

The Ancien Régime - The Three Estates



Louis XVI

First



*Archbishop Brienne
de Toulouse*

Second



Duchess of Polignac

Third



Georges Couthon, lawyer

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Louis XVI

- king
- absolute monarch
- appointed by God
- supreme judge
- reigned and ruled
- declared war

First



*Archbishop Brienne
de Toulouse*

- clergy
- 1 per cent of the population
- bishops and priests
- received money from the people (fees, tithes)
- the high clergy owned much land (15 per cent)

Second



Duchess of Polignac

- nobility
- 2-3 per cent of the population
- owned 40 per cent of the land
- held the top jobs in the army and in government
- did not pay much tax
- received dues from the peasants

Third



Georges Couthon, lawyer

- peasants, workers, merchants, doctors, lawyers, etc.
- 97 per cent of the population
- many peasants were poor
- paid most of the taxes
- had few political rights
- some well-educated people became very rich (even richer than some of the nobility)