

To what extent did the actions and policies of king louis xvi caused the outbreak...



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

To what extent did the actions and policies of King Louis XVI caused the outbreak and affect the course of the French Revolution up to 1793

In the year of 1789, there began a French Revolution due to economic troubles that had started back when King Louis XIV was ruling France. To pay back the money that had been lost in the aiding of the Americans in their war, the king began to make the third estate pay, raising the prices on small, everyday items unnecessarily as well as raising the taxes unreasonably. These taxes began to truly distinguish the inequality and separation between the three estates. Several of his influential actions on the French Revolution had a rather negative affect for his country. King Louis XVI affected the French Revolution in many ways: he had decided to help the Americans in their war, been desperate enough to call the States-General after losing a large quantity of money, was unfeeling and inconsiderate in his actions, and cared more for himself and his safety than the welfare of the people of his country. The first and most prominent action King Louis XVI committed was to become allies with the Americans in their time of need and desperation. This was the primary reason for the economic problems that had been occurring in France, for they had spent over one million livres tournois on the American Revolution. When King Louis XVI discovered that his favor to the Americans would help his personal extravagant spending send the country into bankruptcy, he began to tax the third estate at a high rate, which began the revolution in the third estate. Along with sending his country into poverty through the American Revolution, King Louis XVI also exposed the citizens of his country to the seemingly wild ideas in America of freedom, unity, and

equality, causing several people to begin to think about changes they could make in their own government.

The Americans had set an example to the French, protesting, crafting documents, holding large meetings and conferences: the French used these things as an example and although they were not forming a system of Checks and Balances, they fought to produce an improved government. Simply choosing to assist the Americans Revolution caused King Louis XVI to greatly influence a revolution of his own. As the Revolution began in 1789, King Louis called a large meeting called the States-General. The States-General was a meeting that included all three estates in deciding what to do with the country and its government.

The States-General had not taken place in over 170 years and when it had taken place more regularly, the estates would be entitled to cast in one vote only. King Louis XVI was stubborn and wanted this to remain the same to uphold the traditions of the States-General. The Third Estate was furious. The fact that they had the greatest population and the most foul problems due to the economic issues, caused them to be skeptical of their the other estates choices in how to rule their lives. In consequence, the Third Estate determined to hold a meeting in a sort of tennis court on June 17, and refused to adjourn the meeting, until their opinions and worries were addressed.

The Third Estate also took it upon themselves to dub themselves as the National Assembly. This event was later called the Tennis Court Oath, and was significant to the Revolution because it was the beginning of the Third

<https://assignbuster.com/to-what-extent-did-the-actions-and-policies-of-king-louis-xvi-caused-the-outbreak-and-affect-the-course-of-the-french-revolution-up-to-1793/>

Estate claiming their rights as citizens to determine laws of the land. King Louis XVI had a personality that also greatly affected the French Revolution.

As a younger man, King Louis XVI was known and mocked for being a rather awkward and unintelligent. He was the sort of man who was willing to listen to and believe any individual who talked to him. At times, it seems as if he had no significant opinions at all and felt as if he was in need of someone else's opinion to adopt as his own. King Louis XVI was also not very considerate towards his subjects. As they struggled through life, the only thing he did for them, was make their struggle harder. He gave the third estate the most taxes although they had the least money. He also seemed to value their opinion less, merely because their lives did not intertwine with his on a regular basis. He refused to give the third estate more than one vote although they made up around 96% of the population in France, meaning that the two smallest and richest estates could easily overlook the third estate's opinions as they design the country's organization.

Another great influence King Louis XVI had set upon the French Revolution was when he ran away from his country and all of his problems. Instead of striving for progress, he decided to take his family and leave for his wife's home country: Australia. He committed treason against his own country, betraying every single one of his citizens. He had been a failure to the citizens of his country and they knew that they needed to change the government and solve their financial problems in a more fair way than before. King Louis XVI made a large amount of impact upon the French Revolution.

<https://assignbuster.com/to-what-extent-did-the-actions-and-policies-of-king-louis-xvi-caused-the-outbreak-and-affect-the-course-of-the-french-revolution-up-to-1793/>

While many of his actions were not positively influential, they were vital to the revolution and they helped the Revolution to turn out the way it did: successfully. King Louis XVI was arguably unfit for the job as king during this time of great trial. He was a selfish king, spending as he wished and doing his best to avoid his duties. King Louis XVI affected the French Revolution in many ways: he had decided to help the Americans in their war, been desperate enough to call the States-General after losing a large quantity of money, was unfeeling and inconsiderate in his actions, and cared more for himself and his safety than the welfare of the people of his country.

All of these things pieced the revolution of France together. Through these negative impacts he had made on the country, his people built a unity, recreating the country's government system and overcoming their challenges together.