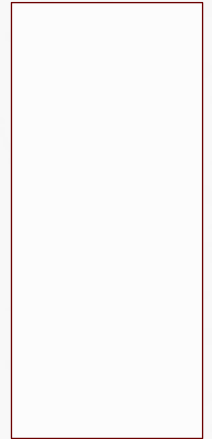


THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

AMANDA ZARDER



THE MONARCHS

- **Born at Versailles on August 23, 1754.**
- **Grandson of King Louis XV**
 - Becomes King of France After Death in 1774
 - Final Bourbon Monarch
- **Married at 15**
 - Marriage Not Consummated Until Much Later
- **Ineffective Ruler**
 - Indecisive
 - Easily Influenced
- **Lives Lavishly With Wife**



"I have no intention of sharing my authority."



I never actually told them to eat cake...



"I was a queen...a wife...a mother...My blood alone remains: take it, but do not make me suffer long."

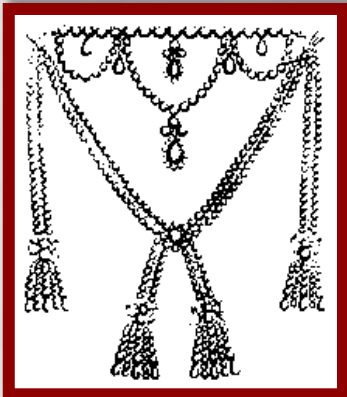
- **Born in Vienna on November 2, 1755**
- **Daughter of Maria Theresa and Francis I**
 - Born Archduchess of Austria
- **Married at 14**
 - Political
 - Alliance Between Austria and France (Habsburgs and Bourbons)
- **Frivolous Spender**
 - Loved Luxury
 - Madame Deficit
- **Reputation = Bad**
 - Long Time Before Heir is Born
 - Wrongly Accused of Involvement in the Affair of the Diamond Necklace



AFFAIR OF THE DIAMOND NECKLACE

In 1772, **Louis XV** wanted to make **Madame du Barry** a special gift and requested that jewelers create a gorgeous, expensive **diamond necklace** for her. Soon after, however, **Louis XV died** and du Barry was kicked out of court.

The jewelers hoped that **Marie Antoinette** would buy it but she **refused**.



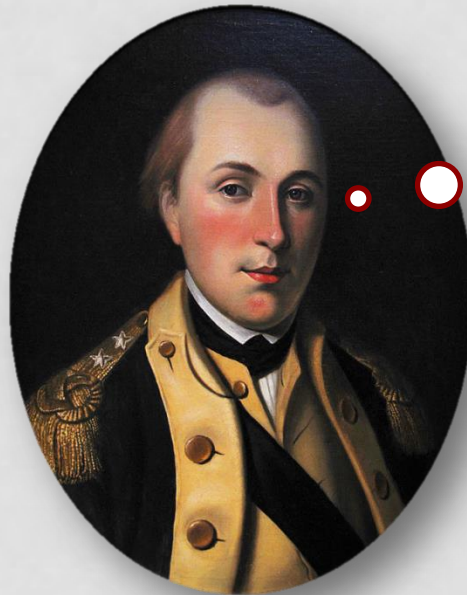
A con artist who called herself the **Comtesse de La Motte** tricked **Cardinal de Rohan** into believing that she could **regain the queen's approval** for him. She even arranged an interview between him and a woman impersonating the queen, and he was convinced that the Queen wished to have the necklace.

When **Rohan** obtained the **necklace** from the jewelers, he gave it over to the **Comtesse** and her husband took it to London, where it was **broken up for sale**. The affair became public after Rohan failed to pay the jewelers. **Marie Antoinette** was **blamed for the event despite not being involved**.

GO WITH WHAT YOU KNOW...

The **Enlightenment** idea that a better world was possible was reinforced as people saw a new nation whose people had **individual liberties** and were part of a **representative government**.

The **American Revolution** inspired many Europeans, especially the common people who wished to have legal equality. Many French officers serving in the American Colonies felt this firsthand.



Intellectuals began to look at how America was set up and how their government ran.

Marquis de Lafayette was one of these soldiers, and he returned to France impacted by what he had seen.

After participating in the **Seven Years' War** (1756 - 1763) and the **American Revolution** (1775 - 1783), France was greatly in debt.

FRANCE'S CLASS SYSTEM

The Three Major Developments:

The Noble Class Was "Fluid"

People Could Move Up in Status

Neither Group Was More Liberal

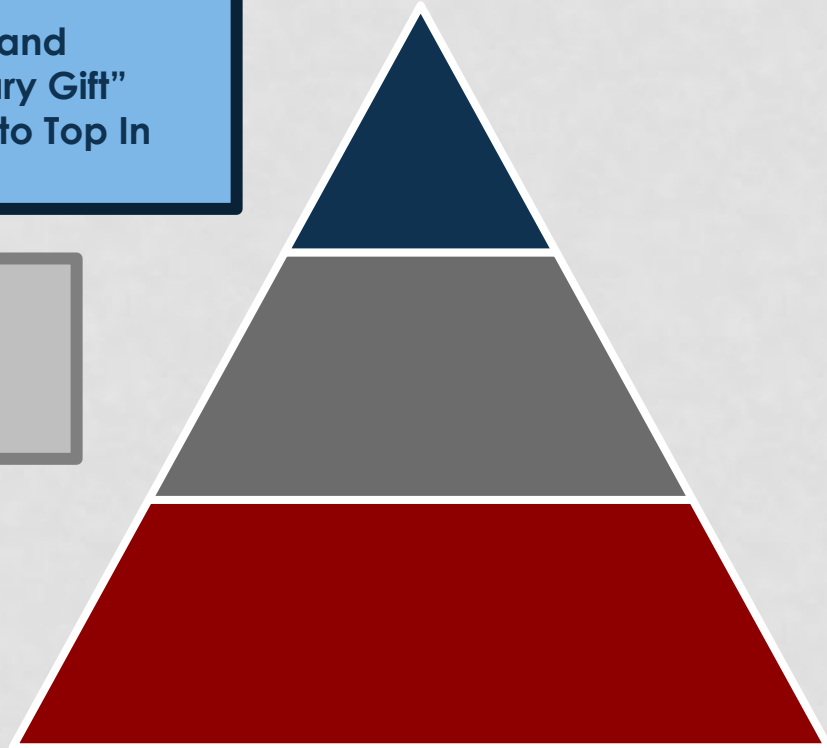
Supported Parlement of Paris

Were Not At Odds Economically

- ❖ Clergy
- ❖ Own 10% of Land
- ❖ Paid "Voluntary Gift"
- ❖ Money Goes to Top In Class

- ❖ Nobles
- ❖ Own 25% of Land
- ❖ Light Tax
- ❖ Manorial Rights

- ❖ Commoners
 - ❖ Bourgeoisie, Artisans, Unskilled Laborers, Peasants, etc.

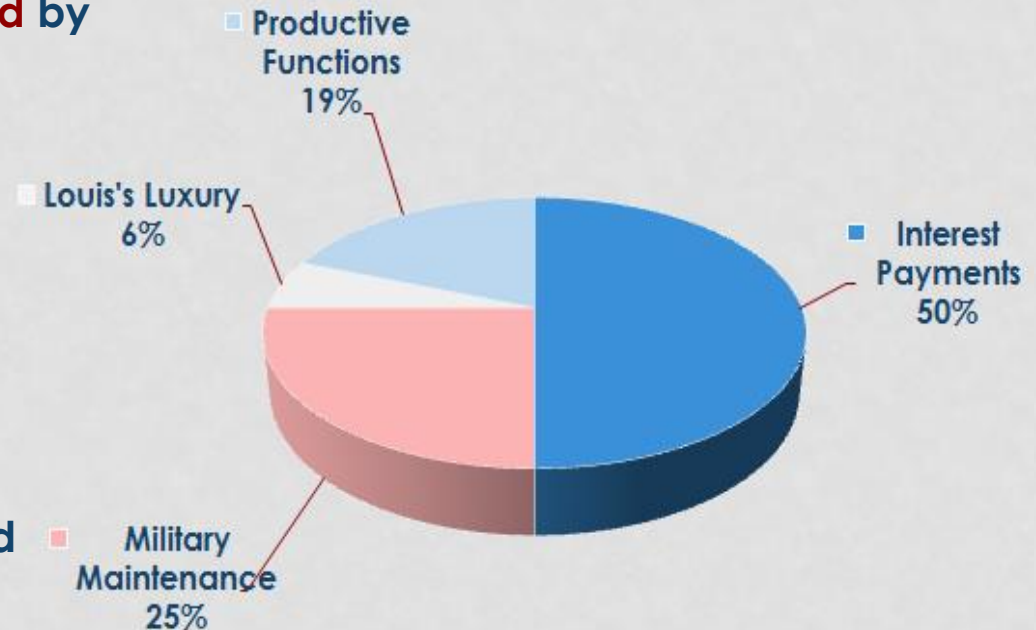


FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Louis XV's ministers had **attempted to raise taxes**, however this was **stopped by the Parlement of Paris**.

More efforts to reform the tax system were also stopped in 1776, so France had to **borrow money** in order to pay for its involvement in the **American Revolution**.

Because of this the **national debt** and the **annual budget deficit** soared.



Louis XVI's minister of finance, **Charles de Calonne**, wished to **impose a tax on all landed property** as well as create assemblies to administer the tax. This meant that the **nobility would no longer be exempt** from taxation.

An **assembly of notables** was called to support this idea, however they refused.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS CONT.

France **could have** declared **financial bankruptcy** and forced its creditors to accept reduced payments on the debt; however, many **aristocrats** and members of the **bourgeois class** were holding the debt and France could not take this would-be **unpopular action**.

The king and ministers also **could not print money** to cause inflation, as France used only **hard money**. France also **did not have a national bank**.

Because of this, **taxes** had to be **raised** even further. The **outdated tax system** was very unfair and increased revenue was only possible through **reform**.

This affected practically everyone in France and **led to problems later on...**



THE ESTATES - GENERAL

The **Estates – General** was a French congress that had not met between 1614 and 1788.

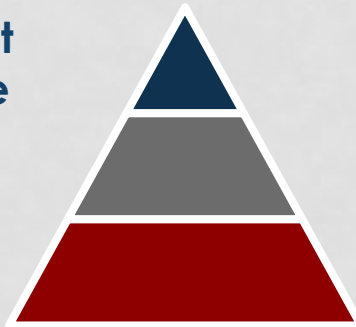


In 1788 **Jacques Necker** became **Director General of Finance**. Necker insisted that Louis XVI called together the Estates-General for the first time since 1614.

Two-thirds of the clergy elected were **poorer clergymen**, leading to dissatisfaction among the **First Estate**.

The nobles were politically divided, however **one-third** of those selected to the **Second Estate** were **wealthier liberals** who wanted to impose changes.

As almost **all male commoners over twenty-five** could vote, the **Third Estate** had many men to choose from. The voting process, however, limited this estate to mostly **well-educated middle-class members**.



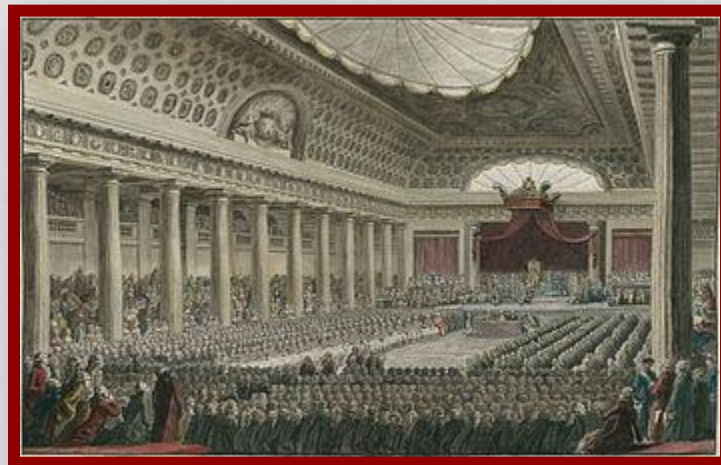
INSIDE THE ESTATES

Each group had its own **petition for change**, and surprisingly they were not drastically different. Overall, they agreed on the following:

- ❖ **Constitutional Monarchy**
 - ❖ **Meeting of the Estates General**
- ❖ **Guaranteed Individual Liberties**
- ❖ **Improvement of the Parish Clergy's Economic Position**
- ❖ **Economic Reforms Were Needed**

In the Estates General of 1614, it was required that **two of the three houses agree** in order for some action be taken.

The **Parlement of Paris** ruled that this same **setup** should be still put in place. This was done to give the **aristocrats more power**.



WHAT IS THE THIRD ESTATE?

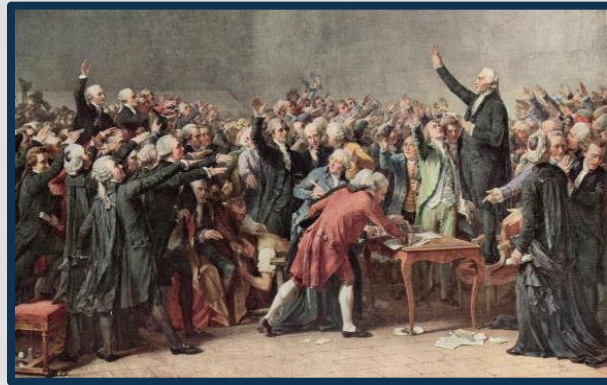
Abbé Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, a French clergyman and thinker, wrote the pamphlet *What is the Third Estate?* and argued that the Third Estate represented the people and did not need the “dead weight” of the other two estates. He wanted the people of France to be truly represented, and he wanted the Third Estate to pursue this equality.

This publication revolves around three questions and the author's responses.

- ❖ **What is the Third Estate?**
 - ❖ *Everything.*
- ❖ **What has it been until now in the political order?**
 - ❖ *Nothing.*
- ❖ **What does it ask?**
 - ❖ *To become something.*

Because of this, the government wanted to give the third estate as many representatives as the two other estates combined; however, this was rendered meaningless after they still had to vote separately from each other.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



The Third Estate then created the **National Assembly**, as the other estates refused to meet all together.

Some **parish priests** then joined the National Assembly and a few days later they met at a **tennis court** and took what became known as the “**Tennis Court Oath**”. This oath was a promise to **meet until** constitutional reform had been achieved and a new national **constitution was adopted**.

King Louis XVI was **indecisive** as to how to handle the situation, however eventually had **troops in Versailles** help disband the liberals.

THE BASTILLE

During this time, **crop failures** led to a **food shortage** and many individuals were increasingly unhappy. An economic depression occurred and as the demand for manufactured goods collapsed people **lost their jobs**.

When **Jacques Necker** was **fired**, the **people took to the streets**. People wanted weapons and revolutionaries targeted Paris's town hall.



When many of these revolutionaries realized that **Bastille** had weapons, the prison became their next target.

When the **governor** of the prison **refused to hand over gunpowder** and ordered his men to fire, **killing ninety-eight**. The fighting, however, did not stop until the **prison surrendered**.

The **heads** of the governor and Mayor of Paris were then **paraded through the streets**, after both were violently killed.

While weapons were obtained, the event was more **symbolic** in nature and showed that the **revolutionaries** and their message **stood a chance**.

THE GREAT FEAR

The French countryside saw many conflicts during the French Revolution due to **peasants'** lack of protection from **high prices** and **feudal contracts**. When these individuals heard of what was happening in the cities and got inspired by the revolutionary spirit themselves, more protests and attacks occurred in rural areas. This time (approximately two weeks in July 1789) became known as the **Great Fear**.

Peasants attacked manors and estates, in some instances doing so in order to **escape their feudal obligations**.

As the rioting peasants seemed to be a **threat to the National Assembly**, the **August Decrees** were issued by the **Duke of Aiguillon**. The August Decrees **nullified many of the peasants' feudal obligations** in an effort to keep the peace. For a while this was successful.



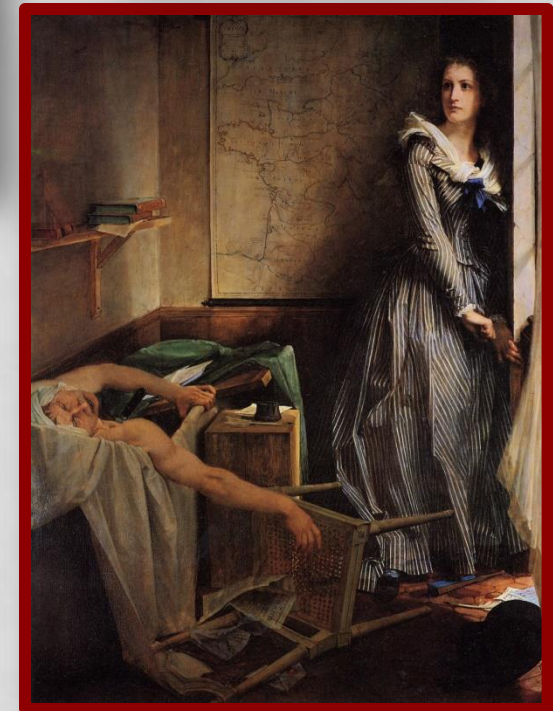
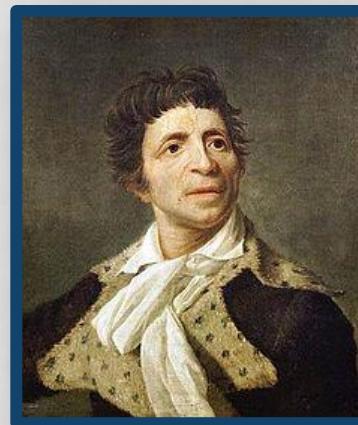
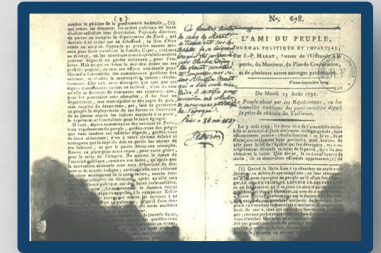
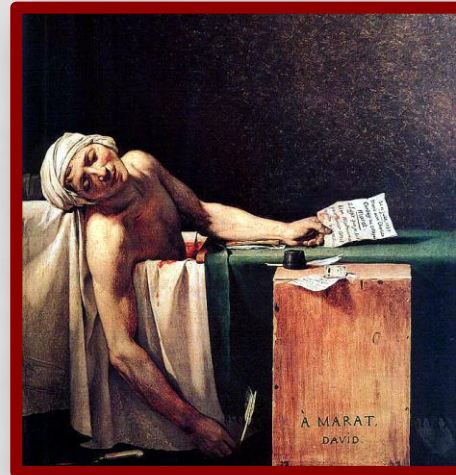
THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND OF THE CITIZEN

A few weeks after, the National Assembly issued the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** in order to **establish sovereignty** among the people instead of a king's divine right and also to protect the individual's rights. The document itself was **influenced by Jefferson and Lafayette**, the latter of which introduced it. The declaration impacted liberty and democracy and highlighted one's "natural rights".

- ❖ **Equality Before The Law**
- ❖ **Representative Government For a Sovereign People**
- ❖ **Individual Freedom**

JEAN-PAUL MARAT

- Wrote "The Friend of the People"
- Radical
 - Called For Blood of Enemies
 - Part of National Convention
 - Against Girondins
- Killed in Bathtub
 - Charlotte Corday
 - Seen as Martyr
- Legacy
 - Martyr
 - Seen as "New Saint" After Dechristianization of France



WOMEN'S MARCH



At this time, **food** was becoming more and more **scarce** across France as people struggled to feed their families. Finally, on October 5, 1789, **thousands of women marched and rioted in Paris over the high prices of bread.** With revolutionaries joining the cause, the mob **ransacked the city's armory** and marched on to **Versailles.**

The crowd **invaded the Assembly** with weapons ranging from sticks to scythes. Slaughtering some of the royal bodyguards, the women looked for **Marie Antoinette**, claiming that they were going to “cut off her head, tear out her heart, fry her liver” and much more.



Lafayette and the **National Guard** intervened and saved the family. They were **forced to go back to Paris** with the mob, the heads of two aristocrats leading the way.

REFORMS AND CHANGES

The next two years, under the leadership of the middle-class, the **National Assembly abolished the French nobility** as a legal order and pushed the idea of a **constitutional monarchy** forward.

The National Assembly also took action to address **the failing economy** and tighten up the country. To do this, the state in February of 1790 **confiscated all of the church's land** and then used it to help support a **new French currency called the assignat**.

New laws gave **women more rights**, including the right to divorce and inherit property. Despite this, they **still were not able to vote or hold office**. The main idea behind this was that women should raise sons fit to one day govern France.

The **metric system** was also developed in 1793 in an attempt to make measurements across the provinces uniform.

Economic freedom based on Enlightenment ideas was also significant; **monopolies and guilds were no longer allowed**.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CHURCH

In July of 1790, the French Catholic Church itself fell prey to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, a decree by the National Assembly that established a national church system with elected clergy. The country was divided into eighty-three departments, each of which was governed by an elected official and represented by an elected bishop.

Many delegates, inspired by the ideas of the eighteenth-century philosophes, greatly distrusted piety and “superstitious religion.” Thus, they established a national church whose priests were chosen by voters.

Catholic clergymen were also forced to take a loyalty oath to the new government, which the Pope condemned and only half of the clergy actually took. This caused a deep division among the religious peoples of France.

FLIGHT TO VARENNES

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette attempted to disguise themselves and slip out of France in June of 1791, in an event known as **the Flight to Varennes**. Their goal was to escape Paris and initiate a counter-revolution.

The royal family was **caught** after the postmaster of Sainte-Menehould, recognized the king from his portrait printed on an assignat. The king and his family were arrested in the town of **Varennes**, 31 miles from Montmédy.

When the royal family returned to Paris, they were **confined to the Tuileries Palace**. The credibility of the king as a constitutional monarch had been greatly undermined.

Prompted by Marie Antoinette, Louis rejected the advice of the moderate constitutionalists to fully implement the Constitution of 1791 and instead kept his goal of a secret **counter-revolution**.

OTHER NATIONS

The French Revolution affected other nations, including Great Britain, Austria, and Prussia.

Some, like **Edmund Burke** in his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, defended conservative ideas and were troubled by the call for the reordering of Parliament.

Others, including **Mary Wollstonecraft** in her *A Vindication of the Rights of Man* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* had more liberal ideas.

The king's failed escape attempt alarmed many other European monarchs, who feared that the revolutionary fervor would spread to their countries and **threaten their monarchies**. The monarchs of **Austria** (Leopold II) and **Prussia** (Frederick William II) issued the **Declaration of Pillnitz**. This document said that the two nations would **invade France** under “**certain circumstances**” and was an attempt to cool down revolutionary France without an all-out war.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The **National Assembly** disbanded and claimed that none of its members could become part of the new **Legislative Assembly**.

The new members of the legislative body were **younger** and **much less cautious** than the previous assemblymen. Most of the new deputies were called **Jacobins**, after the name of their political club.

Military reversals and **patriotic fervor** soon led to the Legislative Assembly declaring the country in danger. Rumors of the **royal family's betrayal** quickly spread and the royal palace at **Tuleries** was **captured**. The Legislative Assembly **suspended the king from all of his functions**, imprisoned him, and called for a **new National Convention** to be elected by male voters.

THE TWO FACTIONS

The Girondins and the Mountain were two groups attempting to gain control of the Convention.

Girondins

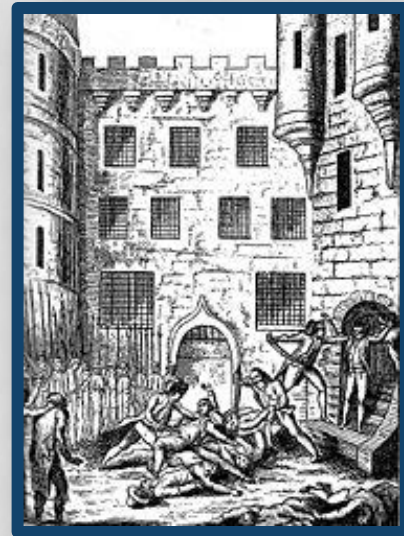
- **Named For Department in Western France**
- **Led by Jacques-Pierre Brissot**
 - **Brissotins**
- **Less Radical Faction of the Jacobin Club**
- **Jailed by the Mountain**
- **Many Killed in September Massacre**

The Mountain

- **Named For Its Members Seats (High, Left) in the Assembly Hall**
- **Led by Robespierre and Danton**
 - **Marat Sometimes Included**
- **Very Radical Faction of Jacobin Club**
- **Eventually Gain Control**
- **Responsible For Reign of Terror**

THE SEPTEMBER MASSACRES

The imprisonment of Louis was followed by the September Massacres. The September Massacres were violent events in which many prisoners were slaughtered.



DECIMALIZATION

In September of 1792 the new **National Convention** declared France a **republic**. France adopted a new **calendar** and there were **new democratic festivals**.

The **French Revolutionary Calendar** was part of a larger attempt at **decimalization** and also **tried to remove all religious and royalist influences from the calendar**.

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
Vendemaire	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

MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE

Earlier Beliefs

- Member of Estates-General and Jacobin Club
- Opposed Death Penalty
- Advocated Abolition of Slavery
- Male Suffragist
- Wanted Republic
- Opposed Dechristianization of France and War With Austria



A Change of Heart

- Member of Committee of Public Safety
- Reign of Terror
- Called for More Blood
 - Old Allies Like Danton
- Opposed Church
 - Deist Beliefs
- Cult of the Supreme Being
 - Festival of the Supreme Being
- Executed on July 28, 1794
 - Reportedly Face-Up

VIOLENCE AND WAR

In January of 1793 Louis XVI was sentenced to death by guillotine. Marie Antoinette would meet the same fate nine months later.



The Girondins and the Mountain were still attempting to continue the “war against tyranny.” French armies invaded nearby areas and attempted to get rid of princes and feudalism. The “liberators” acted almost as foreign invaders.

The National Convention, already at war with Austria and Prussia, also declared war on Britain, Holland, and Spain.

Peasants being drafted in the army began to revolt, supported by devout Catholics, royalists, and foreign agents.

THE MOUNTAIN AND THE SANS-CULOTTES

The Girondins and the Mountain struggled against each other in Paris.

The Girondins feared a harsh dictatorship by the Mountain.

The Mountain, meanwhile, worried that the more moderate Girondins would turn to conservatives and royalists in order to maintain power.

Thus, the laboring class had decisive power. Many being known as the “sans-culottes” due to their wearing of trousers instead of breeches, they demanded radical action that would bring bread to their families. The Mountain, over time, began to sympathize with them.

With the sans-culottes on their side, the Mountain arrested many Girondins in the Convention and managed to gain all of the power for themselves.

Robespierre and others joined the Committee of Public Safety, which had dictatorial power in the emergency.

COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety advanced with an ruthless resolution on several fronts in 1793 and 1794.

First, Robespierre and his followers established a planned economy with equal social overtones. The government set maximum prices for goods and enabled the poor to afford bread. Rationing was introduced, along with the “bread of equality” that was a mixture of available flours.

Second, the Reign of Terror used revolutionary terror to solidify the home front. Special revolutionary courts severely judged people and sent over 40,000 people to their deaths. Robespierre’s Reign of Terror was not against one specific class but rather was against anyone who disagreed with the revolutionary policies.

Third, modern nationalism and patriotic dedication to France helped the country fight off the First Coalition. The people of France felt connected and defended their nation, and this created a strong fighting force.

THERMIDORIAN REACTION

As Robespierre sent more and more to their deaths, including collaborators like Danton, moderates and radicals in the Convention staged a conspiracy against him. On July 28, 1794, Robespierre met his fate and was beheaded by guillotine.

The radical period was over and the middle-class was able to regain authority. The National Convention got rid of economic controls and restricted the power of political organizations; this greatly hurt the poor. In 1795 the common people revolted but were suppressed by the army under the control of the Convention.

Christianity once again grew strong in France, especially among women in the rural areas.

THE DIRECTORY

The National Convention created a new constitution in 1795. The five Directory members were also selected around this time.

The Directory supported the expansion of the military, which had benefits back home. The Directory, however, reinforced widespread disgust with war and starvation.

In 1799 Napoleon Bonaparte ended the Directory in a coup d'état and took power himself.

SIGNIFICANCE

- **First Modern Revolution**
 - Changed Social Structure
- **France Loses Power and Influence**
- **End of Absolute Monarchy in France**
 - France Becomes Republic
 - Napoleon Gains Control
- **Legal Equality in France and Other Countries**
 - No More Estates
 - Decline of Feudalism
- **European Nationalism**