

## Timeline of the French Revolution

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| May 5, 1789            | Estates-General convened at Versailles  |
| June 17, 1789          | Third Estate Declares Itself the National Assembly                                    |
| June 20, 1789          | Oath of the Tennis Court  |
| July 14, 1789          | Storming of the Bastille  |
| July-August 1789       | The Great Fear in the Countryside   |
| August 4, 1789         | National Assembly Abolishes Feudal privileges   |
| August 27, 1789        | Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen  |
| October 5, 1789        | Parisian women march to Versailles and force royal family to return to Paris          |
| November 1789          | National Assembly confiscates Church Lands; creates <i>assignats</i>                  |
| July 1790              | Civil Constitution of the Clergy establishes a national church                        |
| June 20, 1791          | Louis XVI agrees to accept a constitutional monarchy                                  |
| August 1791            | Royal family arrested while attempting to flee France                                 |
| April 1792             | Declaration of Pillnitz by Austria and Prussia  |
| August 1792            | France declares war on Austria  |
| September 1792         | Parisian mob attacks Tuileries palace; king takes shelter in the Legislative Assembly |
| September 1792         | September Massacres   |
| September 1792         | National Convention declares France a republic and abolishes the monarchy             |
| January 1793           | Execution of Louis XVI  |
| February 1793          | France declares war on Britain, Holland and Spain                                     |
| March 1793             | Bitter struggle in National Convention between Girondists and Mountain                |
| March, 1793            | Convention establishes the Committee of Public Safety                                 |
| August 23, 1793        | Levée-en-masse (universal mobilization) declared                                      |
| September, 1793        | Price controls to aid the sans-culottes (Law of the Maximum)                          |
| September, 1793        | Law of Suspects; Women's political clubs banned; Olympe de Gouges guillotined         |
| June, 1793- July, 1794 | Reign of Terror - Committee of Public Safety  |
| June, 1793- July, 1794 | Robespierre, "the Incorruptible" emerges as leader                                    |
| Spring 1794            | French armies victorious on all fronts  |
| July 1794              | Execution of Robespierre; Thermidorean reaction begins                                |
| 1795-1799              | The Directory   |
| 1797                   | Napoleon defeats Austrian armies  |
| 1798                   | Austria, Great Britain and Russia form an alliance against France                     |
| 1799                   | Napoleon overthrows the Directory   |

## Enlightenment Ideas

## French Revolution Policies

### Religion

- religious toleration (Voltaire)
- “Crush the infamous thing!”
- deism (philosophes)
- anti-clericalism (Diderot)
- opposition to state religion
- reason over superstition
- Rousseau's civic religion

- Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)  
freedom of worship (Article 10 of Declaration)
- Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790)
- Cult of the Supreme Being (1793)
- de-Christianization (1793-94)
- replace Christian calendar (October, 1793)
- state won't pay clergy's salaries (9/18/94)
- make Notre Dame a Temple of Reason
- Festival of Federation (1790)
- separation of church and state decreed (2/95)
- Jews admitted to citizenship (9/27/91)

### Society

- Natural Law (John Locke)  
property rights
- Rousseau's *Social Contract*  
Republic of Virtue
- Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*
- opposition to inequality
- challenge traditional authority
- opposition to hierarchy of birth
- Rousseau's *Emile*
- women by nature are domestic
- rational policies to help people
- opposition to slavery (*Candide*)

- Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen (1789)  
“Life, liberty and property”
- “The law is the expression of the general will”  
Robespierre credits Rousseau
- Declaration cites ‘separation of powers’
- liberty, equality, fraternity
- Night of August 4/abolition of feudalism
- abolition of nobility (in principle 8/4/89; by decree 6/19/90); abolition of privileges; citizenship for all
- women's duties are primarily domestic
- women's political clubs suppressed (1793)
- Law of the Maximum (socio-economic)
- abolish slavery in France 1790 / in colonies 1794

### Limits of influence

- Philosophes* favor reform from above  
by ‘Enlightened despots’
- opposition to senseless violence
- women's nature is domestic
- Candide* - critique of fanaticism
- opposition to persecution
- War is condemned (*Candide*)

- radical phase of revolution generated by mob
- hatred of nobility and reprisals against them  
are unreasonable (heads on pikes)
- violence of Terror / use of guillotine
- Olympe de Gouges (1791)
- fear of counter-revolution leads to fanaticism
- suppression of Vendée revolt/civil war
- France at war with much of Europe by 1792

### Minor issues in linkages students use

- “Reason and progress”
- Separation of church and state
- Separation of powers (Montesquieu)

- could support many revolutionary policies
- Civil Constitution of Clergy (state over church)  
but separation occurs in '94 and '95
- Constitutional monarchy separates powers
- Convention does not separate ('92)