The French Revolution: The Late Stages 1791-1805

The Radical Revolution
- “The Second Revolution”
- Flight to Varennes
  - June 1791
  - Louis XVI attempted to flee
    - Possibly England
  - Captured and brought back to Paris
    - Significant since it too away people’s trust in king
- Imprisonment of Royal Family
  - August 1791
  - Limited Monarchy ended
  - New constitution needed
- Foreign War Begins
  - Spring 1792
  - France declared war on Austria and Prussia
    - French wanted to spread democratic ideas
- Declaration of War
  - French losing
  - Austrians and Prussians outside of Paris
    - Surrender or else they threaten to destroy the city of Paris
    - Issue an order not to hurt the royal family
    - Brunswick Manifesto
      - August 1792
  - French Angry
    - Rally and resume war effort
- Paris Commune
  - Radicals took over the municipal city government of Paris
  - Radicals kick out all the moderates
    - August 1792
    - Demand creation of National Convention
- Storming of the Tuileries
  - Popular Revolt
    - Of the Common People
    - Supported by National Guard
  - Attack on the King’s palace
    - Massacre of Palace Swiss guards
- September Massacre
  - September 1792
  - Mobs of the poor roam the streets
  - Kill enemies of the Revolution
    - 1st and 2nd estate
    - 1200+ Killed
- National Convention
  - Replaced the Legislative Assembly
  - Declares *Universal Male Suffrage*
    - Every male Votes
  - Purpose was to end rioting, discontent, food shortages, chaos
    - Have trouble
  - Controlled by the Jacobins
    - Very Radical
  - Execute the King
    - January 21, 1793

- Foreign War Expands
  - Battle of Valmy
    - Turning Point of the war
      - September 1792
      - French Victory
  - Expansion
    - To Belgium and Netherlands
      - France annexes territories
    - Against Britain
      - “In the name of spreading equality”
  - First Coalition
    - Formed against the French
      - Britain
      - Spain
      - Austria
      - Prussia

- Committee of Public Safety
  - 12 Member Dictatorship
    - Emergency powers
      - “Temporary”
    - Goals
      - Win war
      - Protect the revolutionary movement
    - Lead by *Maximilian Robespierre*
      - Bourgeoisie
      - Jacobin
  - Republic of Virtue
    - Everyone equal
    - Everyone in peace
    - Ideal society
  - Reign of Terror
    - To achieve Republic of Virtue
    - Killed all who did not agree with him or Republic of Virtue
      - 40,000-60,000 killed
    - Revolutionary tribunals
      - System of special courts
      - Very short trials
        - Often without any evidence
        - “2 minute trials”
• Law of Suspect
  o To find and punish traitors
    • Suspected anti-revolutionaries arrested and imprisoned
  • Without good evidence

• Levee en Masse
  o To fight foreign war
  o Conscription
    • All men eligible

• Law of Maximum
  o To control inflation
    • Set wage and price controls
    • Easy to get around

• Revolutionary calendar
  o To emphasize revolution
    • Year 1 = 1792
  o Weeks were 10 days long
  o Months based on season and climate

• Worship of the Supreme Being
  o Similar to Deism
  o Saw the church as too conservative
    • Trying to weaken church
  o De-Christianization Campaign
    • To demand loyalty to the state

• New forms of Address
  o Madame and Misseou
    • Citizenship and Citizen
  o Used for everybody

• Subsistence Commission
  o To feed the soldiers
  o State could confiscate food, clothing, “war supplies”

• New Constitution
  o Commission of Public Safety disbanded before
  o Enforced radical ideas

• Ventrose Laws
  o To weaken the nobility and help the peasants
    • Confiscated property of anti-revolutionaries and gave it to the poor

• Abolished slavery
  o In all colonies
    • Already in France itself

• Educational Reforms
  o Set up military academies
  o Planned for free public elementary education
    • Never instituted

  o Weaknesses
    • Never could enforce
    • Went too far
    • Overextended in foreign war
    • People hated “laws of maximum”
    • Frightened foreign governments
o Robespierre Killed
  ▪ Blamed and executed
  ▪ 10th Thermidor
    • July 27, 1794
  ▪ End of the terror

The Conservative Reaction
- Thermodorian Reaction
  o Reaction against terrors of Committee of Public Safety
  o Robespierre executed
  o Led by moderates and conservatives
    ▪ Closed Jacobin clubs
    ▪ Reopened Churches
    ▪ Repealed
      • Law of suspects
      • Revolutionary tribunals
      • Universal male suffrage
  o White Terror
    ▪ Execution of radicals
  o Wrote new constitution
    ▪ Constitution of Year III

- The Directory
  o New Government
    ▪ Replaced National Convention
    ▪ Empowered by the Constitution of the Year III
    ▪ Control over France and Belgium
      • Created a republic
      • Universal Male Suffrage
    ▪ 1795-1799
  o Moderates/Conservatives
    ▪ Controlled by bourgeoisie
      • Represented their interests
      • Most interested in economics
        o Free market
  o Voting
    ▪ Universal Male Suffrage
      • All adult males vote for electors
      • Electors choose all governmental officials
  o Organization
    ▪ Two House Legislature
      ▪ Council of Elders/Ancients
        o Upper House
        o Married men over 40
        o Conservatives
      ▪ Council of 500
        o Lower House
        o Men over 30
    ▪ Executive Branch
      ▪ Five Directors
        o Middle Class men over 40
        o Picked by elders
Goals

- **Restore stability**
  - Reduce crime
  - End rioting
    - Did not succeed
- **Repair finances**
  - Abolished assignats
  - Cut expenditures
  - Reduce debt
- **Continue foreign war**
  - **Defeated First Coalition**
    - Second Coalition formed

Weaknesses

- VERY corrupt officials
- Lacked leadership
  - The directors were **businessmen not politicians**
- Did not solve problems
- Dependent on military success
- **Napoleon Bonaparte**
  - Put down revolts
  - Constantly at war
    - Hardly won battles
- Ongoing problems
  - Rioting
    - Unable to stop it
  - Fixes elections and purges
  - Religious conflict
  - Inflation and debt
- **Enemies**
  - **Right**
    - Monarchists
    - **Clichy Club** (Royalists)
      - Wanted to bring back Louis XVI brother
  - **Left**
    - **Conspiracy of Equals**
      - Organized by Gracchus Babeuf
      - To overthrow the Directory

**Coup d'Etat**

- Sudden, bloodless overthrow of government
- **Planners**
  - Ducos (Director)
  - Sieyes (Director, Activist)
  - Napoleon (General)
- **Set up Consulate**
  - Three Consuls
  - **Napoleon is 1st Consul**

**Consulate**

- 1799-1805
- Napoleon leads
  - 1802 names 1st Consul for life
- 1805 named Emperor of the French
  - By plebiscite

Results
- Bourgeoisies gained most from revolution
  - New bourgeois elements
  - “Nouveaux riche”
- New Generation
  - Different point of view
  - Young people were tired of revolution