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 & 2nd)

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:

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**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
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 ...)
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
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)
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, g rain riots,
1792

THE SECOND REVOLUTION -- REPUBLICAN

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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
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
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  
REVOLUTIONARY 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

LEVÊE 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