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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Impact of an Economic Revolution on a Country's Performance

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the impact of an economic revolution on France's national performance. By highlighting the world's top French companies, the ranking of French CEOs, and the performance of French citizens, this study questions why France achieves mediocre economic results despite individual excellence. It proposes administrative reforms, social policy optimization, education and training enhancements, health system reforms, environmental policy adjustments, and strategies for immigration and security. The study emphasizes that individual citizens and policymakers can initiate a "success revolution" by embracing structural and cultural changes, decentralization, privatization, and efficiency-oriented governance.

Keywords: *economic performance, French economy, public administration reform, social policy, education, environment, immigration*

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Introduction

France is recognized for its highly skilled workforce and globally successful enterprises. Yet, despite these strengths, national economic performance remains mediocre. This research investigates the factors underlying this paradox and proposes actionable reforms to maximize productivity, optimize public expenditure, and foster social cohesion. The study focuses on the intersection of public finance, administration, social policy, education, environment, and national security.

Methodology

The approach relies on a detailed analysis of French companies' international performance, rankings of CEOs, and citizen-level productivity metrics. Sources include government reports, academic studies, and economic databases. The methodology emphasizes comparative performance analysis, policy evaluation, and the identification of actionable reforms.

Our approach highlights the best French companies worldwide, the ranking of the top French CEOs globally, and the performance level of French citizens. The question arises: how is it that, despite the achievements of our fellow citizens, we still obtain such mediocre economic results? We emphasize that each French individual can help save the country from debt, and that policymakers, if they fully grasp the situation, could trigger a revolution of success—because the French are ready for change, which must be carefully prepared through education and guidance.

1. Curbing Annual Commitments

1.1. Significantly Reduce Spending to Enable Major Tax Cuts (per IFRAP Recommendations)

Grant autonomy to all operators to reduce the €91 billion budget by 10% per year until these services are financially independent. Merge the following institutions:
Universities (€16.5B), CNRS (€4B), CEA, CNES, Crous, AEFE, Higher Education and Research.
France Travail (€7.32B) and France Compétences (€12.98B).
INSERM (€1.17B), INRAE (€1.13B), and ARS (€0.58B).
Eliminate or grant full autonomy to all operators with budgets under €0.5B. Universities should aim to generate half of their budget through revenue. Conduct audits of all operators.
Encourage shared networks for water and sanitation between municipalities or communities of municipalities. Clarify each party's role (job descriptions and comparisons between municipality, department, and state) to identify local and national overhead costs, appointing a "responsible for excess costs." Align public sector employment conditions with the private sector (working hours, schedules) to curb inflation-linked pay increases. Freeze the index point.
Limit fiscal transfers to local authorities (€105.4B in 2024), including state contributions to local governments and other transfers outside taxation and apprenticeship. Avoid cross-funding.
Establish oversight agencies for local accounting, absenteeism tracking, depreciation measurement, cadastral value assessment, and progress evaluation to reward merit across the administration.

Reduce bureaucratic spending:

Cut redundant agencies, administrative services, and territorial structures through audits.
Focus on cost management and absenteeism to foster a results-driven culture centered on efficiency and quality of service (measured in annual evaluations).
Reward merit and performance in public service remuneration to modernize the sector.
Create a renewable five-year contract, limiting lifetime civil servant status. Reduce the number of civil servants without replacements while developing expertise to increase income and reduce expenses. Ministries should prioritize deployment plans with new revenue streams alongside corresponding staff and spending reductions.

1.2. Commit to an Anti-Regulation Protocol

France should adopt the **RegWatchEurope** system, which it has so far refused, to reduce the number of regulations (a system already adopted by Germany, the UK, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden) – European Commission 2024.

The annual cost of regulations in France amounts to €100 billion, with €80 billion solely affecting businesses. By complying with RegWatchEurope, France could potentially save €20 billion over five years for both businesses and the state.

1.3. Taxation

Streamline the work of all inspectors at the Ministry of Finance through a **single uniform tax scale**, varying ±15%, allowing simultaneous tax payments. This taxation could adjust slightly according to circumstances (1–2%) to ease the burden.

This approach mirrors Mauritius, which benefits from a liberal economy, low taxation, social peace, and public spending at 24% of GDP.

Finance ministry employees could then be reassigned to more productive operations such as training and state management oversight, with a single objective: reduce state spending and combat tax evasion.

1.4. Abolish Inheritance Taxes

End unjust double taxation.
Encourage family wealth transfer.
Restore citizens' confidence in fiscal justice.
Protect families, allowing them to retain inherited assets.

Encourage youth investment by exempting donations from charges, facilitating more donations to grandchildren, and reducing capital taxation by shortening donation cycles from 15 years to five (Da Silva 2025; Martinage 2025).

Inheritance taxes penalize heirs twice: after paying taxes all their lives, French citizens see their assets taxed again upon transfer. This weighs heavily on families, undermines property transmission, and creates social injustice.

1.5. Decentralize

Relocate **800,000 National Education employees** to regional offices, including cultural missions, France Travail (to be privatized), and unemployment placement (Jacquot 2025).

Eliminate duplications among **1.3 million state employees** performing the same work as local or social agents (Meistermann, Servbière 2024; Dequay 2024; IFRAP 2019; Le Parisien 2019).

Decentralize regional, departmental, or municipal management for National Education, certification and youth training, associations and sports, social, health and paramedical sectors, and regional research/technology delegations. All these services are still state-managed (Prefect or Rectorate), unlike other European countries that have long decentralized successfully (Denormer, Verdier-Molinié 2023).

1.6. Privatize Public Enterprises or Sell Shares

Sell some public enterprises, as other struggling countries do, to restore financial health.

As of mid-2025, the state holds stakes in 84 companies valued at €209.1B, with 20 companies generating most of the revenue. Result: €4.3B in dividends in 2025 on €145B in revenue. Notable holdings include Atos (nuclear supercomputers) and Eutelsat, aiming to become the primary shareholder of the satellite operator.

1.7. Privatize France Télévisions Channels

With **annual state funding of €3.2B**, covering a €40M deficit, taxpayers do not see the expected diversity of opinions. Issues include poor strategic anticipation, inadequate cost control, competition from digital platforms, and declining ad revenue.

Multiple channels lead to resource scattering and structural redundancies. Privatize the group's channels (~€10B?) (Clavet 2025; Pichenet & Pascoloo 2025; Ubertalli 2025).

2. Limiting Social Spending

2.1. Review All Subsidies

Conduct a comprehensive review of all subsidies without exception. While recognizing their importance, proper classification allows for better inventory and prioritization, for example: investment, innovation, ecological transition, training, employment, and international subsidies (Hidoux 2025).
Each subsidy should answer the question: *"Does this subsidy help France succeed in the coming years?"*

If yes, it may be maintained.
If no, the subsidy should be discontinued.
For each subsidy, a file should include seven points:
Who requests the subsidy? Names, roles, addresses, and motivations.
Who decides to grant it? Names, roles, addresses, motivations.
Who benefits and what are the objectives? Names, roles, addresses.
What results are expected?
How do the expected results serve the community?
What is the cost?
What budget items are involved?

2.2. Contractualize Unemployment Benefits

Manage unemployment benefits through formal contracts, inspired by the German model. Short-term unemployed individuals should sign **insertion contracts** specifying obligations and sanctions for non-compliance.

They must provide proof of active job searching and accept any job offer. Introduce a progressive penalty system:

First refusal: 30% reduction of benefits for two months.
Second refusal: full suspension of benefits for two months.
Third refusal: suspension of benefits for 8 months to 1 year.
Privatize **France Travail**.

2.3. Make Union Membership Mandatory

Currently, 90% of union funding comes from employers (€3.5B), including €1.34B in the public sector, for 2.2 million members (50,000 in public service).

Support mass unionism by making **union membership mandatory**, with funding from member contributions. Social partners (unions and employers) are thus strengthened. Unions would present their accounts to the Court of Auditors.

Strong, transparent unions would gain influence, eliminating public subsidies to unions (Fisne Koch 2025; France info 2019).

2.4. Limit RSA (Active Solidarity Income)

In 2021, approximately **6.5 million French households** received social benefits:

4.85 million family allowances,
6 million housing allowances,
3.2 million minimum social benefits,
5.2 million activity bonuses,
5.198 million social benefits overall (INSEE, Antona 2025; France Télévisions 2025).

The scale of beneficiaries warrants careful monitoring and reform.

2.5. Support a Unified Social Benefit

Prioritize a **single benefit system** that consolidates:
RSA (1.8 million recipients),
Family and social allowances from CAF,
Personal housing aid (APL, ALS).
Benefits of a unified system:
Ensure work always yields higher income than social aid.
Encourage return to employment.
Reduce non-claims through automated disbursement (Gravoil 2024).

Since **January 1, 2025**, payment is linked to **15 hours per week of activity**, except in special cases (disability or impossibility) (Garoscio 2025).

2.6. Reduce Payroll Taxes

Mechanically increase salaries by lowering payroll taxes to raise net income and reduce the gap between gross and net salaries. This involves reducing the **CSG (9.2% on wages)**, offset by a social VAT increase on goods taxed at 20% (Despres 2025; Lenglet 2025).

3. Optimize Social Effort

3.1. Health

Continue discussions on revaluing medical procedures.

Revise the medical acts nomenclature.
Redefine medical assistance.

End universal free care for foreigners; implement paid medical aid for non-residents.
Abolish the **numerus clausus**, which severely limits physician installation.
Enable selling medications individually, as in Switzerland or the USA.
Increase general practitioners' fees.
Sick leave should be granted solely by family doctors, validated by the CPM.
Healthcare management challenges can be addressed using **ISO 7101**, a standard for healthcare organization management, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.2. Social Measures (IFRAP)

Implement a **unified social allowance** and cap social benefits.

Reform unemployment insurance with **declining benefits**.

In the new pension reform, share responsibilities between active workers and retirees to limit aging-related pension expenditure.

Converge public and private calculation methods.
Reduce pension indexing (inflation –0.4 pt) and freeze public pensions.
Delay retirement age to 64.5 years in 2029 (Germinal 2024).
Transform healthcare by saving on care relevance and management to invest in modernization.
Reform long-term illness coverage.
Optimize sanitary transport.
Reduce costs (align public/private tariffs).
Cut administrative overhead (decentralization, reduce staff in non-operational centers).
Reduce unnecessary care (digital medical records, data exploitation).
Eliminate regional health agencies.
Improve productivity (telemedicine, hospital specialization, autonomy, outpatient surgery, home hospitalization).
Optimize anti-fraud measures (benefits and contributions).
Cut subsidies to associations by 10%.
Reduce public development aid (€10.4B) and support for performing arts freelancers (Chapron 2020).

4. Strengthening Education

4.1. Rethink the Educational System: Combat School Inequalities in France

Decentralize the French educational system, a major cause of its inefficiency and lack of responsiveness. Currently, only **10% of educational decisions** are made at the school level, with barely 2% under full autonomy.

The most successful institutions are those with management autonomy and accountable leadership. Like hospitals or universities, schools should freely manage their budgets and staff within a clear national framework, with a **mandatory results-oriented approach** (Les Voies 2024).

Raise the overall societal level by reducing inequalities. Education that benefits only a few fails its primary mission. Support the most vulnerable, who lack opportunities and guidance (L'Humanité 2025)

Invest heavily in the **future—human capital—as the foundation of a knowledge- and innovation-based economy**. Education is the lever for economic recovery (Vers le Haut 2025).

Finland's early 21st-century educational success was due to a **profound revaluation of the teaching profession**. Selective teacher training became the pillar of the Finnish educational system. Today, teachers enjoy a reputation as highly qualified experts, fully engaged in their roles, and close to their students.

4.2. Professional Training

Strengthen apprenticeship programs, especially in labor-demanding sectors for unemployed individuals: construction, hospitality, meat processing, plumbing, aerospace, IT, mechanics, sciences, engineering, energy, maritime, offshore wind, biomass, materials technicians and engineers, R&D, thermal engineering, energy efficiency.

Training should be **mandatory and adapted** after age 40 to meet evolving business needs.

Favor **short-format learning**, inspired by social media (Generation Z). Nano-learning—brief, targeted, mobile-accessible modules—should complement collective learning via internal company communities and professional platforms. These exchange spaces address the social deficit of traditional e-learning, facilitating best-practice sharing.

Leverage new technologies to **transform professional training**, pursuing digitalization while maintaining essential in-person instruction. Companies internalize training, expertise, and social learning.

Immediately integrate **AI across all domains, roles, and hierarchical levels** to enhance expertise, performance, and innovation for a constantly evolving workforce (Calcagno 2025).

4.3. Empower Foreigners in France

Highlight the trajectories of individuals of Algerian, Tunisian, Moroccan, and African origin, especially second and third generations. Ensure that youth in disadvantaged neighborhoods receive **individual support** to acquire literacy, numeracy, and a foundational knowledge base.

Encourage a "**anything is possible**" mindset, demonstrating that success is achievable for everyone in a free and supportive society.

Empower women and foster a more **inclusive society**, enhancing the visibility and value of women in society.

Teach students about **history, citizenship, identity, and cultural diversity**, using testimonies from individuals settled for 2–3 generations.

Like in the USA, migrants could answer **10 questions out of 100** on French history, geography, and constitution. To become American, applicants must answer **7 out of 10** correctly (Calcagno 2025).

Control residence permits: undocumented immigrants have no reason to remain and should face **financial penalties** (heavy fines). Enforce family reunification rules and limit **asylum rights to six months**.

4.4. Social Integration of Neighborhoods

In 2018, priority urban neighborhoods (QPV) numbered **1,514**, across 859 municipalities, housing **5.4 million residents** (8% of France's population), with 42% affected by poverty.

Sponsor youth programs: 100% of youth in these neighborhoods could be mentored by senior students in Master's programs. This would provide guidance and opportunities for success. Schools remain the **most reliable exit route** from social exclusion.

Train youth in disadvantaged areas for success. Experience shows that such programs help young people thrive in Singapore, Dubai, China, the USA, and France's elite. Encourage them to explore **prestigious educational paths or start-ups**, with pedagogy targeted toward suburban youth (Hidoux 2025).

4.5. Immigration Opportunities

Immigration policies are tightening, yet aging populations in wealthy countries risk **labor shortages** and economic difficulties (retirement funding challenges without immigrants) (Territoires d'emplois, 2025).

A solution includes employing **low-skilled workers** in key sectors (restaurants, healthcare, construction, agriculture), or implementing **talent partnerships**, as in Germany, recruiting healthcare workers and IT technicians from Kenya and Morocco.

Organized, selective migration can also help **increase birth rates**, combining migrant labor and reasonable asylum policies to balance aging societies politically and economically (Hirsch 2025; Caldini 2012).

4.6. Successes of Immigrants

France has **5.3 million immigrants**, 41% of whom are naturalized. Their descendants total 6.7 million, summing to **12 million immigrants or children of immigrants**.

Residence permits issued dropped from **175,000 in 1970 to 50,000 in 2022**, limiting employment access. This excludes over 500,000 undocumented immigrants.

Selective immigration: measures facilitate workers in sectors facing shortages.

INSEE notes differences by origin: children of Turkish immigrants underperform, while Southeast Asian descendants overperform (CCM Benchmark 2025).

Currently, 38% of second-generation immigrants have higher education degrees versus 33% for their parents, and 20% hold managerial positions (vs. 15%). Social mobility, though slow, is functional.

5. Environment

5.1. Resist Punitive Ecology

Denounce the "**administrative nightmare and diktats**" caused by "creative regulation," which initially allowed the Senate to adopt the **Duplomb and Menonville bill** to restore competitiveness to French farms (January 27, 2025) (Legros 2024; France Inter 2024).

Advocate for **removing constraints imposed by degrowth-focused and punitive environmental policies**, particularly regarding:

Phytosanitary products,
The role and responsibility scope of **ANSES**,
Broader Ecophyto plan.
Continue to advance agricultural production against Ministry of Ecology restrictions, still focused on agricultural degrowth (Agriculture et Investissement 2025).

5.2. Resist "Unfair Competition"

Combat "unfair competition" from European sugar or hazelnut producers by reintroducing **neonicotinoids**.

Simplify administrative procedures and increase **environmental authorization thresholds** for livestock buildings. Facilitate construction for **water storage**.

Review the Mercosur agreement. Facilitate immediate expansion or creation of intensive livestock buildings, adjusting thresholds for environmental assessment:
Poultry farms require authorization only above **85,000 birds**,
Pig farms above **3,000 pigs**.

5.3. Transform Urban Spaces

Prioritize the **sustainability of cities**. Extreme weather—floods, heatwaves, rising waters—necessitates addressing weaknesses in urban infrastructure while enhancing resilience.

Explore the use of **sustainable materials**, reinvent public spaces, implement improved **drainage systems**, and adopt **green roofs** to reduce urban heat islands and increase local biodiversity (Descroix 2024).

5.4. Redefine the Precautionary Principle

Shift the **precautionary principle** to a **responsibility principle**, as it is often confused with prevention or prudence principles.

French law (Barnier Law 1995) states:

"The absence of certainty, given current scientific and technical knowledge, must not delay the adoption of effective and proportionate measures to prevent a risk of serious and irreversible environmental damage at an economically acceptable cost."
Do not confuse this with:

Prudence (documented, proven risks like asbestos),
Prevention (established risks with uncertain occurrence, e.g., nuclear risks).
Maintain a **measured approach to precaution** (La Toupie 2025; Auverlot, Hamelin, Pujol 2025; Bertrand 2025; Berney 2025).

6. Sovereignty and Security

6.1. Strengthen Police Forces

In 2021, INSEE and the **Ministerial Statistical Service for Internal Security (SSMSI)** presented a unique study, *Security and Society*, comparing security mission expenditures as a share of total spending in Europe.

France spent **1.7%**, below the European average of 2%, a gap consistent since 2014. It was lower than Spain (2.8%) and Italy (2.3%), equal to Germany. Despite lower spending, France had a **police-per-capita rate** similar to Spain:

329 officers per 100,000 inhabitants in France,
361 in Spain,
295 in Germany.

Replace retiring gendarmes and police officers. Arm municipal police to face threats (Lisnard 2025; Peneau 2024).

Increase recruitment of **armed municipal police** (+25% over 8 years). National police and gendarmerie staffing must increase by **+7,100 agents by 2027**. Recruitment must also compensate for departures:
National Police: 10,840 departures (+33%)
National Gendarmerie: 15,078 departures (+25%)

6.2. Harmonize Taxation in Europe

Disparities in taxation across EU member states highlight differences and injustices in European tax systems:
Corporate tax ranges from **9% to 30%**,
VAT ranges **17%–27%** (84 different VAT rates across 28 countries),
Income and environmental taxes also vary widely.

Tax harmonization would reduce disparities, facilitating free movement of goods, services, and capital while helping French businesses compete.

6.3. Rebuild Infrastructure

Conduct a **complete inventory of local community assets** and review road and river networks through **multi-year planning** with corresponding budgets.

Alleviate congestion on major routes to improve transport flow.

Fund infrastructure projects with loans for assets with **lifespans exceeding a generation**.

Establish a **National Infrastructure Council** to provide expertise, consultation, and oversight.

In a context of **climate change**, adapting infrastructure is crucial for safety and durability. Extreme events—floods, heatwaves, rising waters—require careful analysis of vulnerabilities. Integrating innovative solutions and sustainable strategies ensures resilient infrastructure (Les Bâtisseurs 2024; Lisnard 2025).

6.4. Protect Infrastructure

With climate change, floods, heatwaves, droughts, strong winds, and storms will increase in frequency and intensity. Infrastructure will face **greater exposure**, necessitating efforts to **strengthen resilience**. Protecting territories is vital! (Fédération Nationale des Travaux Publics 2025)

6.5. Evaluate Global Trade on New Bases

Trade flows underpin the global economy. In 2023, according to the **World Trade Organization**, nearly **60% of global wealth** resulted from international trade in goods and services.

According to **comparative advantage theory (David Ricardo)**, each nation should specialize in what it does best and trade. This principle governs trade globally: Brazilian soy, Taiwanese microchips. However, services, finance, engineering, and technology increasingly dominate exchanges, reshaping industrial structures.

France must defend its expertise and industrial secrets in key sectors. Globalization should **not force the sharing of proprietary technologies**, which made French companies like **Dassault** industrial giants.

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