

# Ancient Regime

• Under the ancient regime (old order), France was divided into social classes, or estates.

1. Clergy – Church leaders; owned about 10% of the land; paid no taxes
2. Nobles – knights; military; top government jobs; lower church jobs
3. Third class was broken into two sections the “middle” class, known as bourgeoisie, (bankers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, etc.) and peasants (majority of the population).



# The Ancient Regime

**Hippolyte Adolphe Taine**



## **The Ancient Regime:**

The Old Regime and the Revolution, Volume I Alexis de Tocqueville, 1998-08-15 The Old Regime and the Revolution is Alexis de Tocqueville's great meditation on the origins and meanings of the French Revolution. One of the most profound and influential studies of this pivotal event, it remains a relevant and stimulating discussion of the problem of preserving individual and political freedom in the modern world. Alan Kahan's translation provides a faithful, readable rendering of Tocqueville's last masterpiece and includes notes and variants which reveal Tocqueville's sources and include excerpts from his drafts and revisions. The introduction by France's most eminent scholars of Tocqueville and the French Revolution, François M. Liono and the late François Furet, provides a brilliant analysis of the work. **The Ancient Regime** Hippolyte Taine, 1972 *The Ancien Régime and the Revolution* Alexis de Tocqueville, 2008-05-29 The Ancien Régime and the Revolution is a comparison of revolutionary France and the despotic rule it toppled. Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-59) is an objective observer of both periods, providing a merciless critique of the ancien régime with its venality, oppression, and inequality, yet acknowledging the reforms introduced under Louis XVI and claiming that the post-Revolution state was in many ways as tyrannical as that of the King: its once lofty and egalitarian ideals corrupted and forgotten. Writing in the 1850s, Tocqueville wished to expose the return to despotism he witnessed in his own time under Napoleon III by illuminating the grand but ultimately doomed call to liberty made by the French people in 1789. His eloquent and instructive study raises questions about liberty, nationalism, and justice that remain urgent today. **The Ancient Regime** George Payne Rainsford James, 1841 **The Ancient Regime** Hippolyte Taine, 2019-11-22 In *The Ancient Regime*, Hippolyte Taine presents a meticulous exploration of French society and culture leading up to the Revolution of 1789. Taine's literary style is characterized by a rich analytical prose that fuses rigorous historical detail with philosophical insight. He deftly employs a sociological lens to dissect the complexities of the ancien régime, illuminating the interconnectedness of class structures, political ideologies, and cultural phenomena. By embedding this historical narrative within broader themes of human behavior and social dynamics, Taine positions his work as a pivotal contribution to both historical and sociological discourse of the 19th century. Hippolyte Taine, a prominent French philosopher and historian, was profoundly influenced by his educational background and the intellectual currents of his time. His experiences during the turbulent period of the Franco-Prussian War, combined with his commitment to empiricism, motivated him to examine societal constructs meticulously. Taine's belief in the power of history to shape human thought and society imbues *The Ancient Regime* with a depth that transcends mere narration, revealing the underlying forces that shaped modern France. For readers interested in the intricacies of social history and the origins of modernity, *The Ancient Regime* is an indispensable text. Taine's incisive analysis and eloquence evoke a nuanced understanding of the philosophical and cultural underpinnings of pre-revolutionary France. This work invites contemporary scholars and casual readers alike to engage with the resonances of the past and consider the lasting

implications of historical transformations      *Ancien Regime and the Revolution* Alexis de Tocqueville, 2008-05-29 The *Ancien R gime and the Revolution* is a comparison of revolutionary France and the despotic rule it toppled Alexis de Tocqueville 1805-59 is an objective observer of both periods providing a merciless critique of the ancien r gime with its venality oppression and inequality yet acknowledging the reforms introduced under Louis XVI and claiming that the post Revolution state was in many ways as tyrannical as that of the King its once lofty and egalitarian ideals corrupted and forgotten Writing in the 1850s Tocqueville wished to expose the return to despotism he witnessed in his own time under Napoleon III by illuminating the grand but ultimately doomed call to liberty made by the French people in 1789 His eloquent and instructive study raises questions about liberty nationalism and justice that remain urgent today      *The Ancient Regime: A Tale* George Payne Rainsford James, 2025-08-02 Reprint of the original first published in 1841 The Antigonos publishing house specialises in the publication of reprints of historical books We make sure that these works are made available to the public in good condition in order to preserve their cultural heritage      *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien Régime* William Doyle, 2011-11-10 In *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien R gime* an international team of thirty contributors survey and present current thinking about the world of pre revolutionary France and Europe The idea of the Ancien R gime was invented by the French revolutionaries to define what they hoped to destroy and replace But it was not a precise definition and although historians have found it conceptually useful there is wide disagreement about what the Ancien R gime s main features were how they worked how old they were how far they stretched how dynamic or inert they were and how far the revolutionaries succeeded in their ambitions to eradicate them In this wide ranging and authoritative collection old and newer areas of research into the Ancien R gime are presented and assessed and there has been no attempt to impose any sort of consensus The result shows what a lively field of historical enquiry the Ancien R gime remains and points the way towards a range of promising new directions for thinking and writing about the intriguing complex of historical problems which it continues to pose      *The Ancient Régime* Hippolyte Taine, 1876      **'Les origines de la France contemporaine'.** **The ancient régime, tr. by J. Durand** Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, 1876      *Notre-Dame; a tale of the "Ancient Régime;" from the French of M. Victor Hugo, with a prefatory notice ... of his romance. By the translator of Thierry's "History of the Conquest of England by the Normans," etc. [W. Hazlitt.]* Victor Hugo, 1833      **Castleneuve; Or, The Ancient Régime** George Payne Rainsford James, 1850      *The Ancient Regime* Hippolyte Taine, 2016-02-20 Hippolyte Taine was a crucial influence on naturalism but today he is best known for his writings especially his multi volume work on the French Revolution as part of his gigantic *The Origins of Contemporary France* As one of the seminal social revolutions in human history the French Revolution holds a unique legacy especially in the West The early years of the Revolution were fueled by Enlightenment ideals seeking the social overthrow of the caste system that gave the royalty and aristocracy decisive advantages over the lower classes But history remembers the French Revolution in a starkly different way as the same

leaders who sought a more democratic system while out of power devolved into establishing an incredibly repressive tyranny of their own once they acquired it Ironically the Reign of Terror ultimately led to the rise of Napoleon's empire before the restoration of the Bourbons

**The Ancien Régime** Catherine Betty Abigail Behrens, 1967 The term Ancien Régime was first used by contemporaries to describe retrospectively the social and political structure in France which the Revolution destroyed It is shown here to be applicable also to different countries at different dates for example to Russia at the end of the nineteenth century but it is discussed principally in relation to France in the fateful years between 1748 and 1789 This is the study of a complex society its economy institutions and beliefs and their erosion by material and ideological change

*The Ancient Regime* Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, 2020-09-28 In 1849 being twenty one years of age and an elector I was very much puzzled for I had to nominate fifteen or twenty deputies and moreover according to French custom I had not only to determine what candidate I would vote for but what theory I should adopt I had to choose between a royalist or a republican a democrat or a conservative a socialist or a bonapartist as I was neither one nor the other nor even anything I often envied those around me who were so fortunate as to have arrived at definite conclusions After listening to various doctrines I acknowledged that there undoubtedly was something wrong with my head The motives that influenced others did not influence me I could not comprehend how in political matters a man could be governed by preferences My assertive countrymen planned a constitution just like a house according to the latest simplest and most attractive plan and there were several under consideration the mansion of a marquis the house of a common citizen the tenement of a laborer the barracks of a soldier the kibbutz of a socialist and even the camp of savages Each claimed that his was the true habitation for Man the only one in which a sensible person could live In my opinion the argument was weak personal taste could not be valid for everyone It seemed to me that a house should not be built for the architect alone or for itself but for the owner who was to live in it Referring to the owner for his advice that is submitting to the French people the plans of its future habitation would evidently be either for show or just to deceive them since the question obviously was put in such a manner that it provided the answer in advance Besides had the people been allowed to reply in all liberty their response was in any case not of much value since France was scarcely more competent than I was the combined ignorance of ten millions is not the equivalent of one man's wisdom A people may be consulted and in an extreme case may declare what form of government it would like best but not that which it most needs Nothing but experience can determine this it must have time to ascertain whether the political structure is convenient substantial able to withstand inclemency and adapted to customs habits occupations characters peculiarities and caprices For example the one we have tried has never satisfied us we have during eighty years demolished it thirteen times each time setting it up anew and always in vain for never have we found one that suited us If other nations have been more fortunate or if various political structures abroad have proved stable and enduring it is because these have been erected in a special way Founded on some primitive massive pile supported by an old central edifice

often restored but always preserved gradually enlarged and after numerous trials and additions they have been adapted to the wants of its occupants It is well to admit perhaps that there is no other way of erecting a permanent building Never has one been put up instantaneously after an entirely new design and according to the measurements of pure Reason A sudden contrivance of a new suitable and enduring constitution is an enterprise beyond the forces of the human mind The Ancien Regime and the Revolution Alexis De Tocqueville, 2019-06-17 First published in French in 1856 French diplomat and political scientist Alexis de Tocqueville's *The Old Regime and the French Revolution* is one of the most influential treatises written on the French Revolution Tocqueville begins by tracing the causes of the French Revolution to the structure of society of France prior to the Revolution what he terms the Ancien Regime Tocqueville rejected the notion that the Revolution was a radical transformation of French society He instead suggests his theory of continuity specifically that the Revolution was not an attempt to change the nature of society in a truly fundamental way but to wrest control from the ancient feudal landed aristocracy and replace those outdated institutions with a representative democracy He makes the important observation that the government of Napoleon was autocratic strongly centralized and thus not much different from the Ancien Regime Tocqueville was a fierce proponent of social institutions based on freedom and equality rather than on the rigid social hierarchy of the feudal social system of the Middle Ages a system that was increasingly untenable in the age of enlightenment Tocqueville's treatise remains a timely and important work on social class revolution and democracy This edition is printed on premium acid free paper and follows the translation of John Bonner *The Old Regime in France* Frantz Funck-Brentano, 1970 **The Ancien Regime** William Doyle, 2001-01-16 First published in 1986 as one of the first titles in the Studies in European History series this book quickly established itself as the most concise and accessible guide to the meanings and hidden complexities of an apparently straightforward historical category both in the history of France and Europe as a whole The second edition now incorporates material which has widened and advanced the historical debate in the intervening years and includes a completely revised and expanded bibliography **The Old Regime and the Revolution, Volume II** Alexis de Tocqueville, 1998 Presents a translation of volume II of Alexis de Tocqueville's *The Old Regime and the Revolution* He died in the midst of this work and this volume contains all that he completed including the chapters he started on Napoleon notes and analyses he made and preparation for his continuation **The Old Regime and the French Revolution** Alexis De Tocqueville, 1955-10-01 The most important contribution to our understanding of the French Revolution was written almost one hundred years ago by Alexis de Tocqueville

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