

Chapter 15: Society and Economy Under
the Old Regime in the Eighteenth Century
Section 2: The Aristocracy

By Dallin F. Hardy

- 18th-century Nobility
 - 1-5% of Europe



■ Characteristics of 18th-century Aristocrats

- Wealthiest
- Political power
- Social power
- Economic power



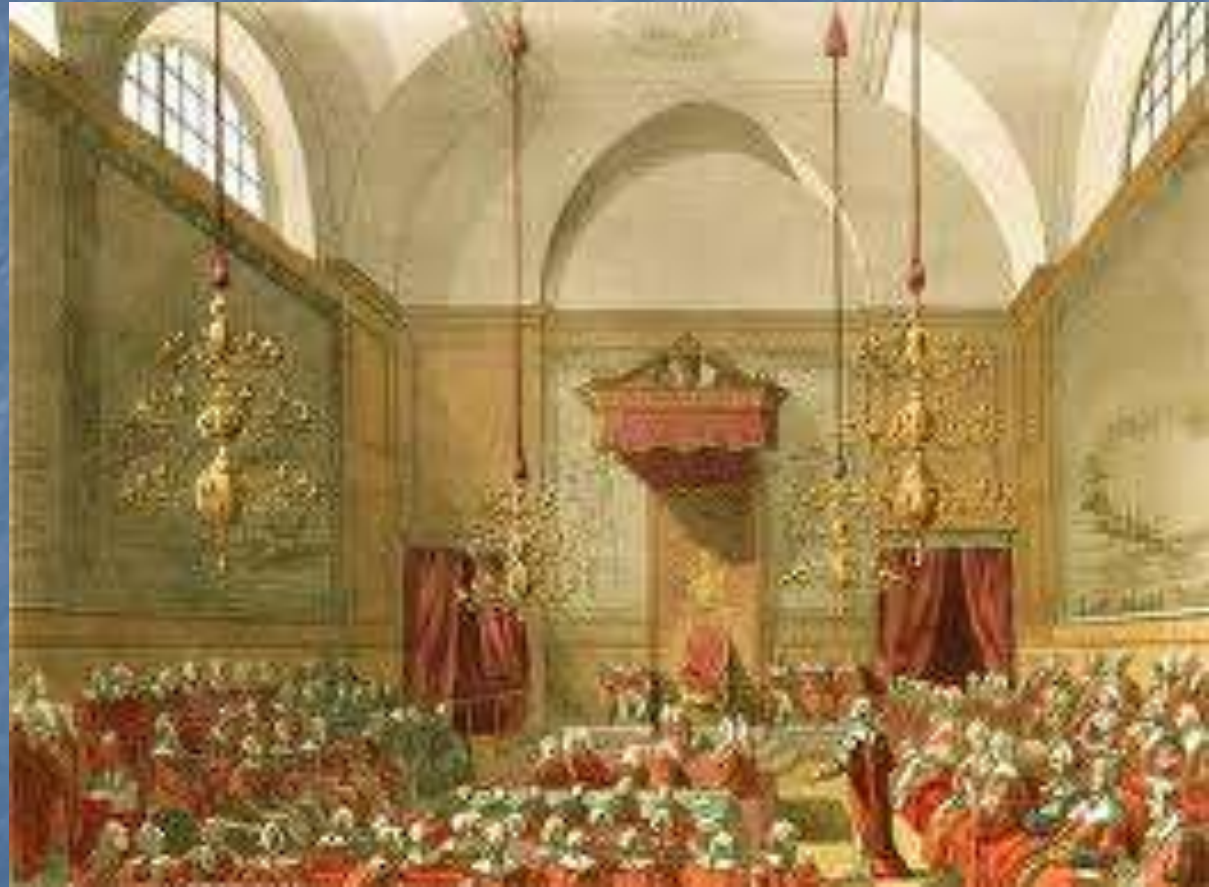
Varieties of Aristocratic Privilege

- British Aristocracy
 - Smallest, wealthiest, and best defined in Europe
 - 400 families



■ House of Lords

- Position give to oldest male heir of each family
- Peerage
 - Right to sit in
 - House of Lords





- French Nobility
 - Sword
 - Military service
 - Robe
 - Government service



- *Vingtieme*
 - French income tax
 - 5%



- Frederick the Great
 - 1740
 - King of Prussia



- Junkers

- Prussian noble class



- Russian Nobility
 - Created in the 18th century





■ Aristocratic Resurgence

- More difficult to become a noble
- Senior posts in military and government given to nobles
- Used aristocratic institutions to limit monarchical power
- Sought further tax exemptions