STAGE 2 | 1792-1794: Radical Stage

1. April 1792
   France declares war on Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland, and Spain

2. January 1793
   Louis XVI is executed by guillotine

3. March 1793
   Robespierre leads Committee of Public Safety
   Reign of Terror begins

4. July 1794
   Robespierre is executed
   Reign of Terror ends
Why did France declare war on Austria, Prussia and other monarchs? How did these wars impact revolutionary progress?
Objective: Describe the reasons for France’s declaration of war on Austria, Prussia, England and other monarchs and the impact these wars had on revolutionary progress.

April 1792: France declares war on Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland, and Spain

The Constitution of 1791 established a new government that set up a limited monarchy instead of an absolute monarchy. As a result, the Legislative Assembly had the power to collect taxes, make laws and declare war.

How is a limited monarchy different from an absolute monarchy?

In June 1791, King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette along with their children attempted to escape Paris in disguises, however, they were caught and escorted back to France.

How did this escape impact how King Louis XVI was perceived by the French?

How do you think this escape impacted how King Louis XVI was perceived by other European monarchs?

By 1792, European Monarchs were eyeing France with suspicion. They had seen the overthrow of Louis XVI by the French people, and worried that revolutionary fervor would spread to their countries.

What do you other European monarchs fear? Why did they have these fears?

European countries where they told stories of attacks and abuses by the revolutionary government.

Who were the émigrés?

In response to the stories from émigrés and anger over the King Louis XVI’s failed attempt at escape, the king of Prussia and the emperor of Austria wrote the Declaration of Pillnitz on August 27, 1791 in which they warned France that if any harm came to the king and his monarchy that they would intervene militarily.

What was the Declaration of Pillnitz?

How would such a declaration impact the relationship between France and neighboring monarchical countries?

The king of Prussia and the emperor of Austria also began to rally other monarch nations to form an alliance against France. In a preemptive move, France declared war on Austria on April 20, 1792, then on Prussia, Britain and other European nations.

What did France do on April 20, 1792? Why did they do this?

Sources:
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rschwart/hist255/kat_anna/war.html
http://www.history.com/topics/french-revolution
http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/French_Revolution
2 Why was Louis XVI executed? How did this execution impact revolutionary progress?

Objective: Describe the reasons for and impact of Louis XVI’s execution.

January 1793: Louis XVI is executed

“Execution of Louis XVI” – German copperplate engraving, 1793, by Georg Heinrich Sieveking

Watch the clip of the French Revolution documentary and respond to the questions below.

<p>| 1:30 | 1. What problems did the National Convention face? How did this problem impact how revolutionary leaders began to treat suspected traitors within France? |
| 1:53 | 2. What happened to over 1,000 people suspected of being traitors? |
| 2:45 | 3. What did Robespierre want to focus on? |
|       | 4. What did Daton want to focus on? |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Question/Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3:13-45</td>
<td>5. “With so many able-bodied men leaving for the frontlines, Paris is left defenseless, its jails bursting with political prisoners. An unsettling fear floods the city. The growing mass of prisoners may be impossible to contain. Marat puts out a bloodthirsty called for revolutionary citizens to descend upon the prisons and slaughter all inside.” Why do you think Marat made this suggestion?</td>
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<td>6. How did Marat spread his ideas? What Renaissance technology allowed him to spread his ideas?</td>
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<td>4:05</td>
<td>7. What event encouraged revolutionaries to follow through with Marat’s plan?</td>
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<td>8. Why do you think people were persuaded to follow Marat’s suggestions?</td>
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<td>9. What impact does the media [newspaper, TV, etc.] have on influencing the actions of people within a nation?</td>
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<td>4:15-45</td>
<td>10. Describe what the revolutionaries did to the prisoners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45</td>
<td>11. How many people were killed during the September massacre?</td>
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<td>5:08</td>
<td>12. Which nation was critical of the September massacre?</td>
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<td>5:33-46</td>
<td>13. Robespierre realized that the massacre went too far and that the revolutionaries need a leader. He comes forward. What is the first decision he made as the new leader of the revolutionaries?</td>
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<td>6:42</td>
<td>14. According to the historian, Robespierre said, “You have to kill the king so the revolution can live.” What does this sentence mean? What does this reveal about the extent French revolutionaries were willing to go to achieve their goals?</td>
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<td>7:22</td>
<td>15. On January 28, 1793, what is decided about the King Louis XVI?</td>
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<td>9:28</td>
<td>16. How do revolutionaries respond to the execution of King Louis XVI?</td>
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<td>17. What did the execution of Louis XVI symbolize?</td>
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<td>18. How did his execution help advance the revolutionary ideals?</td>
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<td>19. In your opinion, is it right to use violence to advance your ideas and goals?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Print of Louis XVI's Guillotined Head

**Artist or maker:** Unknown
Published by Villeneuve (French, active 1789-1814)
**Author of Text**
Maximilien Robespierre (French, b.1758, d.1794)
**Date:** 1793
**Place of Production:** Paris, France
**Medium:** aquatint, etching and engraving on paper


**Directions:** Using the image above, respond to the questions below.

**OBSERVE**

List the object, people or places you see in the image.

**DESCRIBE**

Describe the action in the image.

**EXPLAIN**

In the title, who are the “Crowned Jugglers” and why are they referred to in that way?

What message does this image send to counterrevolutionaries within France?

Why is Louis XVI’s blood referred to as “impure”?

What message does this image send to revolutionary sympathizers within France?

What message does this image send to other European monarchs?
What was the Committee of Public Safety?

The Committee of Public Safety was set up on April 6, 1793, during one of the crises of the Revolution, when France was burdened with foreign and civil war. The new committee was to provide for the defense of the nation against its enemies, foreign and domestic, and to oversee the already existing organs of executive government. From April to July 10, 1793, the Committee of Public Safety was dominated by Georges Danton and his followers, who pursued a policy of moderation and reconciliation but who failed to deal adequately with the precarious military situation. These men were replaced in July by men more determined and more radical in the defense of the Revolution, among them Maximilien Robespierre.

1. What was the purpose of the Committee of Public Safety?

2. Which more radical leader took control of the Committee of Public Safety? ________________

3. Given what you know about the September massacre and the execution of Louis XVI, what predictions can you make about what they were willing to do to meet the Committee’s goals?

What was the Reign of Terror?

The Reign of Terror (June 1793 – July 1794) was a period in the French Revolution characterized by brutal repression. The Terror originated with the Committee of Public Safety that suspended most of the democratic achievements of the revolution, and intended to pursue the revolution on social matters. Its stated aim was to destroy internal enemies and conspirators and to chase the external enemies from French territory. The Terror as such started on September 5, 1793 and, as the Reign of Terror, lasted until the summer of 1794, taking the lives of anywhere between 18,000 to 40,000 people (estimates vary widely). Thousands would die by means of the guillotine. In the single month before it ended, 1,300 executions took place.

4. The Reign of Terror is said to be “characterized by brutal repression”. What does the word “repression” mean?

5. In what ways did the Reign of Terror undo the achievements of the revolution?

6. According to this excerpt, what was the aim of the Reign of Terror?
The image to the left is an engraving of Robespierre guillotining the executioner after having guillotined everyone else in France (1793). The text at the bottom of the engraving reads (translated): “Robespierre, after having all the French guillotined, beheads the executioner with his own hand.”

1. What does this image reveal about Robespierre?

2. What does this image reveal about the Reign of Terror?

Source: Unknown artist, engraving of Robespierre and the guillotine, Robespierre, After Having All The French Guillotined, Beheads the Executioner with His Own Hand, 1793

Impact of the Reign of Terror

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executions During the Reign of Terror</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peasants: 28% 3,961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Middle Class: 14% 1,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Class: 31% 4,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Middle Class: 11% 1,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Status Given: 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy: 7% 920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nobility: 8% 1,158</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. According to the pie chart to the left, which classes were executed most frequently?

2. What is ironic about who the Committee of Public Safety chose to execute?

3. How might these executions have impacted morale in France?

Source: Dennis Sherman et al., eds., World Civilizations: Sources, Images, and Interpretations, McGraw-Hill (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam, August 2006.
TIMETABLE, 1794

... July 27: The Convention ordered the arrest of Robespierre and his friends. They were taken to Luxembourg. The jailer refused to lock them up. They left and went to the Town Hall to plan their next move. They could have beaten the Convention, but the Paris Commune did not help in time. They were declared to be outlaws and arrested again.

July 28 (early morning): The Convention made Robespierre and his friends outlaws and arrested them at the Town Hall. Now either Robespierre was shot, or he shot himself. He was wounded.

July 28: Robespierre and 21 friends went to the guillotine....


According to Jane Shuter, what was one consequence Robespierre faced as a result of his actions?

What is ironic about the death of Robespierre?

... By 1795, the Revolutionary armies had restored peace to the French borders, but, once again, turmoil threatened to sweep across France itself. The National Convention (now controlled by the moderate and conservative representatives, who had condemned Robespierre) could not prevent new outbreaks of radical demonstrations....


According to Sean Connolly, what was one issue France faced after Robespierre was removed from power?