

French Revolution Part II

The Republic, the Convention, the Terror and the fall of Robespierre

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ENLIGHTENMENT:

possible forms of "enlightened" government

I. ENLIGHTENED DESPOTISM OR ABSOLUTISM

builds on 17th C. models of absolutist royal rule, such as Louis XIV in France (" l'état, c'est moi" – I am the state.)

image of government by "enlightened," educated monarch,
who legislates for good of society

models in eastern Europe:

Prussia under Frederick II, Russia under Catherine the Great (sort of)
Austro-Hungarian/Hapsburg Empire (Joseph II, son of Maria Theresa)

II. CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

model of English monarchy: King with consent of Parliament
limited powers of monarch, combined with representative assembly
make this a "reasonable" approach; first government of

French Revolution = from absolutism to (reluctant) constitutional monarchy

1791-92 Constitutional Monarchy: Constitution drafted by National Assembly
(3rd Estate plus supporters from 1st & 2^{cd})

1793 execution of Louis XIII as Citizen Capet

III. REPUBLICANISM

radical, non-monarchical alternative of American colonies in 1776 Revolution

1792-95 First French Republic influenced by Rousseau,
by American Republic of 1776
by classical model of ancient Roman Republic

FORMS OF GOVERNMENT DURING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION:

Popular
Revolution

Jacobinism
(radical
republicanism)

Constitutional
republicanism

Constitutional
monarchy

Absolutism

Parisian
risings

←

→

1793 –1794
Convention
The Terror

→

1792
1795
Directory

←

1789-92
1815

←

←

1788 Louis XVI
1799 Napoleon

LEFT

RIGHT

Flight to Varennes: June 1791

Turning point in the hopes for a Constitutional Monarchy

-- occurs before the new Constitution creating a Constitutional Monarchy was even enacted

-- reluctantly signed by a discredited King.



The flight to Varennes June 1791 royal family returned to Tuileries Palace in Paris under house arrest



June 1791

Return of the royal family from the border town of Varennes

Republican opposition to the continuation of monarchy grows.



Massacre of republican demonstrators at the Champs de Mars, July 17 1791 after announcement of King as head of the government under the new Constitution of 1791 (estimate of dead unclear at least 12, perhaps 50)

CONSTITUTION OF 1791 (see Handout for more specifics)

ECONOMIC POLICIES: “bourgeois” concept of property introduced;
all property is the same, end “feudal” dues

1791 LE CHAPELIER LAW

abolition of guilds (see as “feudal” restraint of trade;
price controls, quality controls)
effect = banning all strikes, & later labor unions as well

FREE TRADE =central economic policy; opposed to mercantilism & govt control)

THEME OF REFORMS = FREEDOM

examples: abolition of slavery in French colonies
freedom of press, theater, speech;
abolition of primogeniture – first born no longer inherits, sons as equal heirs
abolition of torture; reform of death penalty (guillotine – painless vs hanging)

1791-92 CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

GROWING THREAT OF WAR:

August 1791

Declaration of Pillnitz by Austria & Prussia –
restoration of French monarchy by military force
IF the other major powers would join them

Sept 1791 reluctant King signs the new constitution

1791 October: Legislative Assembly elected
under the self-denying ordinance –
no continuity of membership

Popular protests, public rejection of King and family

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF 1791-1792 – new vocabulary of left vs right

JACOBINS: members of "Jacobin Club," political club in Paris after 1789
middle class (propertied) revolutionaries, left wing pressure group
public galleries installed in Assembly = influence of popular opinion
1791: debate over going to war: **ROBESPIERRE** opposed; **BRISSOT** pro war

FACTIONS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY of Constitutional Monarchy:

RIGHT: FEUILLANTS -- support monarchy, Constitution of 1791;
(264 deputies) split from Jacobins over Republicanism

LEFT: GIRONDINS –
leader is BRISSOT; most belong to Jacobin club; war party
(136 deputies) social origin: wealthy bourgeois, but republican

CENTER: no clear program; called independents or constitutionalists
(345 deputies) make up majority of Legislative Assembly

APRIL 1792: Legislative Assembly declares war against European monarchs
Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette agree, hoping for French defeat
“**LA MARSEILLAISE**” becomes anthem of a nation in arms against tyrants,
nobility (*sang impur* = impure blood of aristocrats)

April 1792

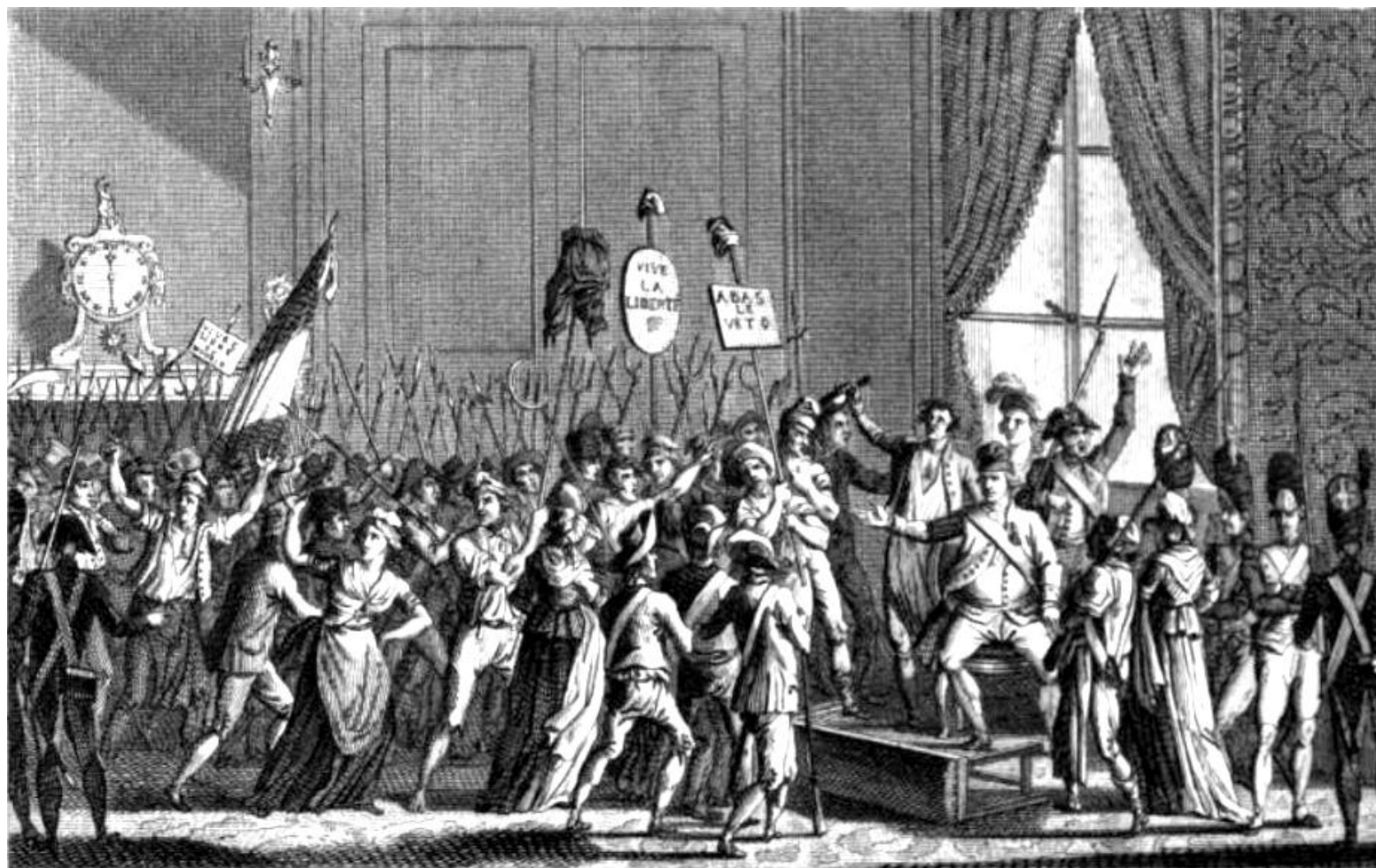
La Marseillaise
Regiment –

their marching
song becomes
French National
Anthem

Leaving for the
Rhine border

Later carved on
Napoleon's Arc
de Triomphe





Dessiné et gravé par Coucho fils

Terminé par La Jeune

Le Peuple pénètre dans le Château des Tuileries.

Le 20 Juin 1792.

La journée of June 20 1972 -- popular forces enter the Tuileries Palace

La journée of June 1792

Louis XVI

forced to wear the Phrygian Cap
and to
drink with the *sans-culottes*

who invaded the
Tuileries Palace uninvited

(things not looking good for the
monarchy ...)



LOUIS XVI. avoit mis le Bonnet rouge, il avoit crié vive la nation, il avoit bu à la santé des sans-culotte, il avoit affecté le plus grand calme, il avoit dit hautement qu'il ne craindroit jamais, que jamais il n'auroit à craindre au milieu du peuple; enfin il avoit semblé prendre une part personnelle à l'insurrection du 20 juin. Eh bien! ce même Louis XVI. a bravement attendu que ses concitoyens furent rentrés dans leurs foyers pour leur faire une guerre occulte et exercer sa vengeance.



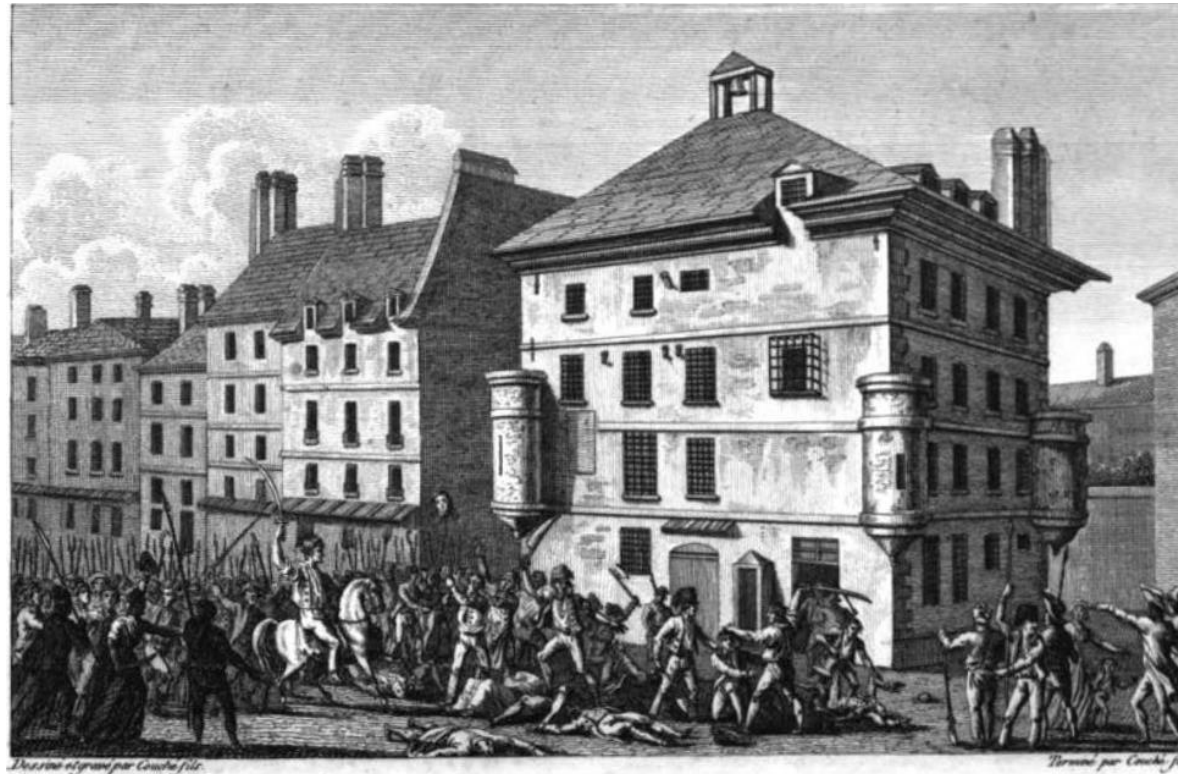
August 10 1792 Attack on the Tuileries Palace:
600 Swiss Guards massacred



Arrest of
Louis XVI and
family

August 13, 1792

Fall of the
Constitutional
Monarchy --
abolished in
September 1792



Massacres des 2, 3, 4, 5 et 6 Septembre

1792

SEPTEMBER MASSACRES 1792

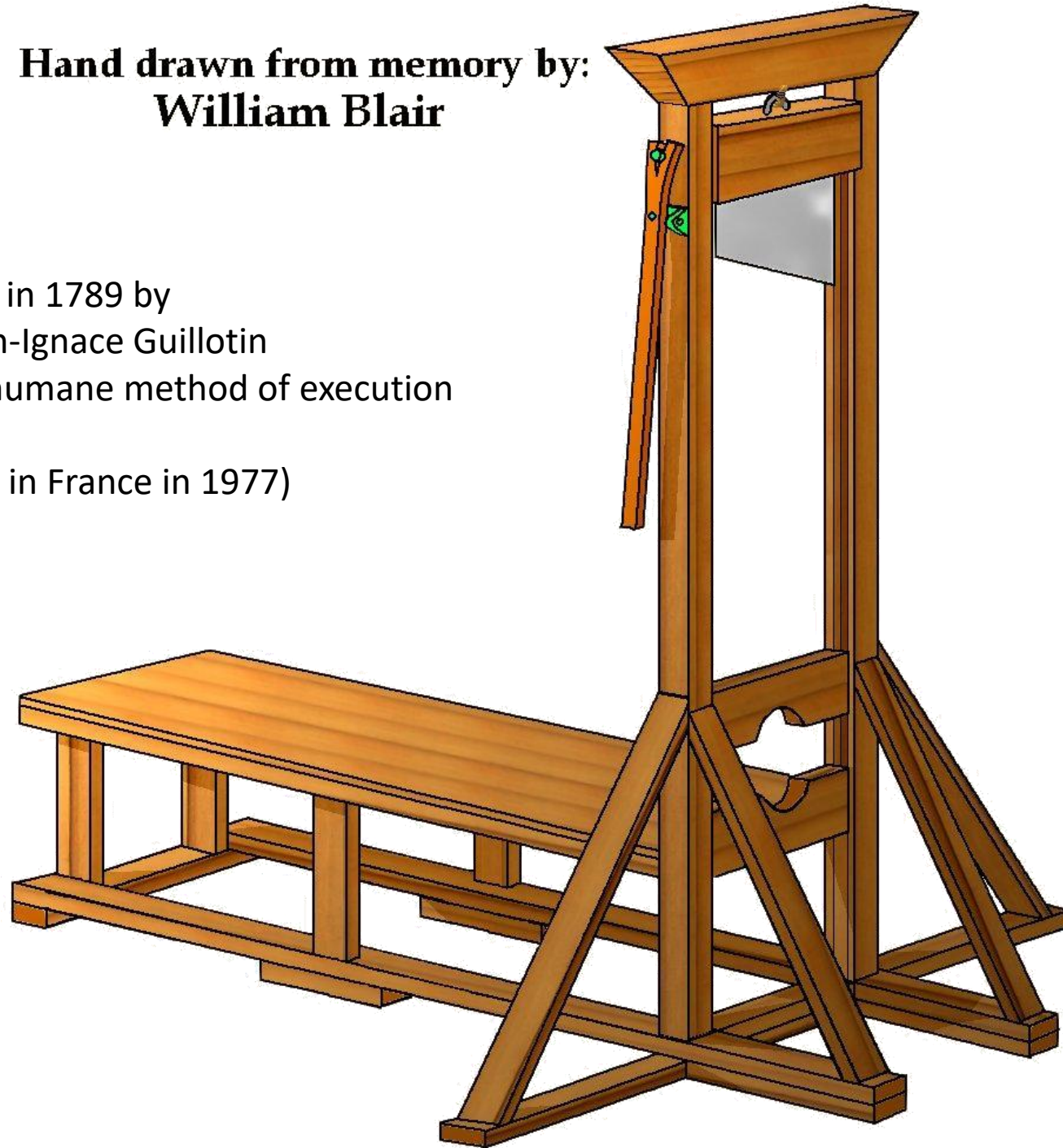
Rumors about a “5th column” of internal traitors
aristocrats see as using "brigands" against revolution

Slaughters by revolutionary republican mobs:
80 royal guards; 225 priests; 80 political prisoners,
1,300 ordinary criminals (= 1/2 prison population of Paris)

**Hand drawn from memory by:
William Blair**

Invention in 1789 by
Dr. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin
as more humane method of execution

(last used in France in 1977)



1792 THE SECOND REVOLUTION -- REPUBLICAN

FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC 1792-1795

French Declaration of War against Austria

Start of the French Revolutionary Wars, last until 1815

1792 August Declaration of end of Constitutional Monarchy
due to war, pressure of Parisian risings

Military problems:

out of 9,000 officers of royal army, only 3,000 remain

Economic problems:

assignat falls to 47% of face value by March 1792
shortages, grain riots,

1792

THE SECOND REVOLUTION -- REPUBLICAN

FIRST FRENCH REPUBLIC 1792-1795

1792 French Declaration of War against Austria
Start of the French Revolutionary Wars

1792 August Declaration of the end of the monarchy

1793 JANUARY 21: EXECUTION OF LOUIS XVI
(Citizen Louis Capet):

1793 JANUARY 21:

EXECUTION OF LOUIS XVI





Empty
pedestal

Statue of
Louis XV

torn down

*Journée du 21 Janvier 1793
la mort de Louis Capet sur la Place de la Révolution
Presentée à la Convention Nationale
le 30 Germinal par Helman*

**REPUBLIC: monarchy abolished, September 1792 =
YEAR I OF THE REPUBLIC**

NATIONAL CONVENTION:

revolutionary, democratic republic; weak Executive Council
members to be elected by universal male suffrage,
under new constitution ratified in June 1793

but peasantry abstains *en masse*,
only about 7.5% of male population votes:
Paris Jacobins; Provinces Girondins

WAR: Battle of VALMY 1792

Dumouriez' French army victory over Duke of Brunswick

Revolutionary calendar begins with Year One, autumnal equinox 1792

ten day weeks called “decades,” months renamed for climate, seasons

Spring 1793

ENRAGÉS: Parisian radicals
pushing for price controls, bread rationing

leader is Jacques Roux: organizes bread riots by Paris mob

SAN CULOTTES (working class wears trousers);
shopkeepers, laborers

CONSTITUTION OF 1793 – ratified in June 1793
universal manhood suffrage, but peasantry abstains

1793: COUNTER REVOLUTION & RADICALIZATION

France at war with Europe

March: **RISING OF THE VENDÉE:**

armed provincial revolt against Revolution
provoked by conscription, economic crisis ,
religious conservatism

April: **Committee on Public Safety (CPS)**

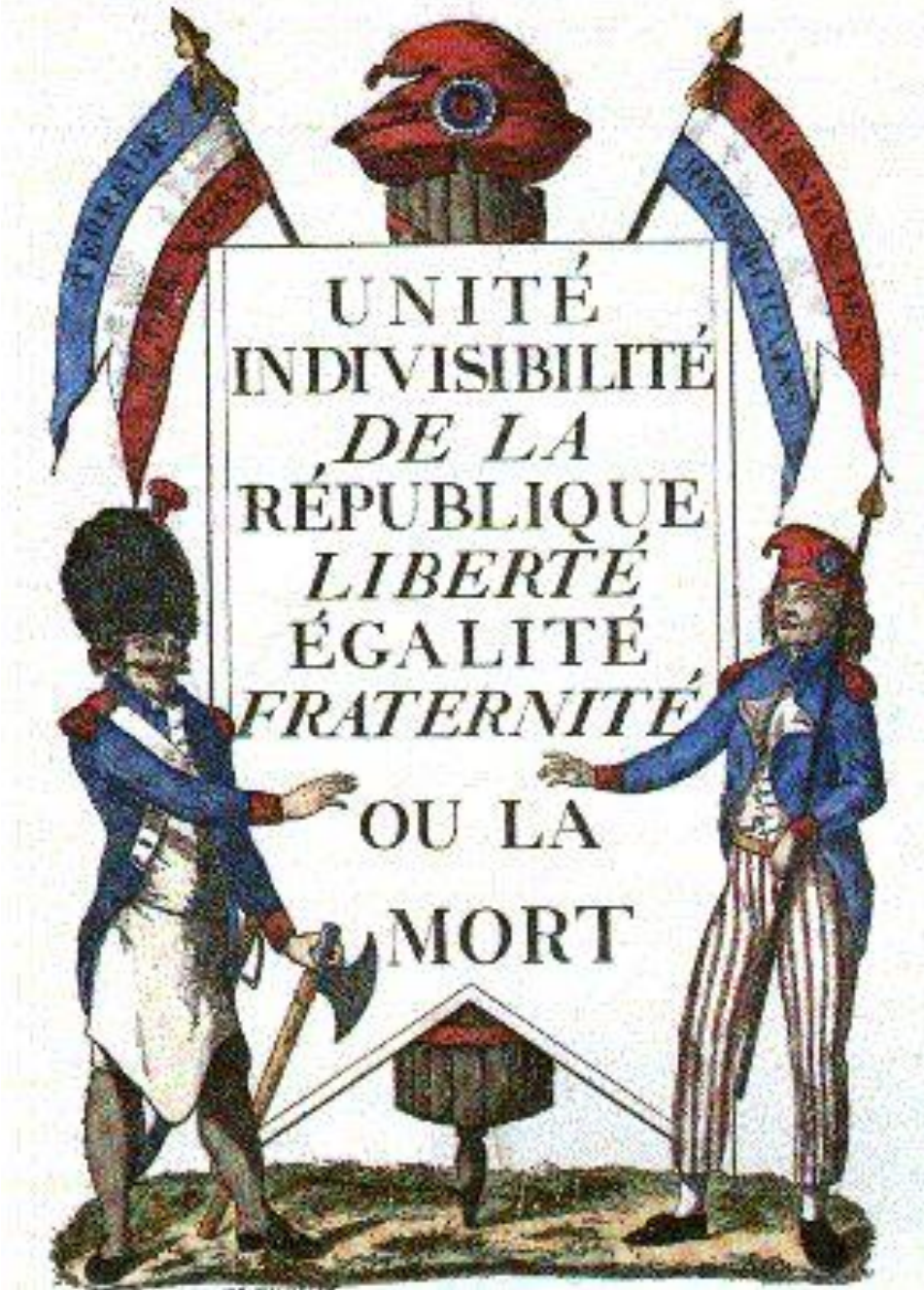
May-June: **Constitution of 1793**

Jacobins take over the Convention

July: **Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat**

The Terror begins July 1793-July 1794

October: execution of Marie Antoinette



“Unity,
indivisibility
of the
Republic

Liberty,
Equality,
Fraternity –

or Death”

July 1793 Assassination of Jean Paul Marat

Response from CPS

LAW OF SUSPECTS --

arrest of all suspected of counter-revolutionary activity

REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNALS throughout France

14,000 executed during Terror, thousands more
died in prison or executed without trial

DECHRISIANIZATION CAMPAIGN

Nov 1793 all Churches in Paris closed

Notre Dame de Paris rededicated as Temple of Reason

David, Jacques Louis

Assassination of Jean Paul Marat by
royalist Charlotte Corday

July 1793

Marat was implicated in September
Massacres of 1792, arrested, tried
and found not guilty by Jacobin court

Marat had skin condition that
required him to sit in a bath, where
he was stabbed to death.



David

sketch of
Marie
Antoinette
taken to the
Guillotine

August 1793



1793 Institutions used in the Terror put in place by the Convention
REVOLUTIONAY TRIBUNAL set up to hear cases of treason against Revolution
COMMITTE OF PUBLIC SAFETY elected to monitor Convention leaders

THE TERROR July 1793-July 1794:

CPS becomes chief administrative, policy making body

June 1793 purge of Girondins in Convention as "enemies of the people"
govt. declared "revolutionary until the peace,"
extensive new powers granted to

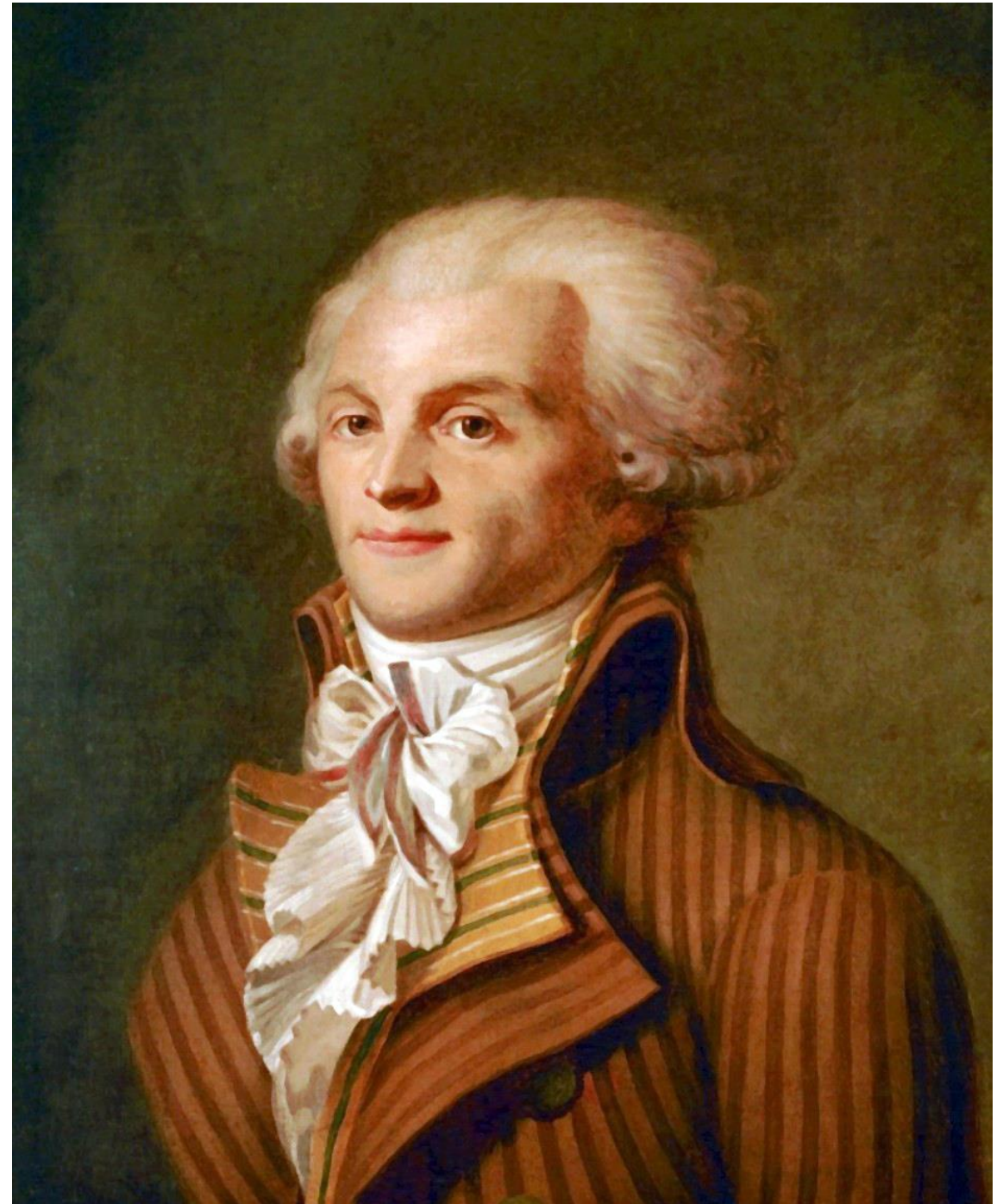
COMMITTE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-12 members;
including DANTON, ROBESPIERRE, SAINT-JUST, COUTHON
enacts revolutionary and wartime legislation:

Maximilien Robespierre

Jacobin Republican
head of
Committee of Public Safety

chief architect of the
Terror July 1793-July 1794

See his speech on “Virtue & Terror” Week
9 Readings



Legislation by Committee of Public Safety

LEVÉE EN MASSE =

universal conscription, unmarried men 18-25

army increases:

1793: 650,000; 1794: 850,000

WAR EFFORT:

army pushes back borders to "natural frontiers" of France

Rhine, Alps, Pyrenees and Atlantic

LAW OF MAXIMUM:

price and wage controls to limit inflation; breaks with free trade policy; *assignat* rises to 50% of face value

Danton

Executed April
1794

for financial
corruption

1983

Movie Danton

with Gerard
Depardieu

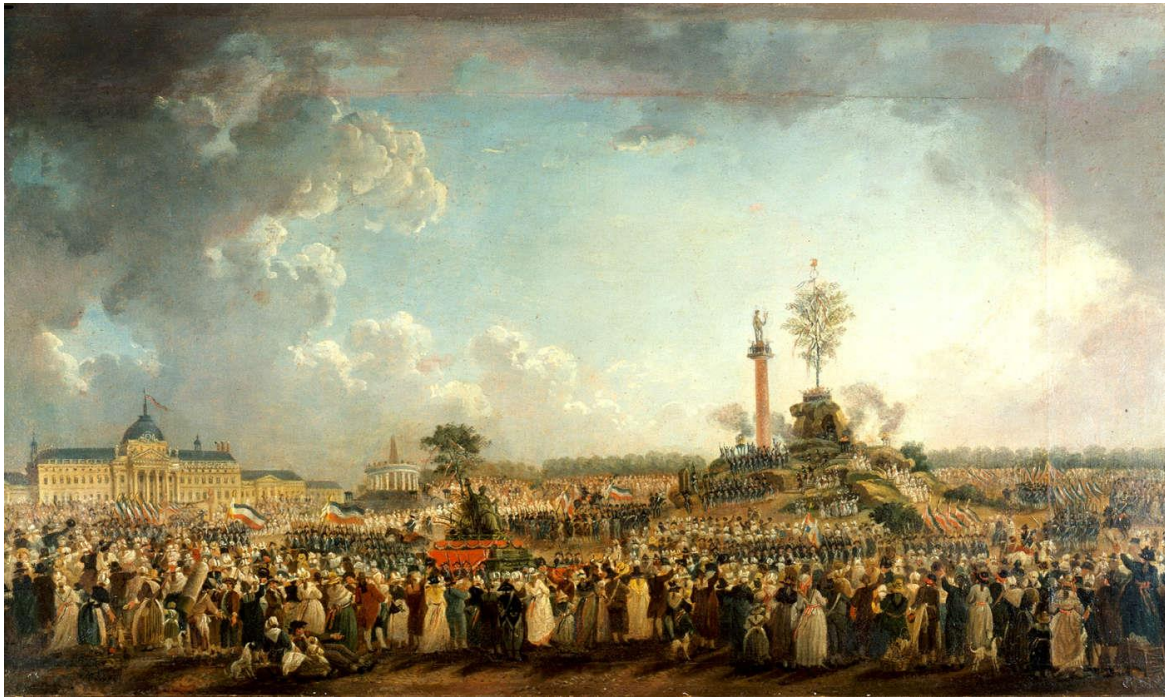


ACCELERATION OF THE TERROR:

Law of 22 prairial (10 June 1794):

no defense permitted to those on trial by Revolutionary Tribunals;
only two verdicts allowed -- acquittal or death

Result: 10 June 1794 - 27 July 1794 = 1,376 executions
out of 14,000 total for the Terror as a whole



Festival of the Supreme Being June 1794 –
Robespierre's Rousseau inspired
replacement for earlier Cult of Reason (Hebert)



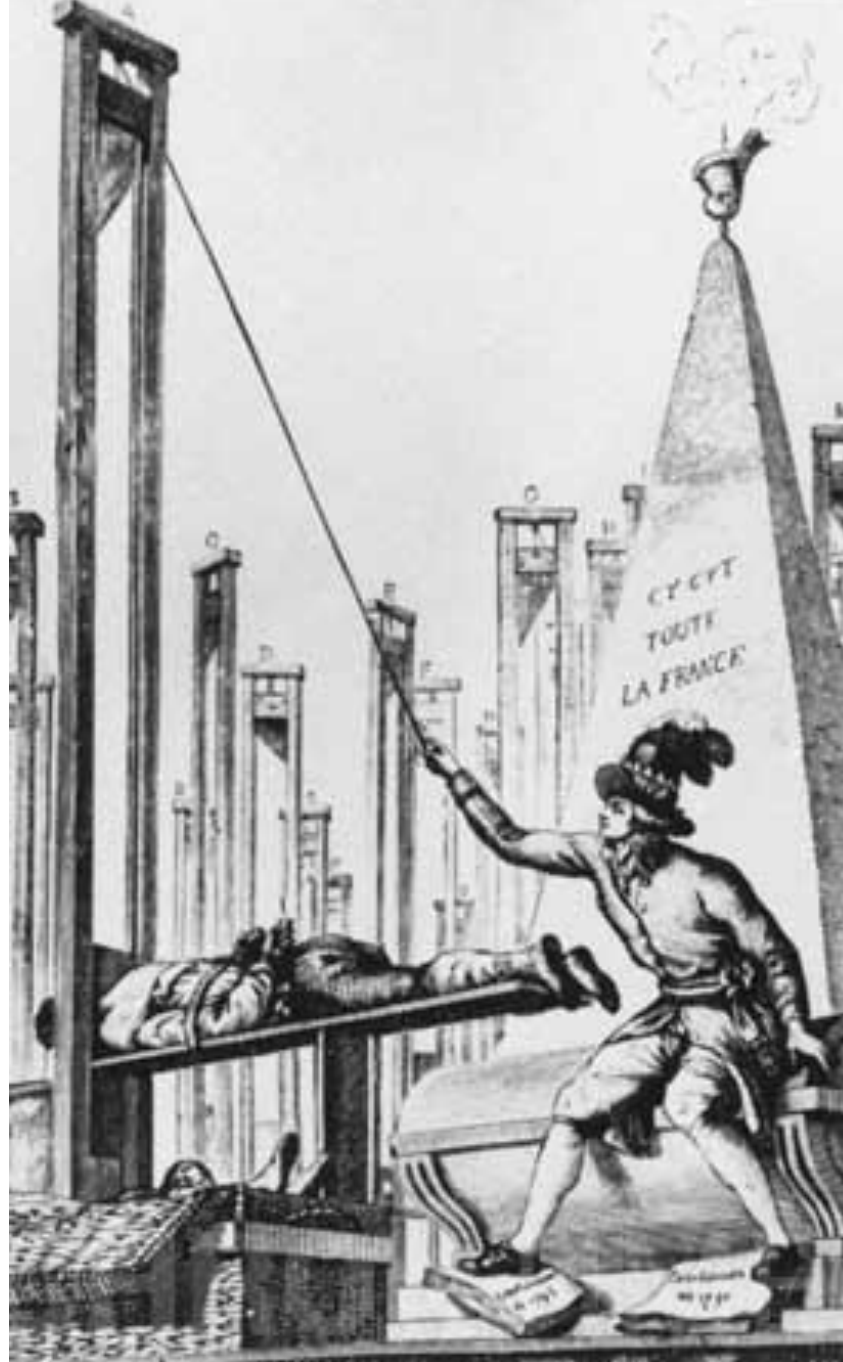
Surviving inscription on Cathedral of Clermont-Ferrand, in central France:
“The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the Immortality of the Soul.”

Robespierre

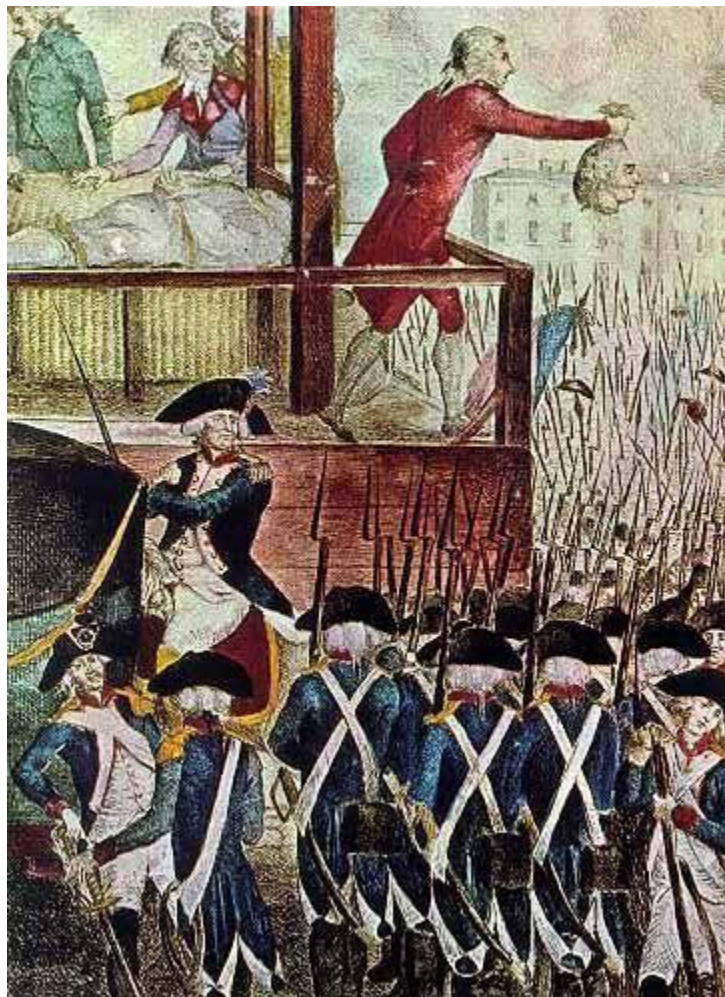
guillotines the
executioner, after
all France has been
guillotined

Constitutions of 1791
and 1793 are
beneath his feet

Engraving from 1795,
after Thermidor



COUP D'ÉTAT OF THERMIDOR JULY 1794



Execution of
Robespierre,
Also
Saint Just,
Couthon

1794

End of the
Terror

The Directory
takes power
1794-1799