

The French Revolution

"Radical" Phase:

1793-1794

THE RADICAL REVOLUTION

August 1792 -

1. Marks the end of the monarchy
2. The end of the National Assembly
3. The end of the moderate phase of the revolution
4. The beginning of a new radical phase of the revolution
5. These events are sometimes called "the second revolution"

San-culottes - ordinary people without fine clothes/they wore pants not knickers or breeches

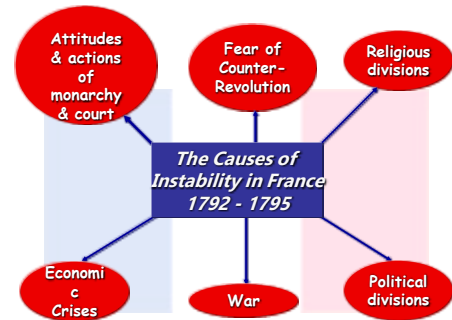
1. These people are the dominate force in the Paris Commune
2. These people demand that the revolution go farther and make more radical changes

The "Second" French Revolution

🔥 The National Convention:

- Girondin Rule: 1792-1793
- Jacobin Rule: 1793-1794 ["Reign of Terror"]
- Thermidorian Reaction: 1794-1795

🔥 The Directory → 1795-1799



The Jacobins



Jacobin Meeting House



- 🔥 They held their meetings in the library of a former Jacobin monastery in Paris.
- 🔥 Started as a debating society.
- 🔥 Membership mostly middle class.
- 🔥 Created a vast network of clubs.



THE JACOBINS

The Jacobins =

- ❑ members of a Paris political club which spread throughout France
- ❑ they wanted more radical changes



The *Sans-Culottes*: The Parisian Working Class

- Small shopkeepers.
- Tradesmen.
- Artisans.

They shared many of the ideals of their middle class representatives in government!



The *Sans-Culottes*



Depicted as Savages by a British Cartoonist.

The Storming of the Tuileries:



This was triggered in part by the publication in Paris of the August 3 Brunswick Manifesto, which confirmed popular suspicions concerning the king's treason.

The September Massacres, 1792 (The dark side of the Revolution!)



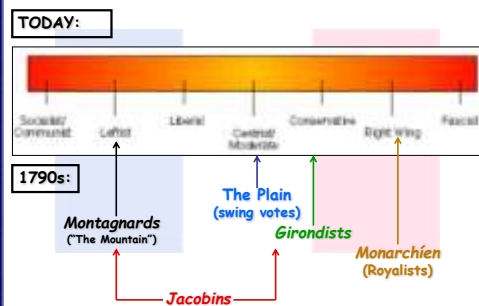
- Rumors that the anti-revolutionary political prisoners were plotting to break out & attack from the rear the armies defending France, while the Prussians attacked from the front.
- *Buveurs de sang* ["drinkers of blood."] → over 1000 killed!
- It discredited the Revolution among its remaining sympathizers abroad.

The National Convention (September, 1792)

- Its first act was the formal abolition of the monarchy on September 22, 1792.
 - The **Year I** of the French Republic.
- **The Decree of Fraternity**
 - it offered French assistance to any subject peoples who wished to overthrow their governments.

*When France sneezes,
all of Europe catches cold!*

The Political Spectrum



DOMESTIC CRISES

- ❑ The Girondins
- ❑ The Mountain
- ❑ June 1793 – radical mobs force the arrest and execution of the Girondins
- ❑ The Revolt of the Vendee
- ❑ France 1793 = major domestic chaos and turmoil



The Politics of the National Convention (1792-1795)

Montagnards

- ★ Power base in Paris.
- ★ Main support from the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Would adopt extreme measures to achieve their goals.
- ★ Saw Paris as the center of the Revolution.
- ★ More centralized [in Paris] approach to government.

Girondists

- ★ Power base in the provinces.
- ★ Feared the influence of the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Feared the dominance of Paris in national politics.
- ★ Supported more national government centralization [federalism].

The "Purifying" Pot of the Jacobin



Louis XVI as a Pig



- c For the Montagnards, the king was a traitor.
- c The Girondins felt that the Revolution had gone far enough and didn't want to execute the king [maybe exile him].

Louis XVI's Head (January 21, 1793)



- c The trial of the king was hastened by the discovery in a secret cupboard in the Tuileries of a cache of documents.
- c They proved conclusively Louis' knowledge and encouragement of foreign intervention.
- c The National Convention voted **387 to 334** to execute the monarchs.

The Death of "Citizen" Louis Capet

Matter for reflection for the crowned jugglers.

So impure blood doesn't soil our land!



Marie Antoinette as a Serpent



The "Widow Capet"

Marie Antoinette on the Way to the Guillotine



Marie Antoinette Died in October, 1793



Attempts to Control the Growing Crisis

1. **Revolutionary Tribunal in Paris** → try suspected counter-revolutionaries.
 - A. **Representatives-on-Mission**
 ↳ sent to the provinces & to the army.
 ↳ had wide powers to oversee conscription.
 - B. **Watch Committees [comité de surveillance]**
 ↳ keep an eye on foreigners & suspects.
 - C. Sanctioned the trial & execution of rebels and émigrés, should they ever return to France.

Attempts to Control the Growing Crisis

2. The printing of more *assignats* to pay for the war.
3. **Committee of Public Safety [CPS]**
 ↳ to oversee and speed up the work of the government during this crisis.
4. **Committee of General Security [CGS]**
 ↳ responsible for the pursuit of counter-revolutionaries, the treatment of suspects, & other internal security matters.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

- National Convention forms an executive committee to run the govt.



1. Made up of 12 members of the National convention
2. Led by Robespierre
3. Given total authority to deal with crises
4. Save the revolution from domestic counter-revolution
5. Save the revolution from foreign enemies

ROBESPIERRE



- ❑ Leader of the Committee of Public Safety
- ❑ Becomes in effect the virtual dictator of revolutionary France
- ❑ "the incorruptible"

Committee for Public Safety



- Revolutionary Tribunals.
- 300,000 arrested.
- 16,000 - 50,000 executed.

Maximillian Robespierre



Georges Jacques Danton



Jean-Paul Marat (1744 - 1793)



"The Death of Marat" by Jacques Louis David, 1793



The Assassination of Marat by Charlotte Corday, 1793



The Assassination of Marat by Charlotte Corday



Paul Jacques
Aimée
Baudry, 19^c

[A Romantic
View]

The *Levee en Masse*: An Entire Nation at Arms! – 500,000 Soldiers



An army based on merit, not birth!

Legislation Passed by the National Convention

1. Law of General Maximum

- September 5, 1793.
- Limited prices of grain & other essentials to 1/3 above the 1790 prices & wages to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1790 figures.
- Prices would be strictly enforced.
- Hoarders rooted out and punished.
- Food supplies would be secured by the army!

2. Law of Suspects

- September 17, 1793.
- This law was so widely drawn that almost anyone not expressing enthusiastic support for the republic could be placed under arrest!

The Reign of Terror

Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible. -- Robespierre

Let terror be the order of the day!

- c The Revolutionary Tribunal of Paris alone executed 2,639 victims in 15 months.
- c The total number of victims nationwide was over 20,000!



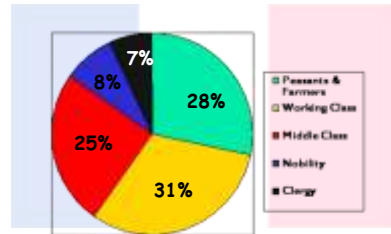
THE REIGN OF TERROR

1. Organized by the National Convention and the Committee of Public
 2. Deal with the domestic/internal enemies
 3. Victims included royalists, revolutionaries, and regular people/peasants
 4. Anyone who opposed the radicalism of the sans-culottes could be a victim
 5. Lasted 9 months – est. 50,000 murdered
- Cities and regions which resisted the control of the National Convention had armies sent against them
 - Counter-revolutionary areas
 1. Marseilles
 2. Lyons
 3. The Vendee = Western France

The Guillotine: An "Enlightenment Tool"?

Oh, thou charming guillotine,
You shorten kings and queens;
By your influence divine,
We have re-conquered our rights.
Come to aid of the Country
And let your superb instrument
Become forever permanent
To destroy the impious sect.
Sharpen your razor for Pitt and his agents
Fill your divine sack with heads of tyrants.

Different Social Classes Executed



The "Monster"



The last guillotine execution in France was in 1939!

War of Resistance to the Revolution: The Vendée Revolt, 1793



Vendée Revolt, 1793



Vendée
Symbol:
*For God &
the King!*

Drowning the Traitors!

Why was there a Revolt in the Vendée?

1. The need for 300,000 French troops for the war effort.
2. Rural peasantry still highly taxed.
3. Resentment of the Civil Constitution the Clergy.
4. Peasants had failed to benefit from the sale of church lands.

TARGETS:

- Local government officials
- National Guardsmen
- Jurying priests

Political Propaganda



The Contrast: "French Liberty / British Slavery"



Religious Terror: De-Christianization (1793-1794)

- The Catholic Church was linked with real or potential counter-revolution.
- Religion was associated with the *Ancien Régime* and superstitious practices.
- Very popular among the *sans-culottes*.
- Therefore, religion had no place in a rational, secular republic!

The De-Christianization Program

1. The adoption of a new **Republican**

Calendar:

- Abolished Sundays & religious holidays.
- Months named after seasonal features.
- 7-day weeks replaced by 10-day decades.
- The yearly calendar was dated from the creation of the Republic [Sept. 22, 1792]

↓
The Convention symbolically divorced the state from the Church!!

DECHRISTIANIZATION

1. The word "saint" removed from street names
2. Churches trashed and closed
3. Priests encouraged to marry
4. Notre Dame cathedral converted to "the Temple of Reason"
5. Attempt to create the **worship of reason/rationality to replace Christianity**

A Republican Calendar



CREATION OF NEW REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR

1. 1792 becomes the year zero
2. New names for the months – Brumaire, Ventose, Floreal, Thermidor, Fructidor
3. 3 ten day weeks in the months = decade's
4. Eliminated Sundays
5. Revolutionary celebrations replace religious holidays
6. Most people hated the new calendar and refused to adopt it

The New Republican Calendar

New Name	Meaning	Time Period
Vendemiaire	Vintage	September 22 - October 21
Brumaire	Fog	October 22 - November 20
Frimaire	Frost	November 21 - December 20
Nivose	Snow	December 21 - January 19
Pluviose	Rain	January 20 - February 18
Ventose	Wind	February 19 - March 20
Germinal	Budding	March 21 - April 19
Floreal	Flowers	April 20 - May 19
Prairial	Meadow	May 20 - June 18
Messidor	Harvest	June 19 - July 18
Thermidor	Heat	July 19 - August 17
Fructidor	Fruit	August 18 - September 21

A New Republican Calendar

I	1792 - 1793
II	1793 - 1794
III	1794 - 1795
IV	1795 - 1796
V	1796 - 1797
VI	1797 - 1798
VII	1798 - 1799
VIII	1799 - 1800
IX	1800 - 1801
X	1801 - 1802
XI	1802 - 1803
XII	1803 - 1804
XIII	1804 - 1805
XIV	1805

The Gregorian System returned in 1806.

The De-Christianization Program

2. The public exercise of religion was banned.
3. The Paris Commune supported the:
 - the destruction of religious & royal statues.
 - ban on clerical dress.
 - encouragement of the clergy to give up their vocations.
4. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris was turned into the "Temple of Reason."
5. The deportation of priests denounced by six citizens.

The "Temple of



*Come, holy Liberty, inhabit this temple,
Become the goddess of the French people.*

The Festival of Supreme



A new secular holiday

Backlash to the De-Christianization Program

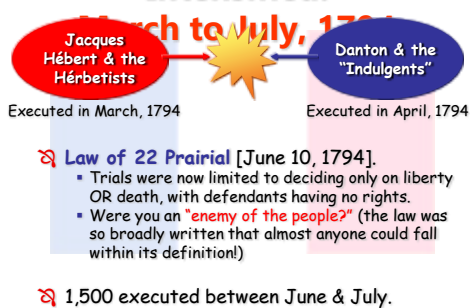
- ☛ It alienated most of the population (especially in the rural areas).
- ☛ Robespierre never supported it.
 - he persuaded the Convention to reaffirm the principle of religious toleration.
- ☛ Decree on the "Liberty of Cults" was passed
 - December 6, 1793.
 - BUT, it had little practical effect!



The Radical's Arms:

No God!
No Religion!
No King!
No Constitution!

The Terror Intensified:



French Victory at Fleurus



- ★ June 26, 1794.
- ★ France defeated Austria.
- ★ This opened the way to the reoccupation of Belgium!

The "Thermidorean Reaction," 1794

- P July 26 → Robespierre gives a speech illustrating new plots & conspiracies.
 - he alienated members of the CPS & CGS.
 - many felt threatened by his implications.
- P July 27 → the Convention arrests Robespierre.
- P July 28 → Robespierre is tried & guillotined!

The Arrest of Robespierre



The Revolution Consumes Its Own Children!



Danton Awaits Execution, 1793

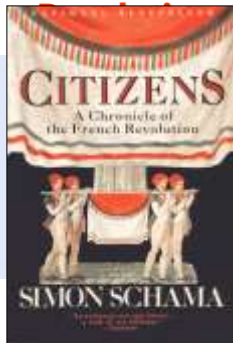


Robespierre Lies Wounded Before the Revolutionary Tribunal that will order him to be guillotined, 1794.

The "Cultural Revolution" Brought About by the Convention

- It was premised upon Enlightenment principles of rationality.
- The metric system of weights and measures
 - Was defined by the French Academy of Sciences in 1791 and enforced in 1793.
 - It replaced weights and measures that had their origins in the Middle Ages.
- The abolition of slavery within France in 1791 and throughout the French colonies in 1794.
- The Convention legalized divorce and enacted shared inheritance laws [even for illegitimate offspring] in an attempt to eradicate inequalities.

Read More About the



Bibliographic Resources

- ★ "Hist210—Europe in the Age of Revolutions."
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/history/courses/europe1/chron/rch5.htm>
- ★ "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality: Exploring the French Revolution."
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>
- ★ Matthews, Andrew. *Revolution and Reaction: Europe, 1789-1849*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- ★ "The Napoleonic Guide."
<http://www.napoleonguide.com/index.htm>