

The French Revolution: Phases & Dates

Estates General (3 Orders: Clergy, 300 reps.; Nobility, 300 reps.; "Third Estate," 600 reps.)

- May 5, 1789: After bad harvests and costly wars, King Louis XVI is forced to convene this ancient assembly in order to raise taxes.
- During the election process, voters traditionally draft petitions of grievance (*cahiers de doléances*)

National Assembly: 1789-1791 → 3rd Estate declares itself the "Assembly of the Nation," June 17, 1789

- **June 29, 1789:** Tennis Court Oath. Nat. Ass. resolves not to disband until it has written a constitution.
- July 14, 1789: Bastille stormed and taken by a Paris mob.
- July 19-Aug. 3, 1789: Great Fear. Peasants attack noble manors.
- Aug. 4, 1789: Nobles in National Assembly renounce feudal rights; Jacobin Club formed.
- Aug. 27, 1789: Assembly issues Declaration of the Rights of Man.
- Oct. 5-6, 1789: King Louis brought from Versailles to Tuileries palace in Paris.
- July 12, 1790: Assembly issues Civil Constitution of the Clergy, requiring elections and oaths.
- June 20-21, 1791: King flees to Austria, is caught at Varennes.
- Aug. 27, 1791: Austria and Prussia call for support of French King ("Declaration of Pillnitz").
- Sept. 1791: National Assembly issues Constitution; elections are held.

Legislative Assembly: October 1791-August 1792 → Constitutional Government by elected officials

- Apr. 20, 1792: France declares war on Austria and Prussia.
- **Aug. 10, 1792:** Paris mob storms royal palace; Commune siezes Assembly; Legislative Assembly falls. Minister of Justice Danton purges thousands of presumed traitors.
- Sept. 20, 1792: French army stops Prussians and Austrians at Valmy (Belgium).

National Convention: Sept. 1792-1795 → elected by universal male suffrage to rewrite constitution

- Sept. 21, 1792: Convention abolishes monarchy and declares France a republic.
- Oct. 1792: Revolutionary calendar introduced; Sept. 22, 1792 = day 1.

- Jan. 21, 1793: Convention condemns and executes the King.
- Feb. 1793: Convention declares war on 1st Coalition of Austria, Prussia, Britain, Holland and Spain.
- Feb. 1793: Counter-revolutionary revolt in the Vendee begins.
- **March 1793: "Reign of Terror"** by Committee of Public Safety (Robespierre) begins.
- Aug. 23, 1793: Levy-in-Mass (military draft) instituted.
- Fall 1793: price controls, de-Christianization, administrative reform.
- Apr. 4, 1794: Danton executed.
- June 26, 1794: French victory over Austrians at Fleurus (Belgium).
- **July 28, 1794: "Thermidor:"** Robespierre executed, end of terror.
- Feb. 21, 1795: Churches reopened.
- Aug. 22, 1795: New constitution is adopted, forming the Directory.

Directory: 1795-1799 → New constitution has 2 houses: Council of Ancients and Council of 500

- Oct. 5, 1795: Napoleon's "Whiff of Grapeshot" saved the Directory from a royalist mob.
- Sept. 4, 1797: Coup d'état removes royalists from Directory.
- Oct. 17, 1797: French defeat Austrians in northern Italy and make peace.
- 1798: French capture Switzerland, Rome and Naples; suffer bad defeat in Egypt (Aug. 1).
- Spring 1799: 2nd Coalition of Austria, Russia, Turkey and Great Britain drive French Army back.
- Nov. 9, 1799: Napoleon's coup d'état abolishes Directory and establishes Consulate.

Consulate: 1799-1804 → Constitution of 1800 has executive of 3 consuls

- 1801-2: Napoleon makes peace with Austria and Britain, Concordat with the pope.
- 1803: Renewed war with Britain.
- 1804: **Napoleonic Code** promulgated.

Empire: 1804-1815 → Napoleon crowns himself emperor

- 1805: 3rd Coalition (Austria, Britain and Russia) moves against France.
- 1805-09: French victories; "republics" set up throughout Europe, Spain resists.
- 1812: Napoleon suffers major defeat in Russia (40,000 of 611,000 survive).
- 1814: Austria, Britain, Prussia and Russia defeat France, Napoleon sent to Elba.
- Mar. 1815: Napoleon returns to France for "100 days."
- June 18, 1815: British and Prussians defeat Napoleon at Waterloo; Louis 18th restored.

SOURCE: <http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/4c/frrev.h96.htm>