

Chronology of the French Revolution

1774

Coronation of Louis XVI at Reims

1775

Start of the American War of Independence (1775–1783)

1778

France declares war against Great Britain in support of the American colonies

1781

February: Jacques Necker releases his Comptes rendus, leading ordinary French to believe that the economic situation is stable

1783

Treaty of Paris ends the war; success of the American colonists against a European power increases the ambitions of those wishing for reform in France

1786

August 20: Finance minister Calonne informs Louis that the royal finances are insolvent
December 29: The Assembly of Notables is convoked

1787

February 22: First Assembly of Notables meets against a background of state financial instability; general resistance by nobility to the imposition of taxes

1788

May 8: Judicial reforms partly abolishing the power of parlements to review legislation are forced through the parlements by Lamoignon
June: Outcry over the enforced reforms ensues, courts across France refuse to sit
July 5: Brienne begins to consider calling an Estates-General
August 8: informed that royal treasury is empty, Brienne sets May 1, 1789
August 16: Repayments on government loans stop, French government bankrupt

1789

Jan, Sieyès publishes *What is the Third Estate?* (Qu'est-ce que le tiers-état ?)
April 28, Riots in Paris, caused by low wages and food shortages
May 5: **The Estates-General meets for the first time since 1614**
June 20: Tennis Court Oath of dismissed Estates-General members
July 12: Camille Desmoulins gives a speech in the gardens of the Palais Royale, urging the citizens of Paris to take up arms
July 14: Storming of the Bastille
October 5-6: Outbreak of the Paris mob; the Women's March on Versailles

1790

publish: Edmund Burke, *Reflections of the Revolution in France*
February 13 Suppression of monastic vows and religious orders
March 29: Pope Pius condemns the Declaration of the Rights of Man in secret
May 19 Nobility abolished by the National Assembly
July 12 The Civil Constitution of the Clergy; demands priests take oath to state
July: Growing power of the clubs (including: Cordeliers, Jacobin Club)

1791

April 2: Death of Mirabeau; first person buried in Pantheon, former Abbey St Gen
June 20–25: Royal family's flight to Varennes

1791 (continued)

June 25: Louis XVI forced to return to Paris

July 17: Anti-Royalist demonstration, Champ de Mars; National Guard kills 50

91-92 Leg Assembly: 744 members, MC lawyers (NOT all liberals, progressives)

1792...WAR

January – March: Food riots in Paris

February 7: Alliance of Austria and Prussia

March 20: Guillotine adopted as official means of execution

April 20: **France declares war against Austria**

April 28: France invades Austrian Netherlands (Belgium)

June 20: The people storm the Tuileries and confront the king, kill guards

September 20: National Convention; French Army stops advance of Coalition

September 21: Abolition of royalty; **proclamation of the First French Republic**

September 22: First day of the French Revolutionary Calendar

December 3: Louis XVI brought to trial, appears before the National Convention;

Robespierre argues that "Louis must die, so that the country may live"

1793

January 21: **Citizen Louis Capet guillotined**, formerly known as Louis XVI

March 7: Outbreak of rebellion against the Revolution: War in the Vendée

March 11: Revolutionary Tribunal established in Paris

April 6: Committee of Public Safety established

May 30: A revolt breaks out in Lyon

June 2: Arrest of Girondist deputies to National Convention by Jacobins

June 10: Jacobins gain control of the Committee of Public Safety (Robespierre)

1794

March 30: Danton, Desmoulins and their supporters arrested

April 5: Danton and Desmoulins guillotined

May 7: National Convention (Robespierre) establish Cult of the Supreme Being

May 8: Antoine Lavoisier, chemist, guillotined as traitor

June 8: Festival of the Supreme Being

1796

THE DIRECTORY (5-man committee, Paul Baras friend of Napoleon)

March 9: Marriage of Napoleon Bonaparte and Joséphine de Beauharnais

May 10: Battle of Lodi (Napoleon in Italy)

June 4: Beginning of the Siege of Mantua

1798

July 21: Battle of the Pyramids (Napoleon)

August 1: Battle of the Nile - Nelson's victory isolates Napoleon in Egypt

December 24: Alliance between Russia and Britain

1799

August 24: Napoleon leaves Egypt

October 9: Napoleon returns to France (confronts Josephine)

October 22: Russians withdraw from coalition

November 9: **The Coup d'État of 18 Brumaire: end of the Directory**

December 24: Constitution of the Year VIII - leadership of Napoleon established under the Consulate

French Revolution may be considered ended