

The long term causes of the french revolution essay sample



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This paper is on the The Long Term Causes of the French Revolution. It will explain events that led up to the revolution and how they occurred and caused the great revolution to happen. Louis XVI, who was of the royal house of Bourbon, became the absolute monarch of France when his grand father Louis XV died. When Louis the XVI became king, France was having a lot of problems, and was changing very fast. So France needed a strong leader to make wise decisions and to deal with problems with the French people.

Although Louis had lots of good ideas he was weak ruler and he could not make the decisions needed at the time. In 1770 when Louis was fifteen he married the fourteen year old Marie Antoinette, who was the daughter Maria Theresa, the Empress of Austria. The marriage was set up to build a stronger alliance between France and Austria. During the first couple of years they were married she became extremely unpopular. The reason why she became so unpopular is because she liked to spend a lot of money which the people thought was just a waste of time. Because of this she was nicknamed 'Madam Deficit' (1)

The people blamed a lot of the country's problems on her because they despised her so much. Even though France was going through hard times the majority of people liked Louis, but he had little or nothing to do with the lower class, he spent a lot of time with the Nobles of France and was generally surrounded by thousands of Nobles in the Palace at Versailles. Louis did not know too much what was going on in the country in which he ruled, especially in the debt that France had. France was suffering large financial trouble and owed a lot of money to other countries. 'The Enlightenment is the popular name given to much of the philosophical thought of the

eighteenth century'(2). Under the Enlightenment there were many great names in the field of philosophy names like: Locke, Voltaire and Rousseau were all commonly known all through out the world. They tried to solve the problems that the lower class were faced with. They commented against the Church, Nobility and any body else they felt were robbing the lower class from there rights and freedoms which they felt every one was able to have and should have.

Most of them did not want to take the throne away from the King but they did how ever feel that the should have a Constitutional Monarchy, they wanted a more democratic government that gave the people more of a say. Some people criticized against the Philoshers because the thought that they wanted to destroy French Society. But what these people did not realize is that most of them wanted to improve the society in which they were living. After seing the success of the Amercain war of Independence was a success this also got people thinking of what it would be like to press for there right to obtain there own goverenment. In theroy France was a well united county but is was not really the Nobles were jelouse of the king and they thought of him as a threat, At the same time the middle class were jelouse of the nobles because the Nobles held all the important offices. The Church was like the Nobles and had feudal rights that no one else had this also made the middle class jelouse because the Church was making allot of money and they had to pay no taxes.

Therefore all the taxes fell on thoes who could least afford to pay them

Although life was improving for the middle class life was getting worse and

worse all the time for the lower class It was estimated in the years 1771 and <https://assignbuster.com/the-long-term-causes-of-the-french-revolution-essay-sample/>

1789 there were 7 million beggars in France. The king's series of Finance ministers suggested to the king that every one and all land should be taxed, but these ideas did not suite the Nobles and Louis was too weak of a ruler to go against the Nobles of France. Because of this the lower class started looking at the success of the American Revolution and they wanted change in the royal government. The Nobles seen a chance to greater their power and lower the king's and they cried Liberty and then the French Revolution Began. The king and Queen and the court were a burden on France because Louis was a weak ruler and he was lazy and a very dirty man. The Queen was very lazy and did not want to have any thing to do that will be considered a burden to her, She did not like to think she just wanted to have fun, The people really despised her.

As for the court the people of France did not like them because they did not look after the needs of the people and they gave the king bad advice at least that is what the people thought. Francois Marie Arouete who wrote under the name Voltaire was the most 'corrosive, spiteful, sparkling, witty, and malevolent' (4) He he assulted whatever he wanted in a time where all books were censored even educational school books. He attacked the clergy as being rich useless parasites. He attacked the church as an institution that the state gave every thing to for a few prayers. He also demanded tolerance he felt that no one has the right to judge another man for their opinions and for their beliefs. He also felt that every one should stick together and not always fight. He was not a conventional revolutionary he wanted change and he expressed his ideas to others to help him get the changes he demanded for society..

Turgot came up with a plan to stable the economy and to lower cost he expressed his concerns and his program to the king and the king was impressed and gave Tugot his support but when it came down to the court Louis was not able to fight for Turgot and the Ideas were not aloud in. After this Turgot wrote Louis a letter basically stating that he was not half the king his grand father was and that the country was going to fall apart because of him. This letter cause great sorrow for Louis and he spent allot of time weeping because of the strong letter and he realized it was right, and that he realized that the country was going to fall apart and that he would never been able to pay of the huge debt that the county owed..