

# The Birth of Modern Democracies: Comparative Enlightened Revolutions



- I. The European Enlightenment**
- II. Modernity and Democracy**
- III. Revolutions in America and France**

# The Enlightenment 1600-1800 in Europe



**The application of reason to  
understand and control the  
natural world and the social order**

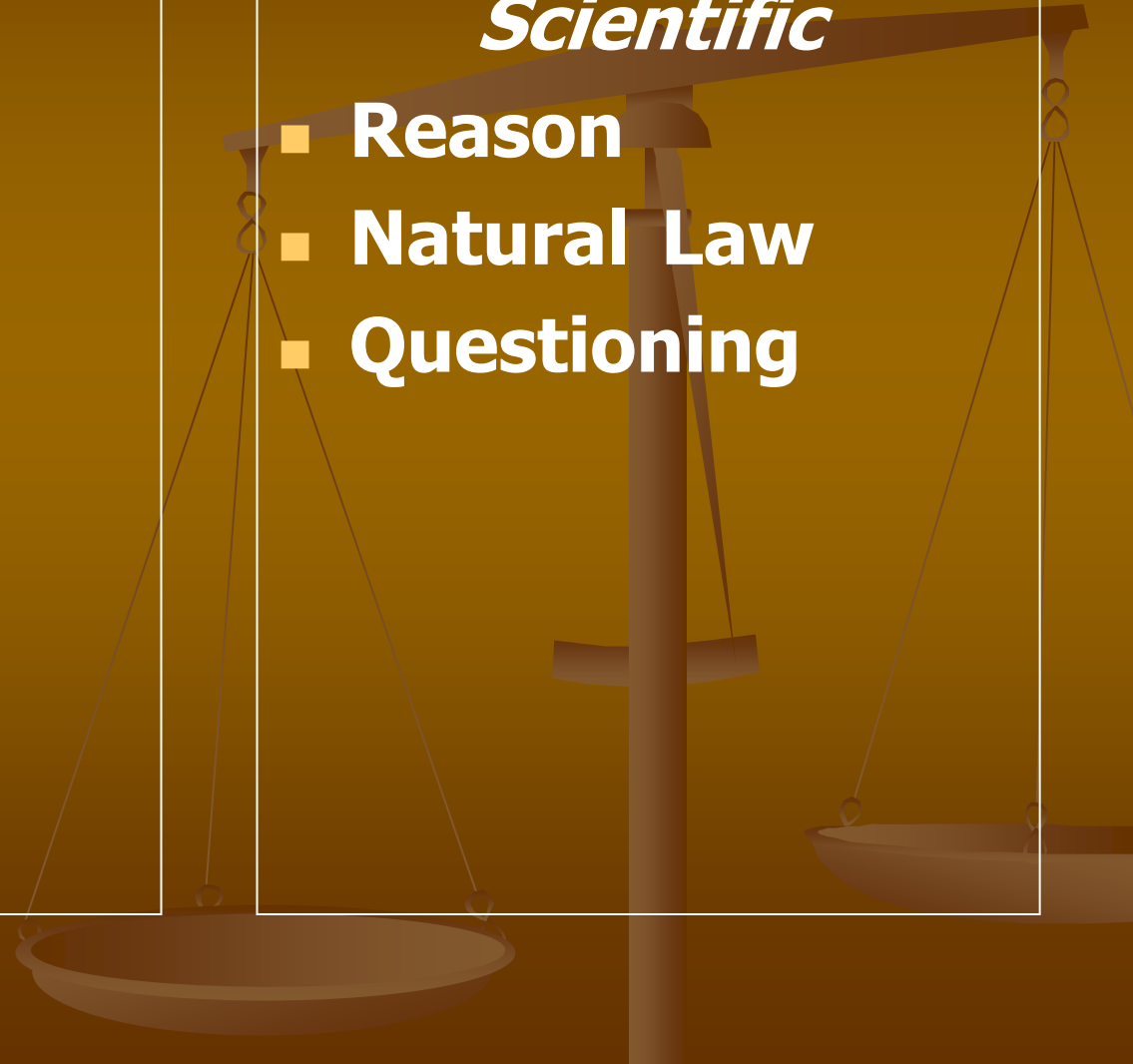
# Religious Versus Scientific/Rational Worldviews

## *Religious*


- Faith
- God's Law
- Obedience

## *Scientific*

- Reason
- Natural Law
- Questioning



# Enlightenment Beliefs

- **Faith in science**
  - **belief in natural law in the universe and society**
  - **rationality of humanity**
  - **reason over superstition**
  - **human progress over time**
  - **humanity's control over nature**
  - **Individual rights and public use of reason**
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# The American Revolution

- American colonies revolt from British colonial control (1776).
- Economic causes.
- Social causes.
- Political causes.
- War for Independence from 1776-1783.
- Establish a constitutional government in 1787.



# Boston Massacre, 1770



**The Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770.**

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# Declaration of Independence and the Enlightenment

**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That, to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.**

# The French Revolution

- **Financial crisis of the French Monarchy of Louis XVI.**
- **Parlements and local Resistance.**
- **Calling of the Estates General.**



# Louis XVI



# Parlements and Regional Resistance



# **Three Estates in the Estates General**

**First Estate: Clergy and Hierarchy of the  
Catholic Church**

**Second Estate: Nobility and Landed Wealth  
of the Nation**

**Third Estate: Commoners or the Rest  
of the Nation**

# Propaganda in France, 1788-1789

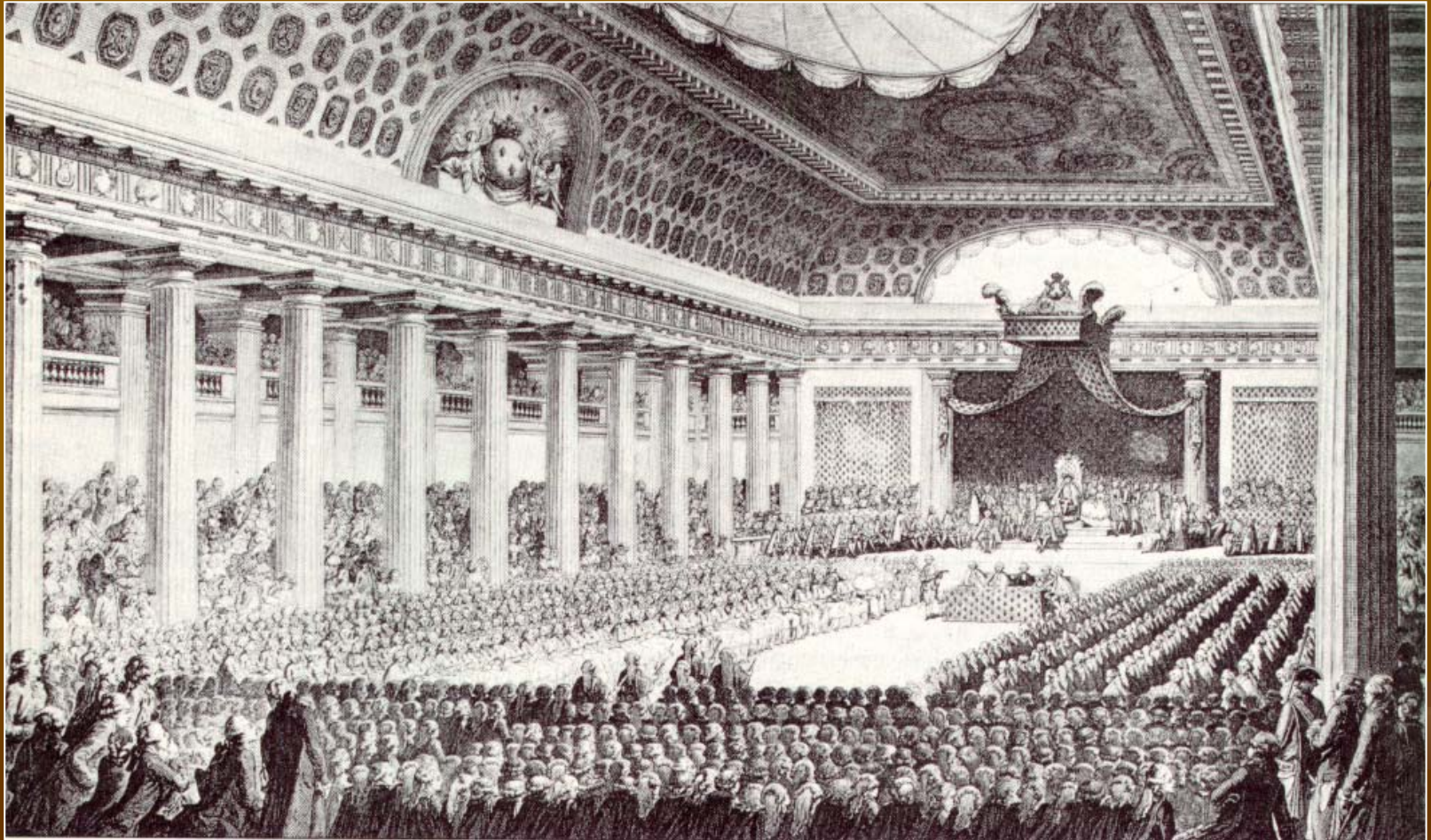


# Revolution, Paris, 1789

- Estates General meets in May 1789 in Paris
- Third Estate outvoted 2 to 3 on most measures.
- June 17, 1789-Third Estate walks out
- Tennis Court Oath-National Assembly.
- July 14, 1789-Storming of the Bastille.



# The Estates General: Paris, June, 1789



# Tennis Court Oath, June, 1789



# The Paris Crowd



# Storming of the Bastille

## July 14, 1789

