



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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Anotace:	Tato prezentace slouží k výkladu učiva tématu: Velká francouzská revoluce - předvečer (v anglickém jazyce)

THE GREAT FRENCH REVOLUTION

THE EVE

FRANCE IN 1780's

- the most populous country on European continent
- 26 million of inhabitants
- the most powerful continental state
- Louis XIV and Louis XV led numerous belligerent wars

FRENCH SOCIETY

- inhabitants divided into 3 estates:
- first estate: 100 000 members of clergy
- second estate: 400 000 members of nobility
- third estate: 25.5 million commoners (urban and wealthier rural inhabitants)

ESTATE DIFFERENCES

- the first 2 estates were privileged: paid no direct taxes
- the third estate bore the burden of the tax system and fed the first 2 estates and the royal court

OPPRESSION OF THIRD ESTATE

- Apart from the tax burden the third estate suffered from:
- censorship
- despotism of royal officials
- mercantilistic system slowing down the free enterprise
- religious intolerance (against

OTHER TROUBLE

- also excluded from any possibility to obtain higher positions in:
 - army
 - Church
 - royal offices
- French bourgeoisie was often wealthier than petty aristocracy but they were at the lower position on the social ladder

THE GREAT FRENCH REVOLUTION

FINANCIAL CRISIS

INDECISIVE KING

- in 1774 Louis XVI became the King of France
- indecisive and insecure man
- during his reign the financial crisis of the state got deeper

ECONOMIC CRISIS

- Public debts increased rapidly
- Main reasons:
 - the American War of Independence
 - extravagant and lavish life-style of the royal court

MADAME DEFICIT

- the public dissatisfaction turned against the Queen Maria Antoinette
- at the end of 1780ies the French state debt was twice higher than the entire money circulation in the country
- The Queen was blamed for and hated by the public

SEARCHING FOR SOLUTION

- the King successively appointed several capable experts as Secretaries of the Treasury
- Turgot
- Callon
- Necker

DISAPPROVAL

- Although Necker released the height of the public debt, aristocracy and clergy remained disapproving towards any changes
- proposed reforms were strictly rejected by the privileged estates

FINAL MEASUREMENT

- the appalling financial situation made the sovereign make a desperate decision:
- to summon **the Estates-General** (estates of the realm) after more than 100 years to Versailles
- to discuss how to **avoid** the **bankruptcy** of the kingdom

EVE OF REVOLUTION

- The first meeting took place on 5th May 1789
- It turned into a storm which uprooted the rotten tree of absolutism and started the blazing fire of revolution....

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