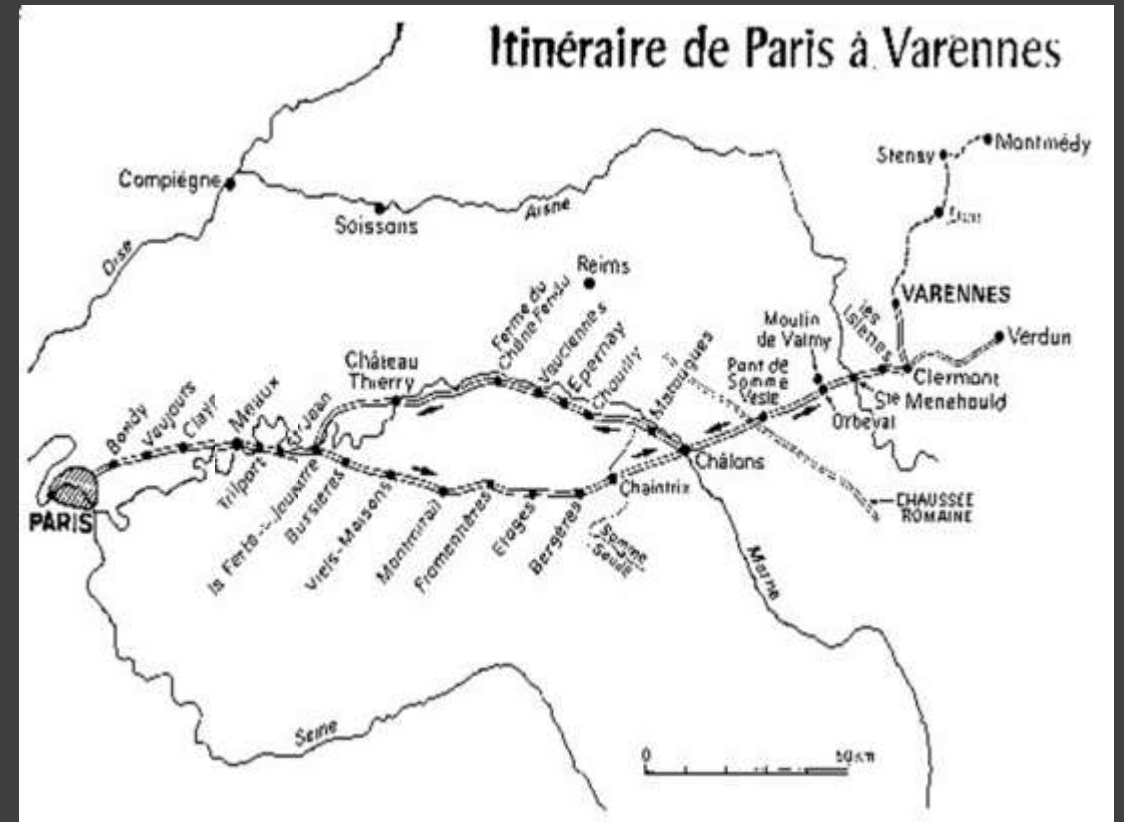




Itinéraire de Paris à Varennes



"Adieu, Mme de Korff!"



No more
obstacles?

"Here I am outside that town of Paris where I have experienced so much bitterness. You may be quite sure that once I am firmly seated in the saddle I shall be a very different person..."

“The King is gone!”

June 22, 8am: *“right now La Fayette will be in a pretty pickle”* (Louis XVI)



Jean Sylvain Bailly



La Fayette



Alexandre de Beauharnais





A Constitutional monarchy to end the
Revolution

France not ready for a republic

What to do?

Rising tensions in Paris

The official version: the royal family “abducted”

Fear of civil war

The destruction of royal emblems

Political clubs: the king’s “treason”



The National Assembly 9am

The King suspended
The Assembly to control the
executive branch of
government

A republic without the name

Official version confirmed:
the king “abducted”



The King's Manifesto

The Royal family has left
willingly

Louis XVI never accepted the
Revolution



Growing calls for a
republic

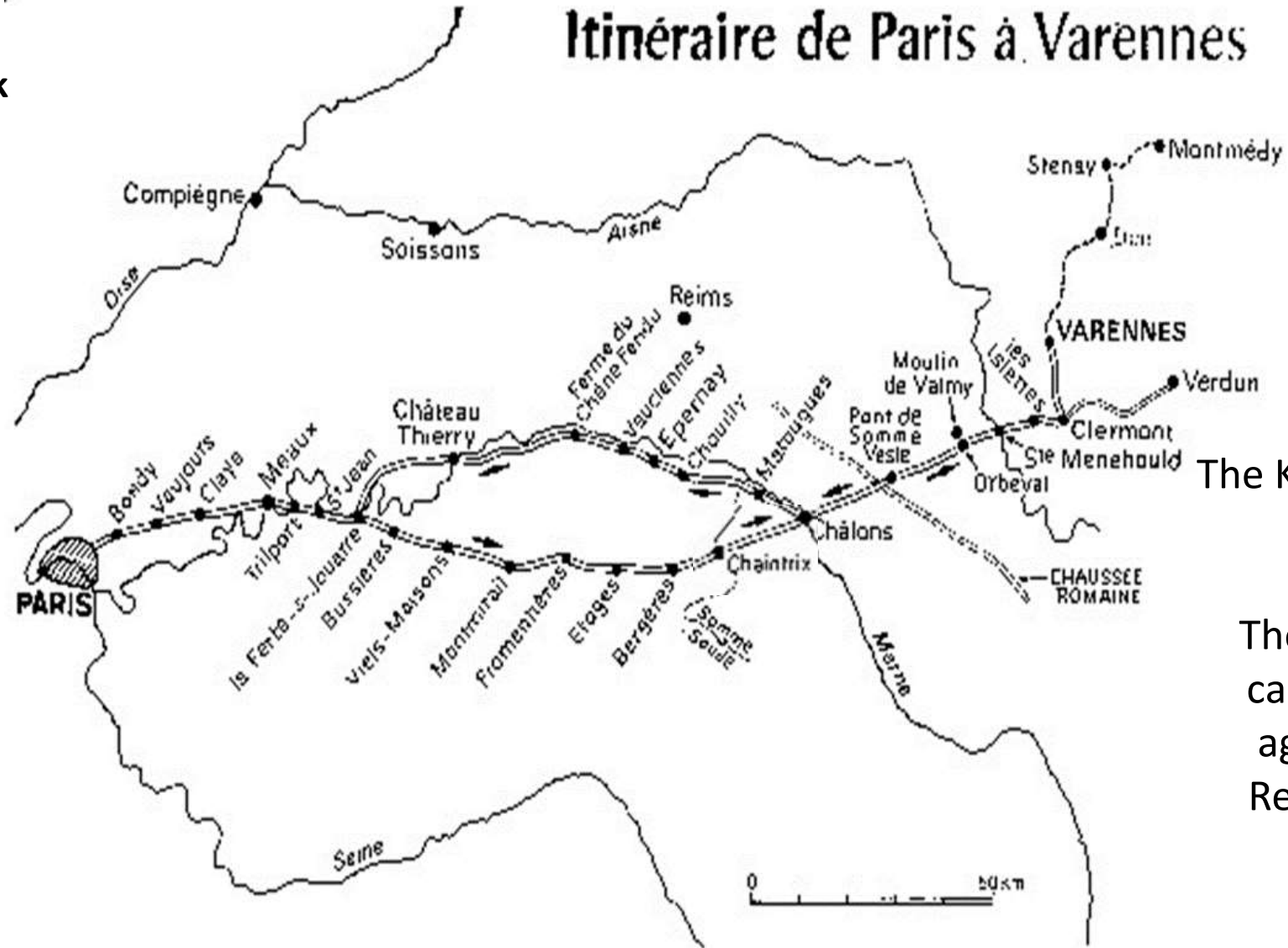
22 June, **10pm**: the king
arrested at Varennes!

What happened?



Bad luck

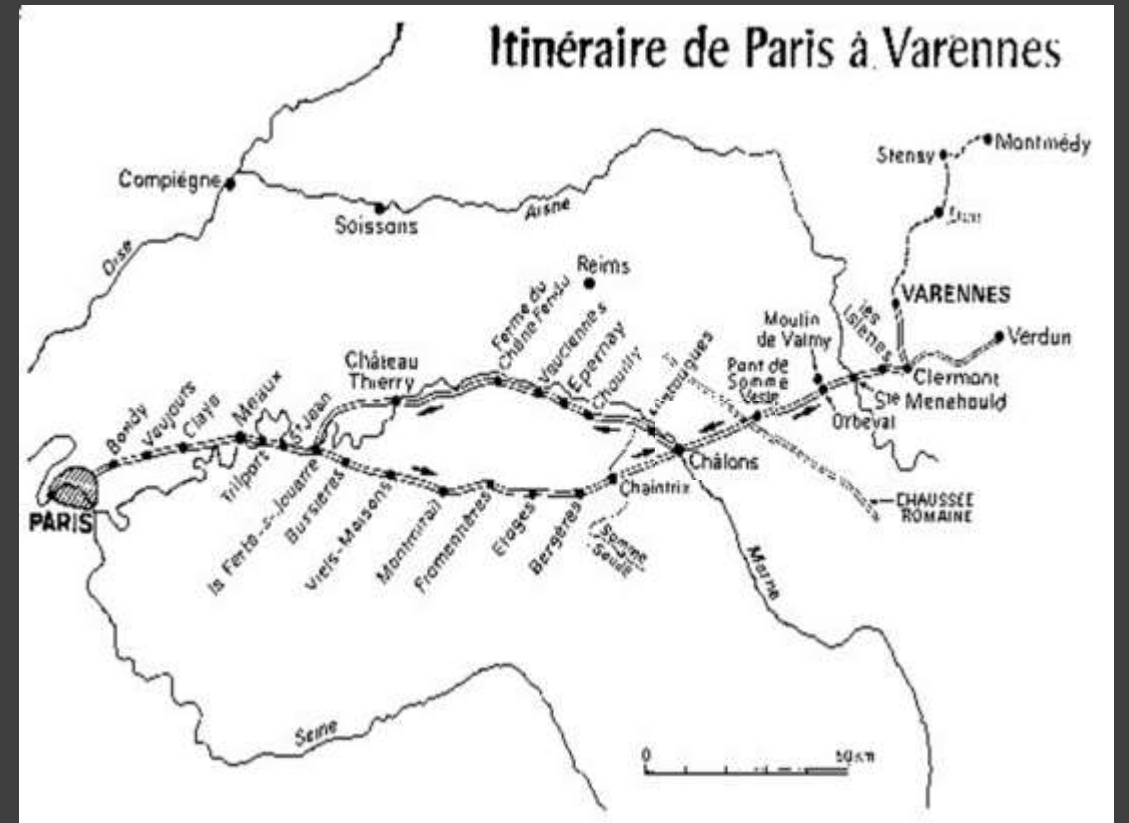
Itinéraire de Paris à Varennes



The King recognized at
Chaintrix

The wheels of the
carriage bumped
against a bridge
Repairs = further
delays

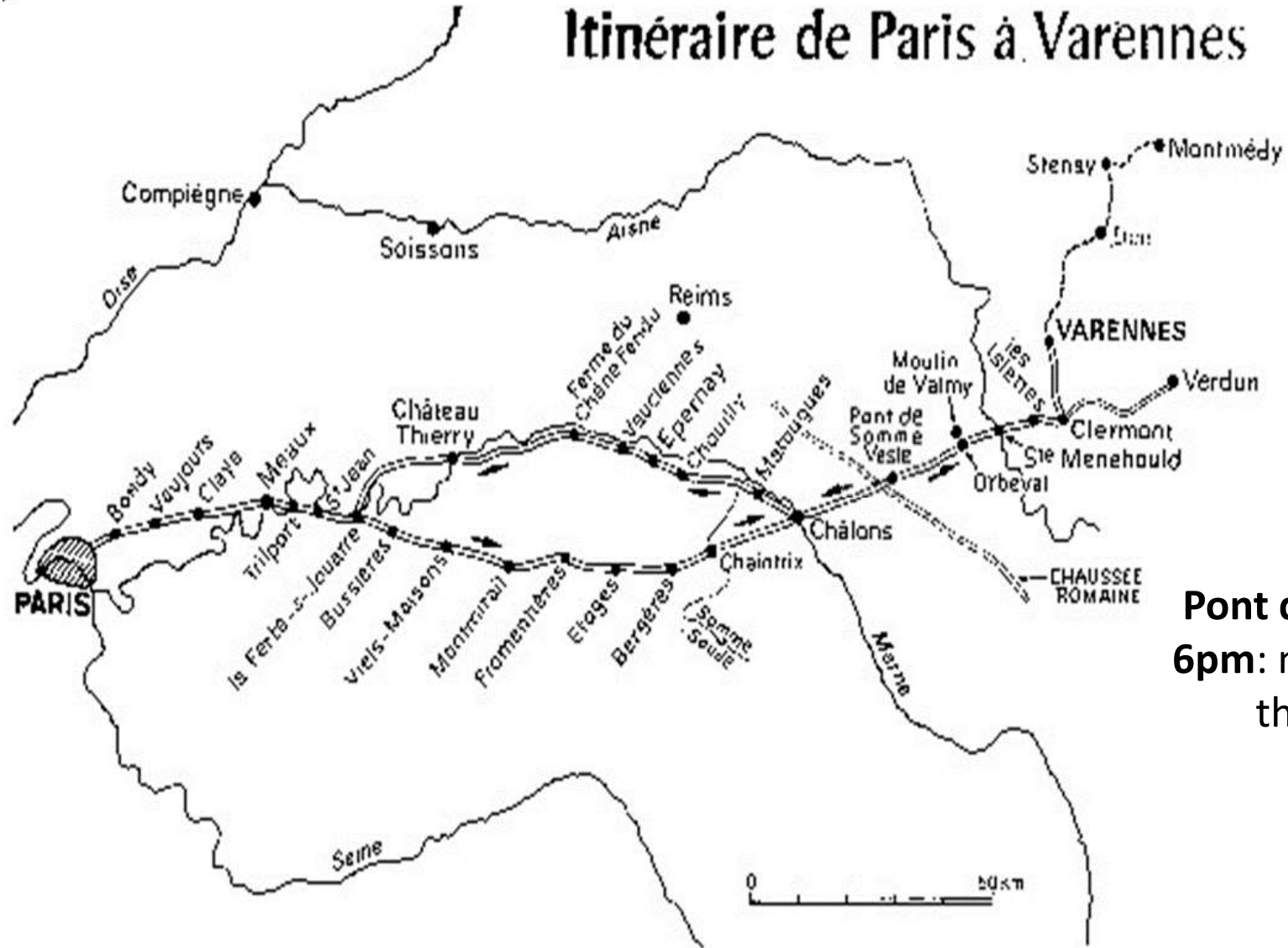




Châlons

*"When we have passed **Châlons**
we shall have nothing further to fear..."*

Itinéraire de Paris à Varennes

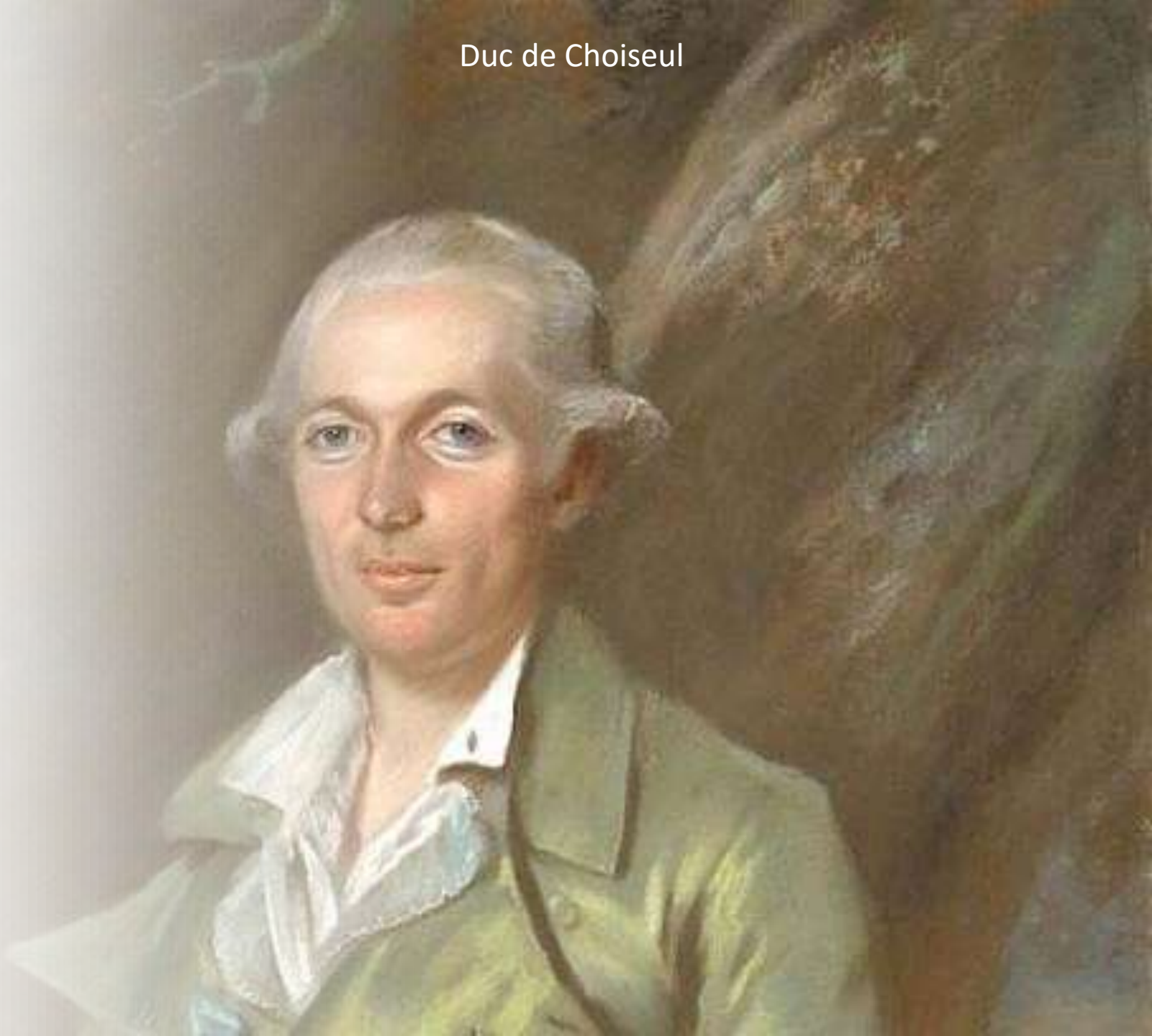


Pont de Somme Vesle,
6pm: no troops to meet
the royal party

A fateful decision

The royal party 4 hours late

Choiseul concluded the
escaped had been
postponed



A note to Leonard

Mission to tell the other detachments further along the route that the “treasure” was no longer expected



8pm: Sainte-
Menehould

*“Leave immediately;
hurry or you are lost”*



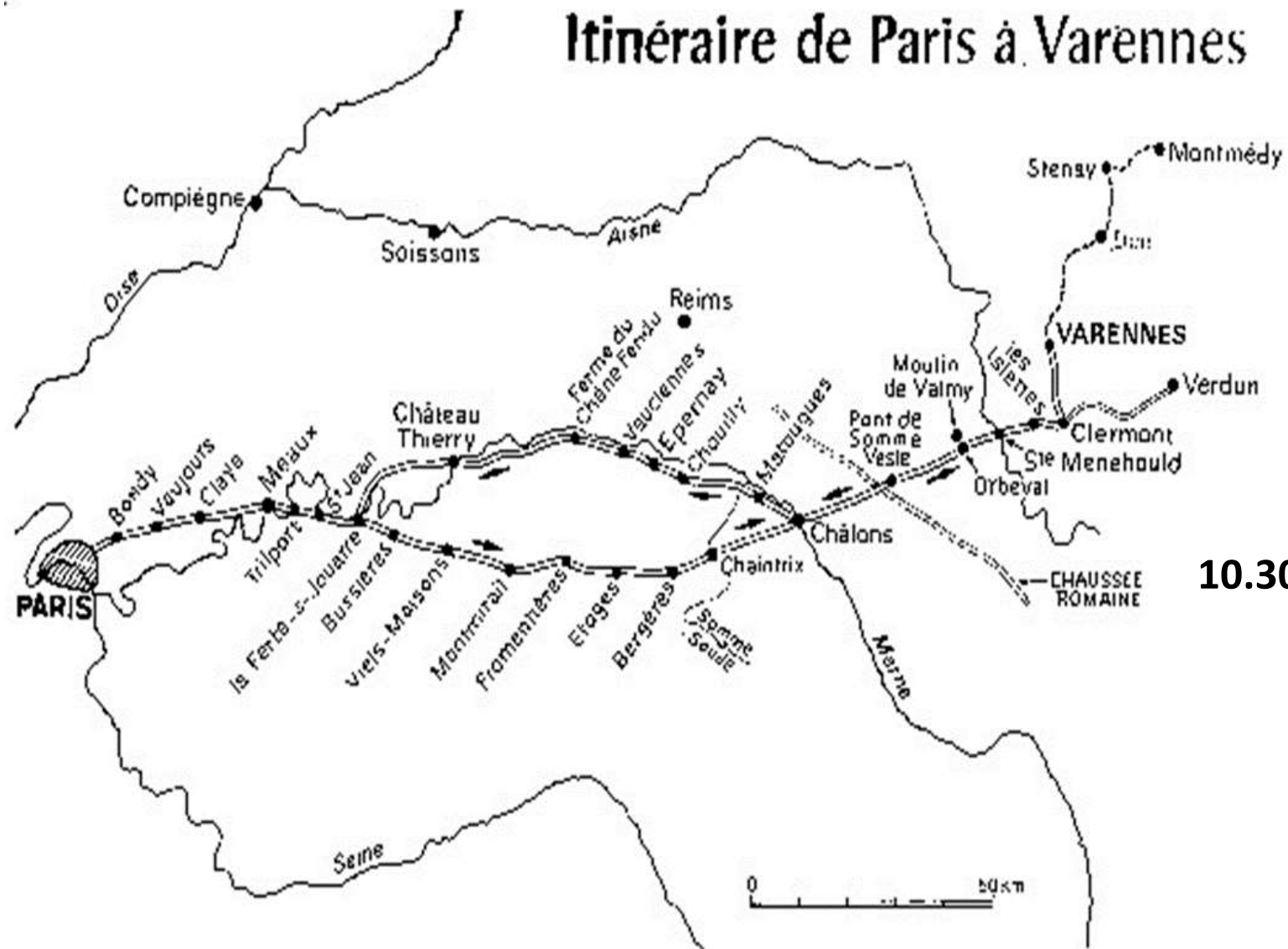
The King recognized... again!

Drouet: the postmaster of Sainte-
Menehould

Authorized to set off in pursuit



Itinéraire de Paris à Varennes



10.30pm: Varennes

No relay-station

Private arrangements for a change
of horses made but they could not
be found

The arrival of Drouet

The royal carriage stopped
Passports checked



"Yes I am your king..."

*"I have come to the
provinces to find the liberty
and peace you all enjoy in
the midst of my faithful
subjects"*

Growing crowd outside



UN FILM D'ETTORE SCOLA

JEAN-LOUIS BARRAULT MARCELLO MASTROIANNI

HANNA SCHYGULLA HARVEY KEITEL

LA NUIT DE VARENNES



JEAN-CLAUDE BRIALY ANDREA FERREOL MICHEL VITOLD
LAURA BETTI ENZO JANNACCI PIERRE MALET et DANIEL GELIN



22 June, 7.30am

The carriage headed on its way
back to Paris

Surrounded by 6 000 National
Guards and immense crowd

Loyal troops arrived at... 9.30am

The return to Paris: an ordeal



RETOUR DE LA FAMILLE ROYALE à Paris, le 22 Juin 1815

Le 22 Juin 1815, la famille royale est rentrée à Paris. Elle a été accueillie par une foule immense de partisans de la monarchie. Les troupes royalistes, qui avaient suivi le roi à Gand, se sont réunies à Paris. Les troupes napoléoniennes, qui avaient suivi le roi à Gand, se sont réunies à Paris. Les troupes napoléoniennes, qui avaient suivi le roi à Gand, se sont réunies à Paris.

3 commissioners from the
Assembly to join the royal family

Antoine Barnave: a moderate
Jerome Petion: a republican



25 June: Paris

Total silence; hats on

*“Whoever applauds the King
will be thrashed; whoever
insults him will be hanged”*

The arms of the National
Guard reversed



Royal family under strict
house arrest

Varennes: a parenthesis?

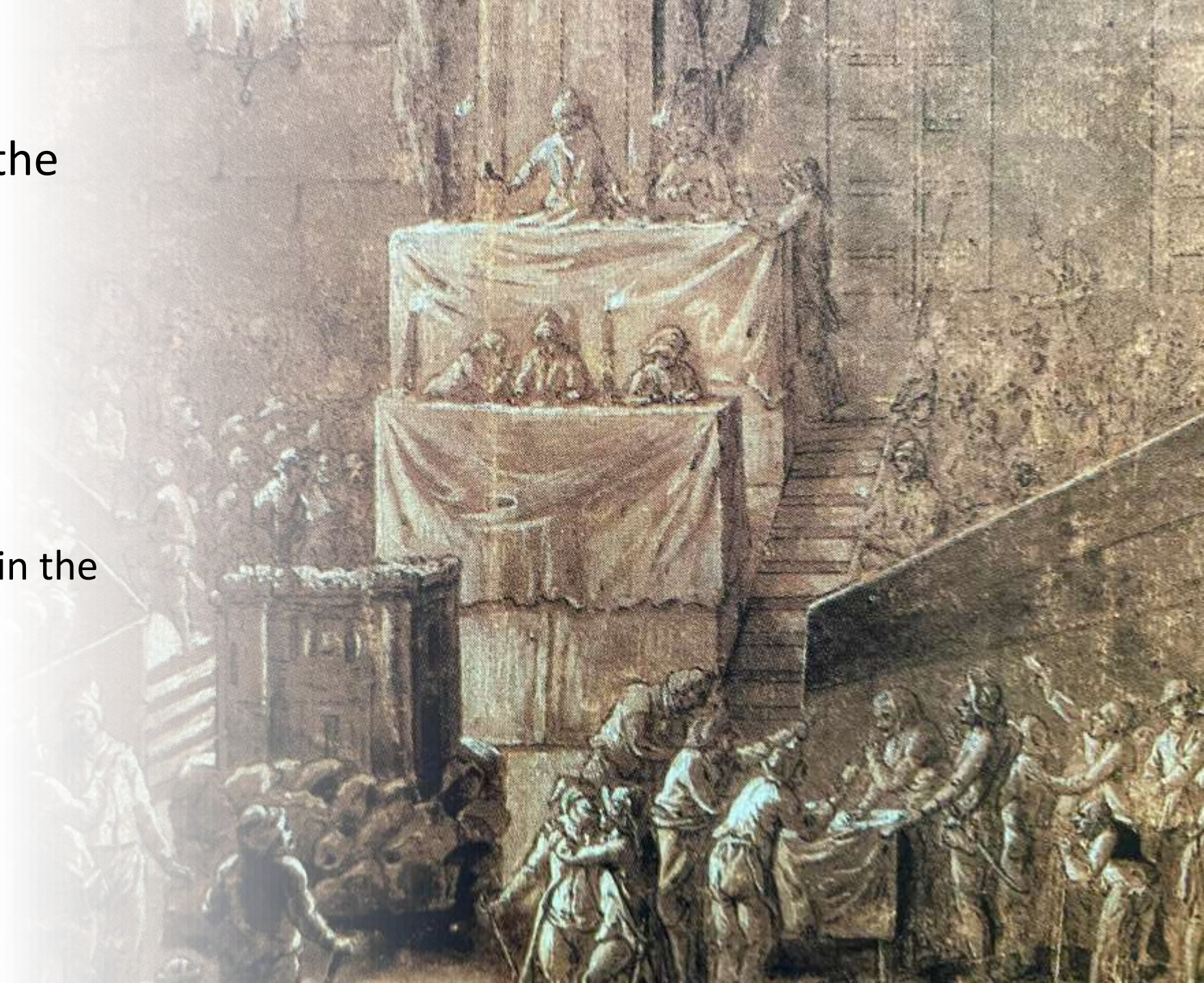
Respect for the King
evaporated

Growing calls for a republic



What to do with the
King?

To save the monarchy in the
name of stability



Reciprocal deception

The Assembly: the King as a constitutional monarch

14 September 1791: Louis XVI swore allegiance to the Constitution



Double-game

Correspondence with moderate revolutionaries

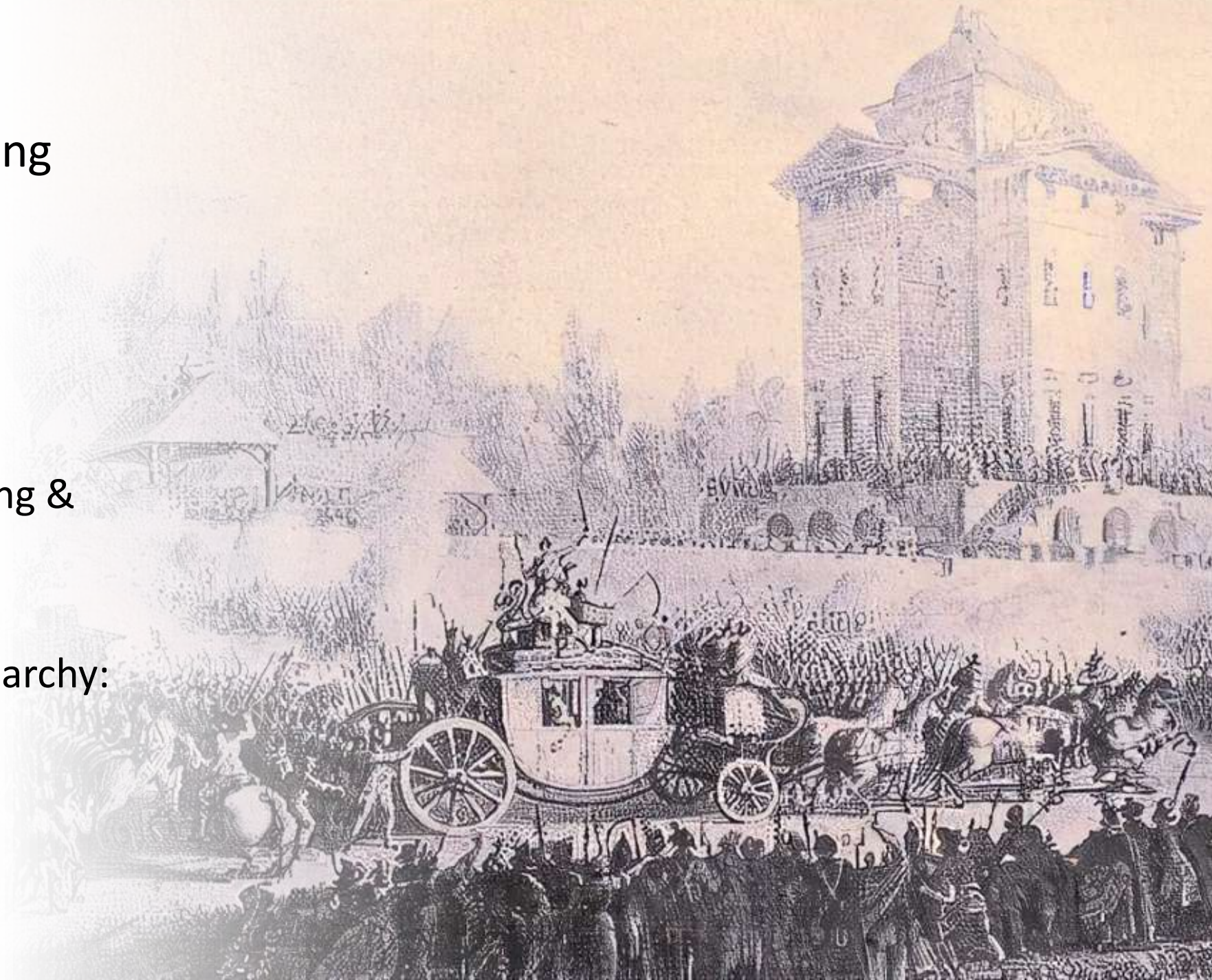
*“You need have no anxiety! I shall not allow myself to be misled by these ‘**enragés**’. If I have interviews with some of them, or enter into relationships with them in any way, it is only in order to make use of them; and I loathe them too much to make common cause with them, whatever the circumstances.”*



Varennes: a turning
point

The **divorce** of the King &
public opinion

The constitutional monarchy:
a failure





**April 1792: France at war
with Austria**

**The rise of a young captain:
Napoleon Bonaparte**

A **coup** (18 Brumaire):
December 1799

