

Changes brought about by the National Assembly in 1789-91

- Special privileges of the nobles were abolished. Inherited titles such as *prince*, *baron*, *duke* were abolished, too.
- The King had to accept a 'Civil Constitution of the Clergy'. Churchmen were to be elected by the local people. They were paid by the state and had to promise loyalty to the state.
- Church lands were taken over by the state and sold to peasants at low prices. But much land also ended up in the hands of rich bankers and business people.
- New paper money (the *assignats*) was introduced. This new money quickly lost its value because of the economic and political crisis.

Source: P. Mantin, *The French Revolution*, Oxford, Heinemann, 1992: p. 20 (adapted).

Task: What sort of people were the winners of these revolutionary changes and who were those who lost out?

New words:

civil (adj.) → here: not belonging to the church; as ordered by the state

loyalty (adj.) → support for sb.; the act of being loyal to sb.

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