

REVOLUTION BRINGS REFORM & TERROR



RECORD ALL UNDERLINED NOTES TO FILL IN ENTRY 20.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REFORMS FRANCE



- After the Great Fear, the National Assembly adopted a statement of revolutionary ideals called the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was influenced by the Declaration of Independence and it included ideas such as
 - Liberty
 - Property
 - Security
 - Resistance to Oppression
 - Freedom of Speech
 - Freedom of Religion

In keeping with these principles, revolutionary leaders adopted the expression “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” as their slogan.

A STATE CONTROLLED CHURCH

- Not long after the Declaration of the Rights of Man, the National Assembly soon took over Church land and declared that Church officials should be elected and paid as state officials. This made the Catholic Church lose its land and its political independence.
- The reasons for the assembly's actions were largely economic.
- Proceeds from the sale of Church lands helped pay off France's huge debt.
- But when the French peasants heard of these reforms, many were outraged. Many devout Catholics believed that the pope should rule the Church independently from the state. From this time on, many peasants opposed the assembly's reforms.



LOUIS TRIES TO ESCAPE

- As the National Assembly reformed the Church, Louis pondered his fate as a monarch.
- Louis and his supporters felt that he and the royal family were unsafe in France and plans were made to help the royal family leave the country.
- In June 1791, the royal family tried to escape from France to the Austrian Netherlands.
- As they neared the border, however, they were apprehended and returned to Paris under guard. Louis's attempted escape increased the influence of his radical enemies in the government and sealed his fate.



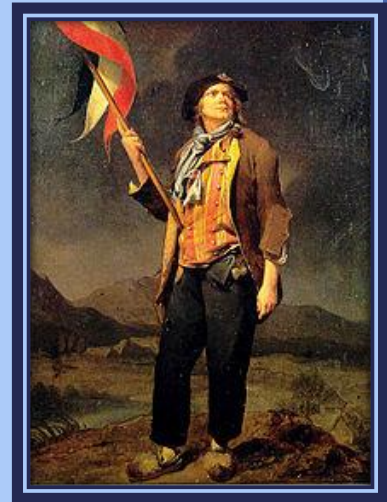
A LIMITED MONARCHY



- By September 1791, the National Assembly completed a new constitution.
- This new constitution, which Louis reluctantly approved, created a limited constitutional monarchy.
- It stripped the king of much of his authority and it created a new legislative body called the Legislative Assembly.
- The Legislative Assembly had the power to create laws and to approve or reject declarations of war. However, the king still held the executive power to enforce laws.

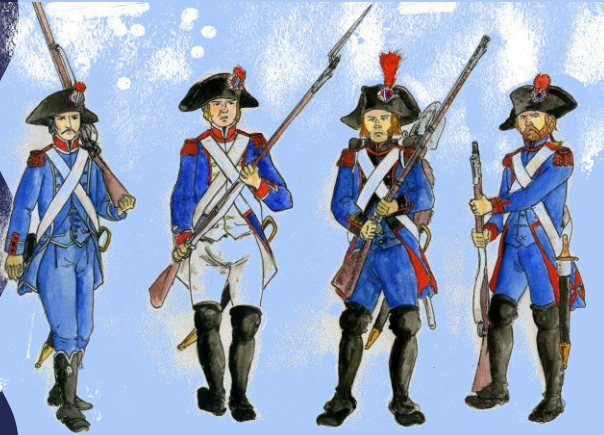
FACTIONS SPLIT FRANCE

- Despite the new government, old problems, such as food shortages and government debt, remained.
- The question of how to handle these problems caused the Legislative Assembly to disagree on how to run the new government.
- In addition, groups outside of the Legislative Assembly wanted to influence the direction of the government too.
- Emigres, nobles who had fled France, hoped to undo the Revolution and restore the Old Regime.
- Sans-Culottes (those without knee breeches) were workers and shopkeepers who wanted the Revolution to bring even greater changes to France. Unlike the upper classes, who wore fancy knee-length pants, sans-culottes wore regular trousers.



FRANCE AT WAR

- Monarchs and nobles in many European countries watched the changes taking place in France with alarm. They feared that similar revolts might break out in their own countries.
- Austria and Prussia, motivated to keep revolutionary ideas out of their own countries, urged the French to restore Louis to an absolute monarch.



- The Legislative Assembly responded by declaring war in April 1792.
- Prussian leaders warned that Paris would burn if anything happened to King Louis XVI and his family.
- This threat enraged Parisians and on August 10th they stormed the palace where the royal family resided and imprisoned them.

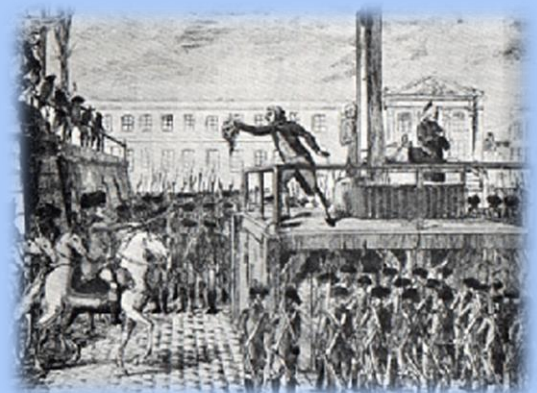
SEPTEMBER MASSACRES & NEW GOVERNMENT

- After the royal family was imprisoned, rumors began to spread that supporters of the king held in Paris prisons planned to break out and seize control of the city.
- Angry and fearful, many citizens responded by raiding prisons and murdering over 1,000 suspected royal sympathizers. This became known as the September Massacres.
- Under pressure from radicals in the streets and among its members, the Legislative Assembly set aside the Constitutions of 1791.
- This new governing body, the National Convention, abolished the monarchy and declared France a republic.



JACOBINS TAKE CONTROL

- The main group behind the new government was the Jacobins, a radical political organization who favored extreme actions.
- The National Convention had already reduced Louis XVI's role from that of a king to that of a common citizen and prisoner. Now, the Jacobins pushed to try Louis for treason.
- The Convention found him guilty of treason and sentenced him to death
- On January 21, 1793, the former king was beheaded by guillotine.



The Guillotine

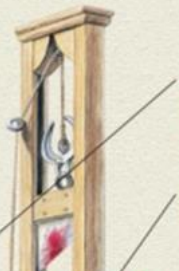
Interactive Feature

If you think the guillotine was a cruel form of capital punishment, think again. Dr. Joseph Ignace Guillotin proposed a machine that satisfied many needs—it was efficient, humane, and democratic. A physician and member of the National Assembly, Guillotin claimed that those executed with the device “wouldn’t even feel the slightest pain.”

Prior to the guillotine’s introduction in 1792, many French criminals had suffered through horrible punishments in public places. Although public punishments continued to attract large crowds, not all spectators were pleased with the new machine. Some witnesses felt that death by the guillotine occurred much too quickly to be enjoyed by an audience.

INTEGRATED: TECHNOLOGY

RESEARCH LINKS For more on the guillotine, go to classzone.com



Once the executioner cranked the blade to the top, a mechanism released it. The sharp weighted blade fell, severing the victim’s head from his or her body.

Some doctors believed that a victim’s head retained its hearing and eyesight for up to 15 minutes after the blade’s deadly blow. All remains were eventually gathered and buried in simple graves.

Tricoteuses, or “woman knitters,” were regular spectators at executions and knitted stockings for soldiers as they sat near the base of the scaffold.



Behanging by Class

More than 2,100 people were executed during the last 132 days of the Reign of Terror. The pie graph below displays the breakdown of beheadings by class.



THE GUILLOTINE

TERROR GRIPS FRANCE



- In addition to the foreign armies the National Convention was having to fight, there were also domestic enemies. The Jacobins, in particular, had thousands of enemies within France itself. They included:
 - Peasants who were horrified by the king's execution
 - Priests who would not accept government control
 - Rival leaders who were stirring up rebellion in the provinces
- In 1793, one Jacobin leader, Maximilien Robespierre, slowly gained power.

Robespierre set out to build a “republic of virtue” and wipe out every trace of France’s past. He even renamed each month of the year and got rid of Sundays.

- In July 1793, Robespierre created the Committee of Public Safety. For the next year, Robespierre ruled France virtually as a dictator and the period became known as the Reign of Terror.

REIGN OF TERROR

- During the Reign of Terror, the Committee of Public Safety's chief task was to protect the Revolution from its enemies.
- Under Robespierre's leadership, the committee often had these "enemies" tried in the morning and guillotined in the afternoon.
- Robespierre justified his use of terror by suggesting that it enabled French citizens to remain true to the ideals of the Revolution.
- These "enemies of the Revolution" who troubled Robespierre the most were fellow radicals who challenged his leadership. In 1793 and 1794, many of those who had led the Revolution received death sentences.
- About 85% executed during the Reign of Terror were members of the urban poor or middle class- for whose benefit the Revolution had been launched.

THE REIGN OF TERROR

1793-1794



END OF THE TERROR



- In July 1794, fearing for their own safety, some members of the National Convention turned on Robespierre. They demanded his arrest and execution.
- The Reign of Terror, the radical phase of the French Revolution, ended on July 28, 1794, when Robespierre went to the guillotine.
- French public opinion shifted dramatically after Robespierre's death. People of all classes had grown weary of the Terror.
- In 1795, moderate leaders in the National Convention drafted a new plan of government, the third since 1789.
- This new government gave their troubled country a period of order and placed the French armies in the hands of an eager general- Napoleon Bonaparte.