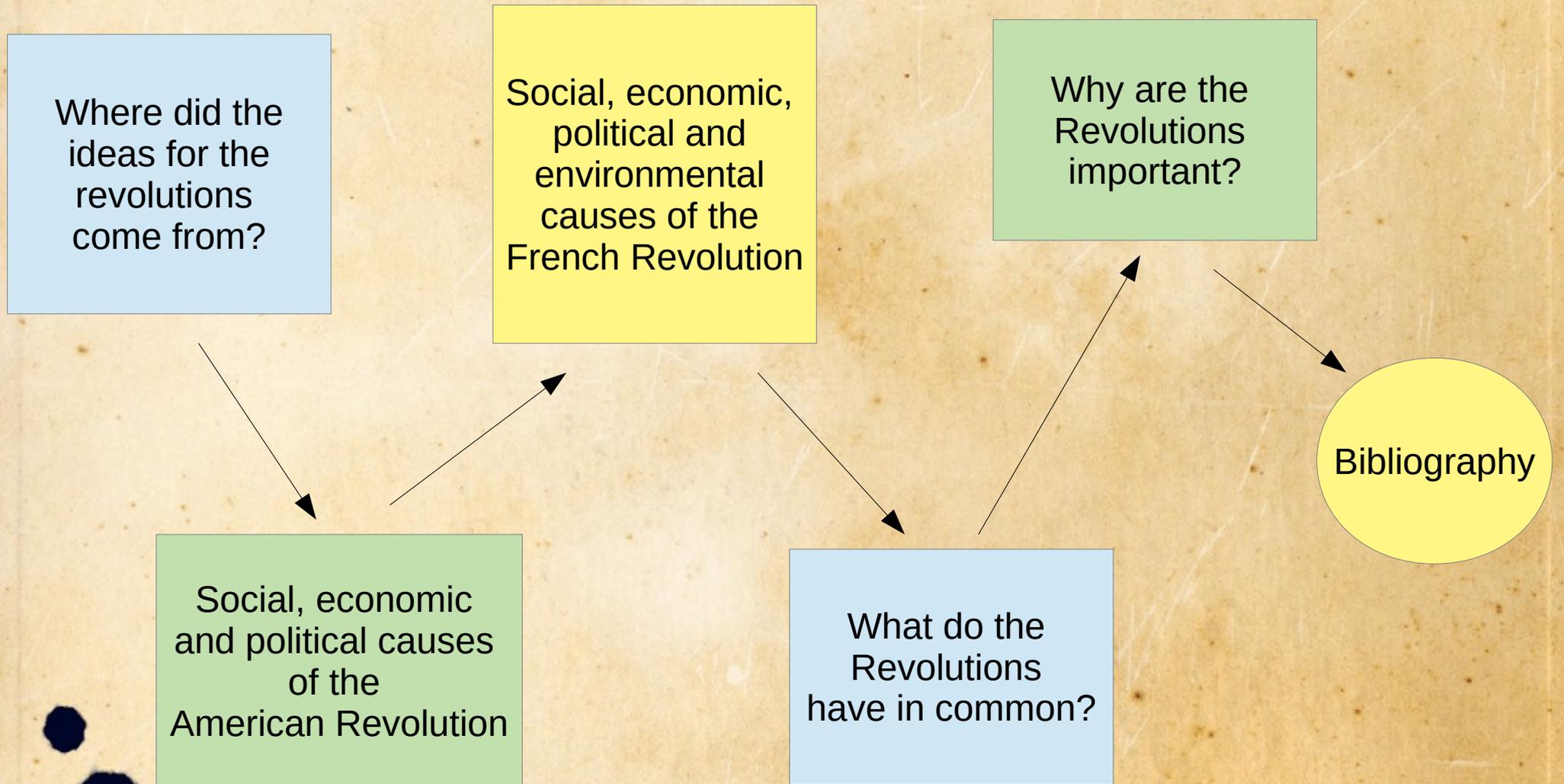




Comparison of the Causes of the
American and the French Revolution



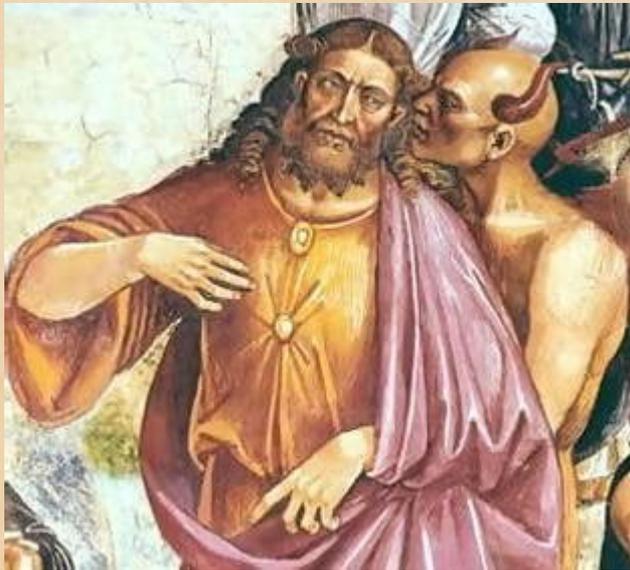
Introduction



New Ideas

Different parts of Influence

- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Scientific Revolution



Main Common Ideas

- Questioning the church
 - Fight corruption within the church
 - Monopoly of education disappeared
 - Merchants freed from the religious limitations on trade
 - Richer middle class
 - Increasing size, power and support
- Individualism and Humanism
 - Faith or reason?

Life in America

Individuals

- Opportunities for anyone ambitious
- Previous life did not matter
 - Got the social class depending on your work
 - Worked hard = Higher status
- Cheap land = everyone owed some

Colonies

- Self-sufficient
- Variety of nationalities
 - Did not stick to previous traditions

1750 people emigrated to America in great amounts

- Wanted some cheap land too
- Moved west of the Appalachian Mountains (land of the natives)
- A proclamation from English King George III forbid moving west of the mountains
 - Not everyone could have land anymore = Inequality

The Life of Women

No matter who they married:

- Inferior to men
- No rights according to law
- No independence
- Could not participate in the creation of the new government

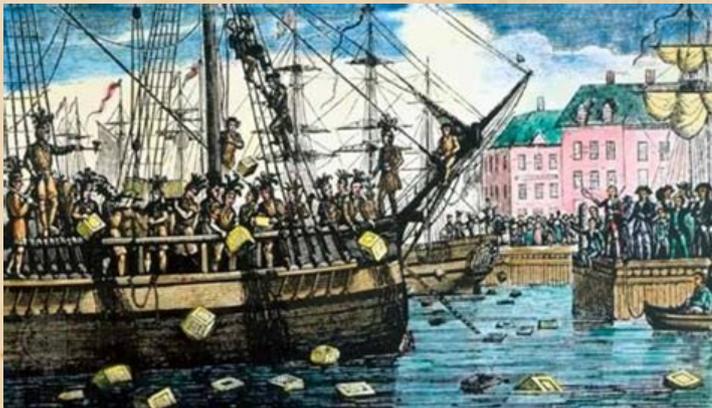
Revolution brought attention to:

- Freedom
- Equality



Taxes on Trade

- Mercantilism
 - Light import taxes for merchants
 - Carelessly collected



More expenses

- Soldier for protection against uprisings
- Administration according the colonies
- The French-Indian war left a great debt

- New taxes for the colonies since 1764

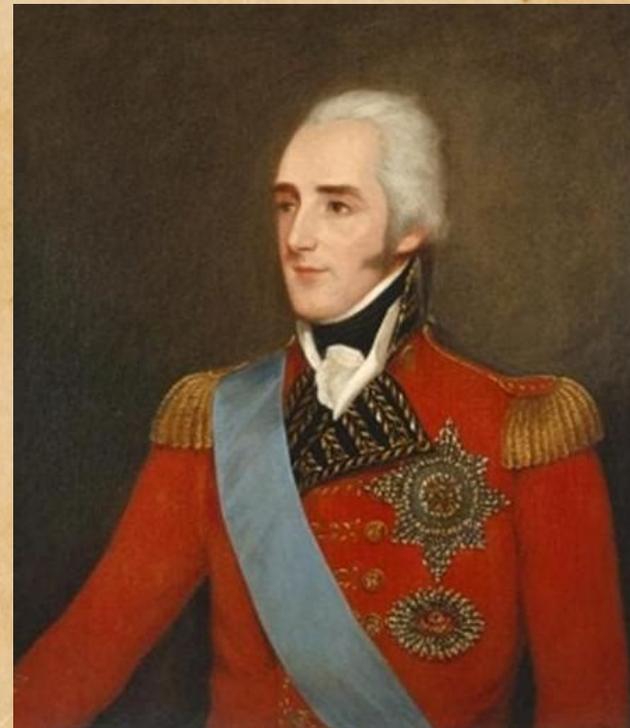
Political Opinion

One governor chosen by England and their **own** assembly (chosen)

Everyone got to vote, except women

Wanted to be taxed only by their assembly and **not** the English government

- Did not have a representation in the British parliament, why pay taxes?



Society in France

- Unequal social classes
 - Feudalism
 - Weak monarchy
 - 3 estates
 - 1st - Clergy
 - 2nd - Nobility
 - 3rd - Third Estate
 - Women
 - “Passive” citizens
 - Rely on men for individual and political opinions
- Third Estate
 - Upper level
 - City wage-earners
 - Peasants (over 80%)
- Olympe de Gouges
 - Joined the “Society of the Friends and Truth”
 - Worked for equal political and legal rights for women
 - Published the “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female citizen”

Thoughts in Society

- Enlightenment
 - Governmental Change
 - Strong governing
 - One person = one vote
 - Third Estate was excluded previously
 - Rights of Women
 - Olympe de Gouges
- Money meant everything
 - Paid the judges to bring justice
 - No money = no justice
 - Pay for privileges



Economic Problems

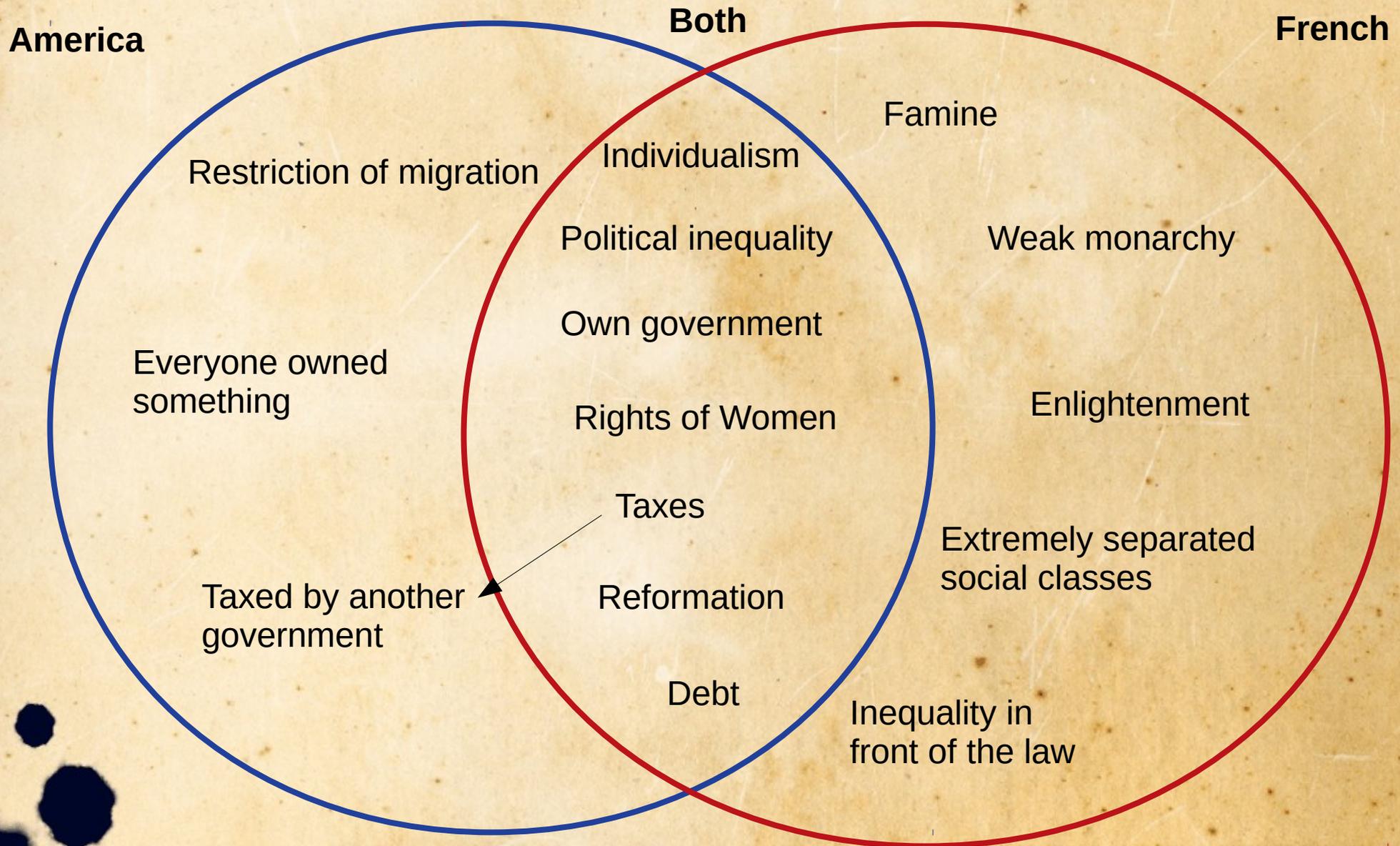
- Bad economy
 - Empty treasure
 - Debt
 - Taxes
 - Clergy exempted
 - Noble titles exempted
 - Tax exemptions bought by the the upper level from the Third Estate
 - Only the rest of the Third Estate paid
 - Very low income
- Wars
 - War of devolution 1667-1668
 - War against the Netherlands 1672-1678
 - War of the League of Augsburg
 - War of the Spanish succession
 - The French and Indian War 1754-1763 / The Seven Years War 1756-1763
 - Helped the colonies in the American Revolution
 - Inspired by the colonist's fight for justice

Famine

- Bad harvests and harsh winters
 - Lack of grain → Bread
- Higher price on bread → Main Nutrition
 - The peasants could barely pay for it with all the taxes
 - Most of the population starved



Comparison



Conclusion

From this presentation we realize how much of our society that is based on the ideas and event that occurred under this time.

- Equal rights between sexes
- A limitation of taxes
- Political influence in governmental decisions
- Inhabitants comes before ruler

All of this was mentioned in the contexts of the Revolutions.

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