

**Scene 1: rule of Louis XVI**

Narrator: In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, France was the most powerful country in Europe, Louis XVI was the King of France. However, he was not a strong leader, he was weak and controlled by his wife, Queen Marie Antoinette.

*(Officials 1, Louis XVI and Queen Marie come on the stage)*

Officials 1: My king, we don't have enough money on supporting United State to fight for their independence.

Louis XVI: Oh, then what should we do? *(worriedly)*

Queen Marie: Don't worry, we can collect more taxes from the people.

Louis XVI: Yes, Yes, that's right!

*(Officials 1 leave)*

Louis XVI: Oh, my wife, I am so lucky to have you, you always help me to solve those annoying problems.

*(Officials 2 come on the stage)*

Officials 2: Oh no, oh no! My king, the citizens in Paris are very angry and having a demonstration head to the palace.

Queen Marie: Why are they so angry?

Officials 2: Because they have no bread.

Queen Marie: Then let them have cakes! Don't bother us.

*(Officials 2, Louis XVI, Queen Marie leave)*

Narrator: Under the rules of Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette, the living condition of French was poor, and the country was almost bankrupt, because he and his wife spent money recklessly. Therefore, the situation of the French was getting worse and worse.

**Scene 2: The life of the common people**

Narrator: At that time, the French society was divided into three estates. The clergy formed the First Estate. The nobles were the Second Estate. The common people made up the Third Estate. The clergy and the nobles enjoyed privileges and they were very rich and led a luxurious life.

Common people (peasant): I am a farmer, I have the hardest life. I have no or little land to farm, but have to pay heavy taxes to my lords and to the Church. *(Holding a plough)*

Common people (city worker): I am a city worker. My life is poor too. I work day and night, but I am poorly paid. *(Holding a hammer)*

Common people (bourgeoisie): I am a doctor. I am rich and educated; however, it's so disappointing that I have no political rights.

Common people (all): We need to pay lots of taxes.

*(All common people leave)*

### **Scene3: calling of the Estates-General**

Narrator: In order to solve the financial problems of the French government, Louis XVI tried to collect taxes from the clergy and the nobles, but both estates refused to pay. The king then called a meeting of the Estates-General

*(Louis XVI, all common people, Noble and clergy come on the stage)*

Louis XVI: I think we need to collect more taxes from the estate, which estate should we collect from?

Common people (bourgeoisie): It is unfair to us. Each estate has only one vote in the meeting. The clergy and nobles must support each other, we must have to pay more taxes. We hope every representative will have one vote.

Noble and clergy: Impossible!

*(Common people leave angrily)*

*(Noble and clergy leave)*

*(Louis XVI remain)*

Narrator: The common people became very angry. They could not get what they want so they left. They met in the tennis court nearby and took an oath that they would set up a constitution in France.

### **Scene 4: Tennis Court Oath**

*(Louis XVI's army come on the stage)*

Louis XVI: Why can they do this? I would send you guys to the tennis court and suppress them.

*(Army leave)*

### **Scene 5: Fall of the Bastille**

Narrator: At that time there were many hungry people in Paris. When they heard about the king's plan, they attacked the Bastille which was a symbol of tyranny in France.

*(Common people, Louis XVI's army come on the stage)*

Common people: Go!Go!Go! Attack the prison!

*(Common people bring lots of weapons to attack the prison and fight with the army)*

*(Common people, Louis XVI's army leave)*

### **Scene 6: The end of French revolution**

Narrator: The fall of Bastille started the French Revolution. In 1791, France became a constitutional monarchy. However, later, Louis XVI joined other countries to fight with the revolutionaries in France. Louis XVI was defeated.

*(Louis XVI is going to be beheaded. The common people gather around the guillotine to see the execution.)*

Louis XVI: I don't want to die. Oh! My head....

*(Louis XVI is beheaded.)*

Common people: WooHoo!

Narrator : After the death of Louis XVI, the monarchy was ended and the republic was set up in France. Therefore, the French Revolution ended.