

ESTATES OF THE REALM

The estates of the realm were the broad social orders of society, recognised in the Middle Ages and Early Modern period in Christian Europe.

THE CLERGY: who were people, including priests, who ran both the Catholic Church and some aspects of the country.

the **first** estate

THE NOBILITY: 1% of the population. Consisted of the nobility, including members of the royal family, except for the King. Members of the Second Estate did not have to pay any taxes.

the **second** estate

THE COMMONERS: 96% of the population and made up of everyone else, from peasant farmers to the bourgeoisie – the wealthy business class.

the **third** estate

THE MEDIA: the term attributed to Edmund Burke, who used it in a parliamentary debate in 1787 on the opening up of Press reporting of the House of Commons of Great Britain

the **fourth** estate