Don’t Lose Your Head!

It's terribly uncivilized and prostrous to lose one's head.
Directions

You are going to assume the role of France’s King Louis XVI. It is a very troubling time in post-enlightenment France, and the people are very eager for change. You need to make good decisions because with every bad decision you make, you push your people closer to Revolution—which ultimately will cost you your head.

You will be given a series of choices. After you’ve made your choice, you will be told what the resulting consequences were. If you make a decision that pushed your nation closer to war, you will need to shade in a portion of the percent tracker on your sheet.

The goal is . . .

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Royal Marriage

It is 1770. You are not yet king. However, you know that you will be some day and you are very selective on whom you become close to. Your thoughts turn to marriage.

What will you do?
A. “I will follow my heart and marry a beautiful woman from my rival country. My country may not like it, however this will be important for my government because it will help ease tension between our neighboring rivals.”
B. “My country comes second to no other! I will marry a slightly older, not so beautiful French woman in the noble 2nd Estate and we will rule France together!”
Royal Marriage

Choice A: EVERYONE is outraged that their King is marrying an AUSTRIAN! They are suspicious that you may secretly be plotting a plan against your own people. The likelihood of Revolution rises by 20%.

Choice B: This is the most sensible option. The lower class won’t be very happy since they are still excluded from moving up in social class, but at least your own estates will be convinced that you will keep royalty in power. The chances for Revolution only rise by 10%.

What really happened?
Louis XVI married Marie Antoinette from Austria. She was unpopular from the moment she stepped in France. While in power, she often interfered in the government, and typically gave Louis poor advice.
Royal Lifestyle

It is 1774. You have now officially become King of France. Roughly 80% of your people are commoners and lack the basic necessities of life (like food and water). Despite that, many nations around the world are watching France and see your royal family as a model of what a monarchy should be. You rarely take problems seriously, you live in a palace with over 700 rooms, you mock your servants, you eat fancy foods and treats, and you party ALL THE TIME! However, you hear rumors that your people seem to be fed up with your carefree lifestyle. What do you do?

What should you do?

A. You stop living your carefree lifestyle. Your people are starving and need your help!

B. You continue to be the model for the rest of the world to see. If an uprising happens, your allies will surely assist you and your kingdom!

C. You are so unaware of how bad things are, that you don’t even listen to the rumors! You continue to live life carefree.
Royal Lifestyle

Choice A: The people closest to you are outraged. They are not in favor of giving up their lavish lifestyles just so you can help the peasants. They began to turn against you.
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 20%.

Choice B: Your allies could care less about your problems so they will not help you. Your biggest issue is the 3rd Estate and you are clearly not making them happy.
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 30%

Choice C: This angers the 3rd Estate. You appear unattached to your country and people need to you step up and do your job!
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 30%.

What really happened?
The reckless court, led by the frivolous queen, Marie Antoinette, would not even listen to the words “economy” or “budget.” The king & queen were so unattached from the people and their problems that they typically made issues significantly worse.
Attitude Toward Britain

It is now 1778. You are the King of a nation that despises England. You realize that England is currently in a conflict with its American colonies. This conflict has little to do with you and your country. Many of your advisers are against joining it since your country is made up of 80% peasants and your national debt is rising. However, it is very important for you to join this fight since your biggest rival can potentially lose power as a result of losing its colony. Also, you want revenge for losing the 7 Years War.

What should you do?

A. “The English must be taught a lesson. We cannot let them continue to grow stronger and one day use their power against us. We must show them the power of the French army and join sides with the revolutionary fighters in the Americas!”

B. “This conflict, although very significant, has nothing to do with the French people. Many of our people are hungry and it would be best to remain neutral and deal with issues within France.”
Attitude Toward Britain

**Choice A:** The country is outraged by your decision!!! They fear you will continue to pull us into pointless conflicts and rule as an Absolute Monarch!!!
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 30%.

**Choice B:** The American colonists are furious you will not join them! However, they are not in a position to make demands and your people support your decision 100%.
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 0%.

What really happened?

**King Louis XVI joins the war and aids the Americans.** The colonists win the conflict, however **this cost the French 250 million dollars** in money they never had in the first place. The French people continue to starve!
Economic Problems: Estates General

It is 1789. You have put off dealing with the economic problems for far too long and now you HAVE to do something! If you plan to remain king, you have to call representatives from each estate in order to bring in new laws. Under the assembly’s rules, each estates’ representatives met in a separate hall to vote, and each estate only had one vote. The Third Estate is upset with you and how you run your government and think it is best you give up your power.

What shall you do?
A. Step down before you get your kingdom taken away. At least you can keep your head and prevent the revolution by giving the Third Estate exactly what they want.

B. Meet with the representatives from the Third Estate and ignore the Second Estate. The Second Estate will understand you need to make sure you keep the Third Estate happy in order to keep power.

C. Ignore the Third Estate and show them you won’t be pushed around. You only need two votes to get your way and the Third Estate, as usual, won’t matter.
Economic Problems: Estates General

Choice A: Although you prevented war right now, this does not solve anything. In fact, this creates more problems because now the country no longer has a ruler to help create new laws. With no ruler and no new laws the country falls apart even more.
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 10%.

Choice B: The representative in the Second Estate are so outraged!!! It is quite clear to the public that this is just an easy way for you to keep power opposed to actually doing your job. The Second Estate no longer trust you.
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 5%.

Choice C: You keep your allies in the Second Estate. However, this system has been going on in France for centuries! The Third Estate is fed up with this and feel they have been ignored long enough!
The likelihood of Revolution rises by 15%.

What really happened?
King Louis tried to prevent the Third Estate from even voting by locking them out of their hall. They eventually broke into his indoor tennis court and began writing a new constitution for France. This will historically be known as the Tennis Court Oath.
Storming the Bastille!

It is still 1789. In Paris, rumors are spreading. Some people suggest that you are intent on using military force to dismiss the Third Estate. People began to gather weapons in order to defend the city against attack. On July 14, a mob searching for gunpowder and arms stormed a Paris prison, the Bastille. The mob took control of the building. The angry attackers hacked the prison commander and several guards to death. Before long, rebellion spread through the entire country. Rumors spread that nobles were hiring outlaws to terrorize the peasants. A wave of senseless panic rolled through France. Armed with pitchforks and farm tools, they broke into nobles’ houses and destroyed legal papers that made them pay taxes. Later that year, a mob of women break into your palace and demand you give up your power or else!

What do you do?
A. Give in to their demands. Maybe you can calm the situation by letting everyone know these rumors are not true.
B. Send troops to arrest the people who are challenging your power, you must show them you are still the boss!
C. Run! At this point, you don’t have a lot of options or supporters.
Storming the Bastille!

**Choice A:** This is only making the Third Estate more arrogant and exposing your weakness as a leader. If France is going to bounce back from this horrible time, they need a strong leader and not a weak one who backs down when times get hard. The likelihood of Revolution rises by 30%.

**Choice B:** By refusing to give in you may hold onto your pride, but it means any chance for a compromise is over. Revolution rises by 100%

**Choice C:** You’ve shown your country you have something to hide. Perhaps you would have lived if you spoke to the mob! Revolution rises by 100%

What really happened?

King Louis and Marie Antoinette attempted to run to Austria, find support, build an army and retake France. However they were caught and thrown in prison. In the end, the Third Estate voted on the king and queen’s fate and decided they will be executed! Both the king and queen lost their heads and the country was now run by the common people!
Execution of Louis XVI

Less than 100% = survival
100% or more = death/execution

**Answer the reflection question & make sure your name is on the chart side before you turn in your paper.**