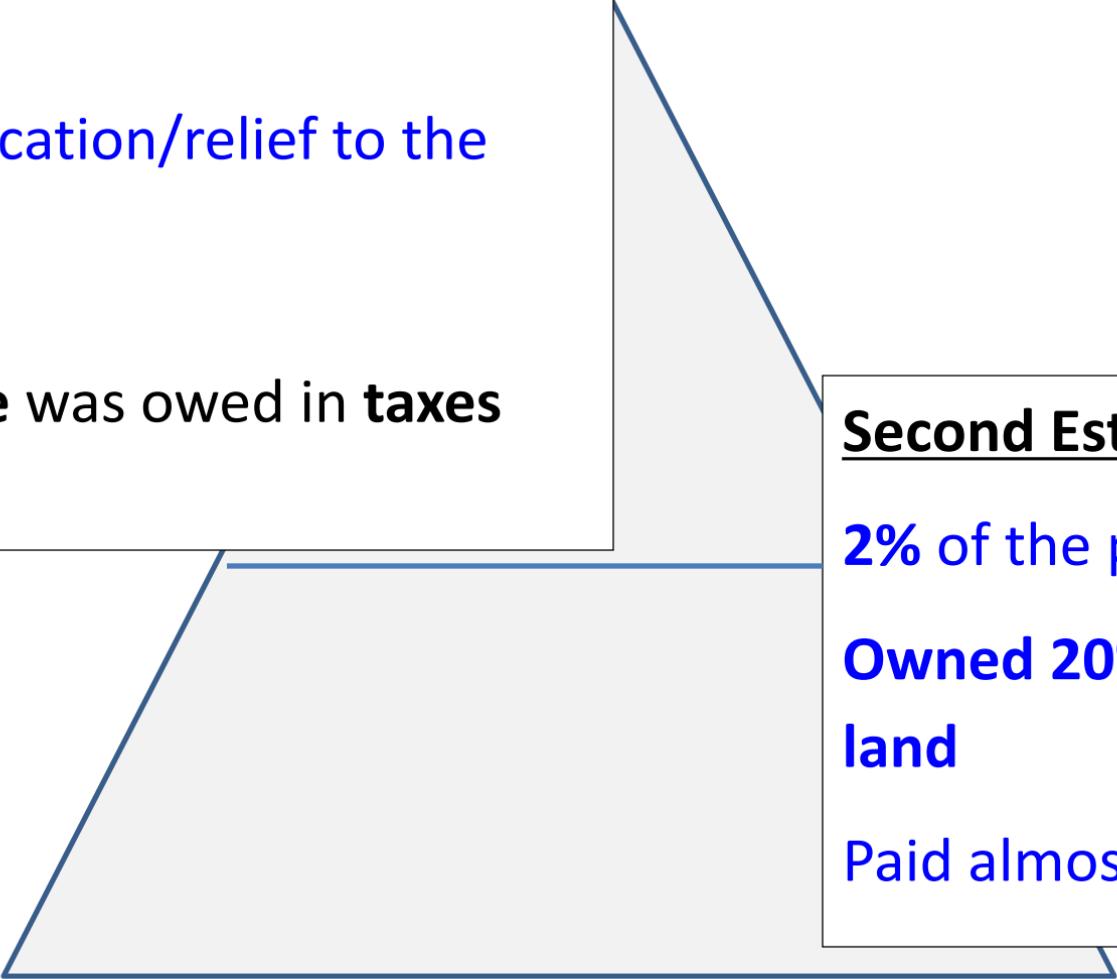


# Guided Notes: The Old Regime (Order)

I. **The Old Regime**: The social and political system of France. It consisted of three estates. It was a system based on inequality and privilege.

A. **Estates**: Social Classes.

B. All the people of France were divided into **3 estates**.



**First Estate:** Roman Catholic Clergy

Less than **1%** of population

**Owned 10 % of the land** in France.

Provided education/relief to the poor

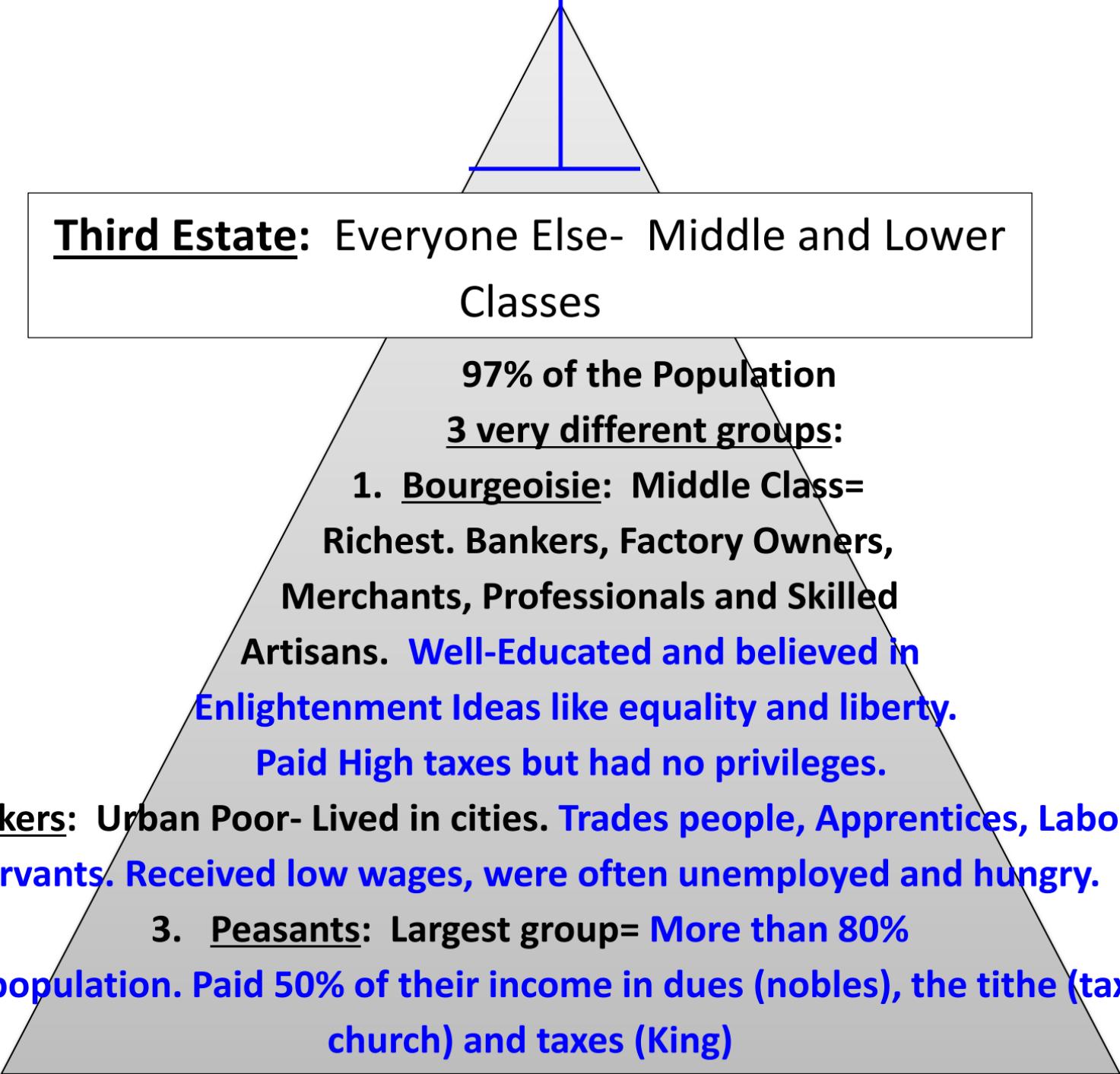
**2% of income** was owed in **taxes**

**Second Estate:** Nobility

**2%** of the population

**Owned 20% of the land**

Paid almost **no taxes**.



**Third Estate:** Everyone Else- Middle and Lower  
Classes

**97% of the Population**

**3 very different groups:**

1. **Bourgeoisie:** Middle Class=  
Richest. Bankers, Factory Owners,  
Merchants, Professionals and Skilled  
Artisans. **Well-Educated and believed in  
Enlightenment Ideas like equality and liberty.  
Paid High taxes but had no privileges.**
2. **Workers:** Urban Poor- Lived in cities. **Trades people, Apprentices, Laborers,  
Servants. Received low wages, were often unemployed and hungry.**
3. **Peasants:** Largest group= **More than 80%  
Of the population. Paid 50% of their income in dues (nobles), the tithe (tax for  
church) and taxes (King)**

## C. Concerns of Each Estate:

1. Both the **First and Second Estate** were very concerned with protecting their status (power), privileges and low taxes. They viewed Enlightenment Ideas as dangerous and radical.
2. Many of the **Bourgeoisie** embraced Enlightenment ideas and resented their lack of influence over a government they paid so much in taxes to. Many were wealthier than nobles but they had no say in the government.
3. **The Workers** struggled daily to survive. Their #1 concern was the price of bread. When prices rose, they would riot and sometimes attack grain carts and bread shops.
4. Both the **Peasants and Workers** resented the First and Second Estate for their lack of taxes and social privileges.