

Chapter 15: Society and Economy Under
the Old Regime in the Eighteenth Century
Section 1: Major Features of Life in the Old
Regime

By Dallin F. Hardy

■ Old Regime

- Pre 1789
- “Ancien Regime”
- European relationships
 - Social
 - Political
 - Economic



- French Revolution

- 1789

- Ended the

- Old Regime





■ Basic Characteristics of Pre-Revolutionary Europe

- Aristocratic elites possessed a wide variety of inherited legal privileges
- A peasantry subject to high taxes and feudal dues
- Established churches intimately related to the state and aristocracy
- An urban labor force usually organized into guilds

Maintenance of Tradition



Hierarchy and Privilege



■ Sumptuary Laws

- Required people from different classes to distinguish themselves by their dress



- Community Rights
 - 18th-century Europeans
 - Rights & privileges
 - Guaranteed to
 - Communities

