### Chronology of the French Revolution


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1775</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>American War of Independence</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Grain riots in northern France</td>
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<td>1776</td>
<td>Fall of <em>Turgot</em></td>
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<td>1778</td>
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<td>1783</td>
<td>Treaty of Versailles ends the American War.</td>
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<td>1787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22-May 12</td>
<td><strong>Beginning of the Aristocratic Revolt:</strong> Assembly of the Notables</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8</td>
<td>Charles Alexandre de <em>Calonne</em> dismissed and replaced by Lomenie de <em>Brienne</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1788</td>
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<tr>
<td>May-September</td>
<td>Abortive reform of the <em>Parlements</em>; government restricts their powers, but then restores them. Victory of the aristocracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>“Day of the Tiles” at Grenoble: riot in support of Parlement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 21</td>
<td>The Estates of Dauphiné met at Vizille and demand reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8</td>
<td>Government orders the Estates-General to meet next year.</td>
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</table>
August 25  
Jacques Necker becomes Controller-General of Finance.

December  
Food riots in France soon turning into peasant revolt against “feudalism”

1789

The Bourgeois Revolution

January to May  
Preparation of **cahiers de doléances** and elections to the Estates General.

January  

From March onward  
Rural and urban unrest increases,

April 27  
Riot in the Faubourg St. Antoine (Paris) destroys Réveillon’s wallpaper works.

May 5  
Opening of the **Estates General**

June 17  
The Third Estate assumes the title of **National Assembly**

June 20  
**Oath of the Tennis Court**: The Third Estate pledges not to disband until France had received a constitution.

June 27  
Louis XVI gives in to the Third Estate’s demands and orders all three Estates to deliberate together.

July 9  
National Assembly proclaims itself the **Constituent Assembly**

Chief issues facing the Constituent Assembly are 1) the Declaration of Rights 2) the royal veto 3) the suffrage 4) new system of local government 5) assignats 6) Civil Constitution of the Clergy

July 11  
Dismissal of Necker; this leads to riots in Paris

July 14  
Fall of the **Bastille** Emigration of the nobles begins. Rural revolts gather momentum. **National Guard**, made up of bourgeois, formed. **Paris Commune** set up and other municipalities revolutionized. Old civil government swept away. Jean Sylvain Bailly is the new mayor.

July 20-August 6  
The **Great Fear**: peasant revolt against feudalism

July 22  
Lynching of Bertier de Sauvigny and Foulon de Doué
August 4  

**August Decrees:** Constituent Assembly votes to abolish feudalism

August 26  

Assembly votes the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen*

Leading Clubs which emerge:

**Jacobin Club:** Originally more moderate, they became more radical with time, demanding an end to the monarchy and the establishment of a republic. Led by Maximilien Robespierre.

September 10  

Assembly votes a Second Chamber of the Legislature, but accepts a **suspensive veto** for the king. He could veto a bill twice, but the third time a bill could be passed by simple majority,. Mirabeau had desired an absolute veto.

October 5-6  

**October Days:** The Parisian women march on Versailles; they demand that the king accept the Declaration of Rights and also cheap bread. Louis XVI and the court are installed at the Tuileries in Paris. “The baker, the baker’s wife, and the baker’s little boy”.

October 12  

Assembly moves from Versailles to Paris.

October 29  

Assembly votes to establish a constitutional distinction between “**active**” and “**passive**” citizens. All male Frenchmen over 25 were citizens. However, unless one paid 3 days’ unskilled wages in taxes, one was a passive citizen and ineligible to vote. Active citizens could vote for the primary assembly. To be eligible for the secondary assemblies, which actually elected deputies, one had to pay 10 days’ wages. To be eligible for the national assembly, one had to pay 50 days’ wages—**one silver mark**. This is obviously a bourgeois voting structure.

November 2  

Church lands nationalized.

November 29  

First “Federation” takes place at Valence

December 14  

Creation of **assignats**, secured on national (church) lands.

December 22  

Local government reform: 83 departments established, each divided into districts and communes. The old governmental structures are swept aside.

1790
March 15  
Decree of the Assembly laying down conditions for redemption of feudal rights.

April  
Formation of the Cordeliers Club. **Cordeliers Club**: Radicals who favored abolition of the monarchy and the creation of a republic. Leaders included Georges-Jacques Danton, Camille Desmoulins, and Jean-Paul Marat.

May 21  
Paris municipal government reorganized into sections.

June  
Abolition of nobility and titles.

July 12  
**Civil Constitution of Clergy** voted by the Assembly. Parish priests and bishops were to be elected; old dioceses abolished, the pope would have no authority in France; bishops and priests become employees of the state; clergy must take an oath of fealty to the constitution.

July 14  
**Feast of Federation** at Paris, presided by Lafayette; counter-revolutionary riots in Lyons.

August  
Mutiny and suppression of garrison at Nancy.

October 28  
Assembly debates question of German princes’ lands in Alsace.

November  
Publication of Edmund Burke’s *Reflections on the Revolution in France*.

November 27  
Decree ordering clergy to swear loyalty to Civil Constitution.

**1791**

March-April  
Papal Brief and Bull condemning Civil Constitution of the Clergy; beginning of counter-revolution by “non-juring” clergy [refractory clergy] The Civil Constitution of the Clergy thus will trigger a bitter civil war. Many peasants remained loyal to the Church, and had now gotten all that they wanted from the Revolution. The anti-clericalism of the Revolution creates a deep division.

March 2  
**D’Allarde law** abolishing guilds. A bourgeois, laissez-faire bill.

April  
Death of Mirabeau.

June 14  
**Le Chapelier** law outlawing unions and strikes. Another bourgeois, laissez-faire bill.
June 20-21  The **Flight to Varennes**: Louis XVI tries to flee the country. This is a fatal mistake, and dooms the monarchy. It also eventually dooms the Girondins. Assembly suspends him, but then votes to reinstate him on condition that he accept the Constitution.

July 16  Foundation of the **Feuillants Club**: (seceding from the Jacobin Club) rallying point for the moderates. **Feuillant Club**: more conservative which favored a limited monarchy.

July 17  **Massacre of the Champs de Mars**: troops led by Lafayette fire on crowd of Republican sympathizers. This is followed by the “Tricolor Terror” directed against the democratic movements.

August 27  Assembly votes to raise the property qualification for the franchise.

**Declaration of Pillnitz** issued by Emperor Leopold II and King Frederick William II of Prussia, indicating their readiness to intervene in France if other sovereigns would support them.

September 12  Avignon annexed to France

September 14  Louis XVI swears to uphold the **Constitution of 1791**

September 30  End of the Constituent Assembly. It is replaced by the **Legislative Assembly**.

November  Pétion elected Mayor of Paris

November 11  Louis XVI vetoes two decrees of the Assembly against the **émigrés**

November 29  Non-juring clergy declared suspect

December 9  Ministry formed by leaders of the Feuillants

**1792**

January onward  Mounting unrest caused by rising food prices, punctuated by counter-revolutionary uprisings in some places.

March 3  Murder of Simoneau, mayor of Étampes, during food riot.

March 15  Ministry formed by the **Girondins**, led by Jacques-Pierre Brissot. Sometimes called Brissotins.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td><strong>Declaration of war</strong> against Emperor Francis II. French armies soon begin to suffer defeats.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Rouget de Lisle composes <em>La Marseillaise</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Girondin ministry dismissed: Feuillants reappointed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Demonstrations against Louis XVI at Paris: the crowd invades the Tuileries, forcing Louis XVI to wear a red bonnet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 27-29</td>
<td>Lafayette tries to close the Jacobin Club and overawe the Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>Assembly votes <em>“The fatherland in danger.”</em> Demands grow for removal of the king.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>Manifesto issued by the Duke of Brunswick, commanding the allied armies, threatening total destruction of Paris.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>47 of 48 Paris Sections vote for abolition of the monarchy.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Girondins</strong> and <strong>the Montagnards [Jacobins]</strong> struggle over 1) the September Massacres 2) the trial of the king 3) the new constitution, 4) the conduct of the war 5) prosecution of Marat and 6) the Commission of Twelve.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Girondins supported a federalist concept of the nation (as opposed to the Jacobins, who favored Paris) and also were committed to liberal economics, including a laissez-faire approach to the war time economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 13</td>
<td>Royal family incarcerated in the Temple under supervision of the commune.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 14</td>
<td>Lafayette flees after trying to persuade his army to march on Paris.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Establishment of the <strong>Extraordinary Tribunal</strong> to judge counter-revolutionaries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>Lafayette defects to the Austrians, who intern him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August-early September</td>
<td>A series of defeats leaves France in extreme danger of invasion.  Danton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
declares that France needs “l’audace, l’audace, toujours l’audace.” Marat in *L’Ami du peuple* and Hébert in *Le Père Duchesne* demand the slaughter of the Paris prisoners.

**September**

Women granted the right to divorce

**September 2-6**

The ***“September Massacres”***: massacre of prisoners in Paris. A relatively small number of murderers actually committed the atrocity. The victims numbered about 1,200, 1/3 of whom were priests, the rest civil criminals. The murders were sadistically ferocious—many hacked to pieces. “Marie Gredeler, a young woman who kept an umbrella . . . depository. Charged with mutilating her lover, she was herself mutilated, her breasts were cut off, her feet nailed to the ground and a bonfire was set alight between her spreadeagled legs . . . the Princess de Lamballe . . . had been stripped, and raped; her breasts had been cut off; the rest of her body mutilated; and ‘exposed to the insults of the populace.’ . . . “ (Hibbert 174-175) One of her legs was shot out of a cannon. Her head and her genitals were impaled on pikes and paraded around the city, specifically under the Queen’s window. The head was placed on the counter of a café where the customers drank her health.

**September 20**

French victory at *Valmy* averts threat of invasion. *Convention* meets.

Cultural evidence of the Revolution: spread of tutoiement, replacement of Monsieur with Citoyen, change in clothing to simpler forms, use of trousers, abandonment of powdered hair, women giving up jewelry, christening with Revolutionary names

**September 21**

Convention votes to abolish the monarchy: Year I of the Republic begins.

**November 17**

Proposal to try the king for treason.

**November 27**

Annexation of Savoy by the French.

Emergence by this point at least of the *Enragés*, led by Jacques Roux and Jacques-René Hébert. They demand common ownership of goods and strict economic controls.

**December 11**

Louis XVI placed on trial before the Convention. The Girondins seem to have felt that most of the country was still royalist (which was most likely true) but the Mountain whips through the votes.

1793
January 16-18  The Convention condemns the king to death.

January 21  **Execution of Louis XVI**

January 22  Jean-Marie Roland, a leader of the Girondin, resigns from the government over the execution.

February 1  Declaration of war against Holland and Great Britain

February 24  Decree ordering levy of 300,000 men for the army: levee en masse


March  Women granted equal rights to inheritance

March 7  Declaration of war against Spain

March 9-10  Riots at Paris against Girondin governments

March 10  **Outbreak of rebellion in the Vendée.** Unrest had existed already due to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy; the conscription officers is what led to outright violence. Civil War.

March 18  French defeat at Neerwinden; General Dumouriez conspires with Austrians, then goes over to them (April 5) Dumouriez was friendly with many Girondins, which led to suspicion that they were traitors.

April 5  Establishment of the **Committee of Public Safety.** Members included Danton, Robespierre, Marat, and Bertrand Barère and Lazare Carnot ("the organizer of victory")–a "sort of dictatorship in commission." The **Committee of Public Safety** begins supervising public policy. Convention also begins to send out **Representatives on Mission.** These men were often more radical than Paris itself.

April 13  Girondins indict Marat; a serious political error.

April 24  Marat acquitted by the Revolutionary Tribunal, a severe blow to the prestige of the Girondins.

May  Anti-Jacobin agitation at Marseilles, Lyons, Rennes

May 4  **Decree of the Maximum** of grain prices. Victory for the Enragés

May 18  Girondins create a Commission of Twelve to investigate the Paris
Commune.

May 24  Commission of Twelve has Hébert and Jean Varlet (of the Enragés) arrested

May 29  Outbreak of counter-revolutionary revolt at Lyon

**Revolutionary Government**

May 31-June 2  Parisian uprising, the Convention [the elected national body] invaded by the mob. The Girondins are overthrown and the Montagnards (Jacobins) emerge victorious.

June 7 onward  “Federalist” revolts in Normandy, at Bordeaux, and elsewhere

June 24  Convention votes a new Jacobin *Constitution of 1793* and a new Declaration of the Rights of Man

June 25  On behalf of the Cordeliers Club, Jacques Roux presents the Enragés manifesto

July 13  *Murder of Marat* by Charlotte Corday

July 17  Convention abolishes feudal rights without compensation.

July-August  Series of defeats on northern frontier renews threat of invasion.

July 26  Decree authorizing death penalty for hoarders and speculators in grain.

July 27  *Maximilien Robespierre and Louis St. Just elected to Committee of Public Safety*

August 23  Decree ordering the *levée en masse* (full conscription) “Young men will go to the front; married men will forge arms and transport foodstuffs; women will make tents, clothes, will serve in the hospitals; children will tear rags into lint; old men will get themselves carried to public places, there to stir up the courage of the warriors, hatred of kings and unity in the republic.”

August 29  Counter-revolutionaries at Toulon hand the city over to the English

September 4-5  Popular uprising at Paris: the Convention makes the *Terror* the order of the day.” Jacques Roux arrested.
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<td>September 11</td>
<td>Establishment of a <strong>national maximum price for grain</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Convention votes the <strong>Law of Suspects</strong>. The <strong>Reign of Terror</strong> begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td><strong>National maximums fixed for prices and wages</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 5</td>
<td>Convention adopts the <strong>revolutionary calendar</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Year II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October 9/18 Vendémaire</td>
<td>Suppression of revolt at Lyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 10/19 Vendémaire</td>
<td>On St.-Just’s motion, government is voted “<strong>revolutionary until peace</strong>”</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16/25 Vendémaire</td>
<td>French victory at Wittignies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Trial and execution of Marie Antoinette</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 24-31/3-10 Brumaire</td>
<td>Trial and execution of Brissot and the other Girondin leaders. Angered by their able defense, Hébert complained “<strong>Need there be so much ceremony about shortening the lives of wretches already condemned by the people?”</strong> One Girondin stabbed himself to death upon the conviction; Hébert had the corpse taken to the guillotine and beheaded anyway.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30/9 Brumaire</td>
<td>Women’s societies and clubs banned</td>
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<td>October-November</td>
<td>De-Christianization movement begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6 / 16 Brumaire</td>
<td>Philippe Egalité, former d’Orleans, executed</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8 / 18 Brumaire</td>
<td>Mme. Roland executed. “<strong>The time has come which was foretold, when the people would ask for bread and be given corpses.</strong>” (Hibbert 229)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10 / 20 Brumaire</td>
<td>Festival of Reason at Notre Dame de Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11 / 21 Brumaire</td>
<td>Execution of Bailly</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21/1 Frimaire</td>
<td>Robespierre denounces de-Christianization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24 / 4 Frimaire</td>
<td>Republican calendar adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 29 / 9 Frimaire</td>
<td>Execution of Barnave.</td>
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</table>
About 3,000 people will be executed this fall and winter in Paris alone, and about 14,000 in the provinces. (Hibbert 224-225) Louis St. Just will insist, “You have no more grounds for restraint against the enemies of the new order, and liberty must prevail at any price. . . . We must rule by iron those who cannot be ruled by justice . . . You must punish not merely traitors but the indifferent as well.” (Hibbert 225)

An 18 year old was executed for having cut down a liberty tree. A publican was executed for supplying the army with sour wine. A woman was executed for having wept at the execution of her husband. (Hibbert 226, 229)

December 4/14 Frimaire  Decree establishing the Revolutionary government

December 5 / 15 Frimaire  Desmoulins publishes Vieux Cordeliers to attack the Jacobins. Danton and Desmoulins represent the Indulgents, who favored an end to the Terror.

Saint-Just regards Danton as a traitor: “A man is guilty of a crime against the Republic when he takes pity on prisoners. He is guilty because he has no desire for virtue. He is guilty because he is opposed to the Terror.”

When a Jacobin called Danton a “fat stuffed turbot,” Danton replied that he would eat his brains out and “shit in his skull” (Hibbert 236)

December 12/22 Frimaire  Defeat of Vendée rebels at Le Mans

December 19/29 Frimaire  Recapture of Toulon by General Napoleon Bonaparte.

1794

February 4/16 Pluviôse  Convention abolishes slavery in French colonies

February 26/8 Ventôse  “Ventôse decrees” to aid “needy” patriots–sequestration of suspects’ goods and distribution to the needy

March 4/14 Ventôse  Abortive revolt by Cordeliers Club against the Revolutionary Government. The Hébertists are accused of being traitors and foreign agents and arrested.

March 24/4 Germinal  Execution of the sans-culottes leaders known as the enragés or Hébertists. Hébert fainted repeatedly on his way to the guillotine.

March 30/10 Germinal  Arrest of Georges Jacques Danton, Camille Desmoulins and his
supporters. On the scaffold Danton said, “If I left my balls to that eunuch Robespierre, . . . the Committee of Public Safety might last a bit longer. But as it is, . . . Robespierre is bound to follow me . . . . Above all, don’t forget to show my head to the people. It’s well worth having a look at.” (Hibbert 244)

Soon afterward, Robespierre sent Lucille Desmoulins, Camille’s widow, to the guillotine for appealing for her husband’s life, despite the fact that he was godfather to their baby son. (Hibbert 241)

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<td>April 1/12</td>
<td>Germinal Provisional Executive Council replaced by Commissions dependent on Committee of Public Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5/16</td>
<td>Germinal Execution of Danton and his supporters</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7/18</td>
<td>Floréal Robespierre institutes the <em>Cult of the Supreme Being.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22-23/3-4</td>
<td>Prairial Assassination attempts against Robespierre and Collot d’Herbois</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10/22</td>
<td>Prairial The <em>Law of 22 Prairial</em>: Permitted the Revolutionary Tribunal to convict suspects without hearing substantial evidence. Defense lawyers were dropped, and interrogation of the accused before a public trial no longer necessary. Juries were to be satisfied by “moral proof” rather than positive proof. The only sentence was death. <em>Great Terror</em> begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26/8</td>
<td>Messidor French victory at Fleurus opens way for conquest of Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23/5</td>
<td>Thermidor Paris Commune fixes maximum levels for wages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27/9</td>
<td>Thermidor Fall of Robespierre and his supporters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28/10</td>
<td>Thermidor Execution of Robespierre and his supporters, such as <em>Louis St. Just</em>, after failure of insurrection by Paris Commune. “<em>Thermidorean Reaction</em>” sets in.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 30/12</td>
<td>Thermidor Committee of Public Safety reorganized. Other changes in the Revolutionary Government follow.</td>
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**The Thermidorian Reaction**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>November 19/29</td>
<td>Brumaire Jacobin Club closed by government</td>
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December 24/4 Nivôse Decree abolishing price regulation
Dec. 1794-Jan. 1795 French conquest of Holland

**1795**

April 1/12 Germinal Attempted anti-government insurrection at Paris
April 6/17 Germinal Peace of Basel between France and Prussia
May 16/27 Floréal Peace of the Hague between France and Holland
May 20-22/1-3 Prairial Last great popular uprising at Paris defeated by government forces
July 22/4 Thermidor Peace of Basel between Spain and France
August 22/5 Fructidor Convention votes *Constitution of Year III*
August 30/13 Fructidor “Dee cree of Two-Thirds” voted by outgoing Convention

**Year IV**

October 5/13 Vendémiaire *The whiff of grapeshot*:
Abortive royalist revolt at Paris, suppressed by Napoleon Bonaparte
October 26/4 Brumaire Closure of the Convention replaced by the *Directory*
November 7/16 Brumaire Opening of Pantheon Club, focus of left-wing opposition

**1796**

February 19/30 Pluviôse End of issue of *assignats*
March 2/12 Ventôse Napoleon Bonaparte appointed to command Army of Italy
March 18/28 Ventôse Government issues land bonds to replace *assignats*. Rampant inflation.
April Napoleon Bonaparte begins his brilliant campaign against the Austrians in Northern Italy
May 10/21 Floréal Arrest of Babeuf and Buonarotti, leaders of “Conspiracy of Equals”
Napoleon wins a victory over the Austrians at Lodi
August 5 / 18 Thermidor  Napoleon wins a victory over the Austrians at Castiglione

September 4 / 22 Fructidor  Napoleon wins a victory over the Austrians at Roverdo

September 8 / 22 Fructidor  Napoleon wins a victory over the Austrians at Bassano

**Year V**

November 17/27 Brumaire  Napoleon Bonaparte wins the decisive battle of Arcola in Northern Italy

**1797**

March-April/Germinal  Elections leading to defeat for Directorial candidates, strengthening of monarchists

May 26/7 Prairial  Babeuf condemned to death

September 4/18 Fructidor  Coup d’état by Directory, annulling elections of Germinal

**Year VI**

October 18/27 Vendémiaire  *Treaty of Campoformio* with Austria, negotiated by Napoleon Bonaparte

**1798**

March-April/Germinal  Elections lead to defeat for Directory’s candidates, increase in strength of Jacobin opposition.

May 11/22 Floréal  Coup d’état by Directory, annulling previous elections and restoring control over assembly

May 19/30 Floréal  Napoleon Bonaparte sails to invade Egypt

August 22/5 Fructidor  Formation of the *Second Coalition* (Britain, Austria, Russia) against France

**Year VII**

Winter 1798-1799  France forced into the defensive, losing ground in Italy and Germany. At battle of *Aboukir Bay, Horatio Nelson* cuts Bonaparte off in Egypt.

**1799**

June 18/ 30 Prairial  Coup d’état by assembly against Directory: ministry overthrown
Year VIII

October 9/17 Vendémiaire Napoleon returns to France, having abandoned his army in Egypt.

**Vive l’Empereur!**

November 10/19 Brumaire Coup d’état by Napoleon, who is named *First Consul*

1800

February New Constitution with Bonaparte as First Consul

June 14 Napoleon defeats the Austrians at *Marengo*

1800-1803 Napoleon’s major reforms in France

1801 *Concordat* with the Pope

1802 *Peace of Amiens* with Britain.

1803 War renewed between France and Britain

1804 *Napoleonic Civil Code* issued

*Duc d’Enghien* kidnapped from Germany and executed.

Napoleon crowns himself Emperor

1805

October 21 *Horatio Nelson* destroys the French/ Spanish fleet at *Trafalgar*. Napoleon no longer can defeat Britain.

December 2 Napoleon crushes the Austrian/Russian army at *Austerlitz*. Peace is signed with Austria.

1806

October War between France and Prussia.

October 14 Napoleon crushes the Prussians at the twin battles of *Jena* and *Auerstädt*. Napoleon dictates terms to Prussia

November 21 *Berlin Decrees* establishing the *Continental System*, forbade the
importation of British goods into France, territory controlled by France, or its Allies

1807
Winter 1806-1807 Napoleon invades Poland in a campaign against the Russians.
February 7-8 Bloody and inconclusive *Battle of Eylau*
June 14 Napoleon defeats the Russians at *Friedland*
July 9 *Treaty of Tilsit* ends the war between France and Russia

*British Orders in Council* (1807) ordered all neutral vessels trading with the continent to first put in to British ports

*Milan Decree* strengthens Continental System, threatened confiscation of any neutral vessel putting into a continental port that first put in to a British port or submitted to search by a British vessel.

September-October French armies invade Portugal in an attempt to seal the Continent to British trade.

1808
May 2 Spanish populace rises against the French in Madrid, French reprisals commemorated in Goyas’s painting *Dos de Mayo*. Napoleon faces *guerrilla warfare* with an aroused nation, not the corrupt Bourbon régime.

1809
July 5-6 Austrians declare war on Napoleon; Napoleon defeats them after a severe campaign at *Wagram*

Napoleon divorces Josephine and marries the Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria in order to obtain a male heir.

1812
June 22 Napoleon invades Russia with 600,000 men. The Russian armies conduct a strategic retreat utilizing a *scorched earth* defensive policy.

September 7 *Battle of Borodino*: a brutal, very bloody slugging match; Russian army
is defeated but withdraws in good order.

September 14  Napoleon enters Moscow; waits in vain for Russian peace overtures. The Russians deliberately burn Moscow, denying the French shelter for the winter. Too late, Napoleon begins a retreat from Russia. He now must face the Russian winter in addition to the Russian armies. His army is virtually destroyed.

1813

Spring  The states of Germany rise against the French. A coalition of the Russians, Prussians, and Austrians fight for Central Europe.

October 16-19  Napoleon suffers a heavy defeat at Leipzig, the Battle of Nations. And withdraws to metropolitan France.

1814

Spring  Treaty of Chaumont establishes the Quadruple Alliance

France invaded by Russian, Prussian, Austrian and British armies.

April 6  Napoleon abdicates the throne and is exiled to Elba. The Bourbons are restored to the throne.

September  Congress of Vienna convenes

1815

March 1  Napoleon returns from Elba and marches on Paris to recapture the throne. The Hundred Days begins.

June 18  Napoleon is defeated at Ligny-Quatre Bras-Waterloo by a Prussian army under Gerhard von Blücher and an Anglo-Dutch army under the Duke of Wellington. Napoleon is exiled to St. Helena

September 26  The Holy Alliance is formed (Russia, Prussia, France and Austria)

1821

May 5  Napoleon dies at St. Helena