

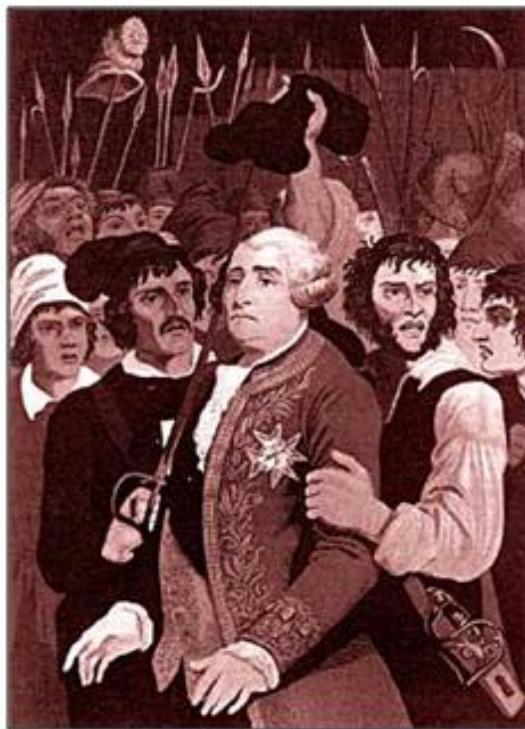
# The Radical Revolution



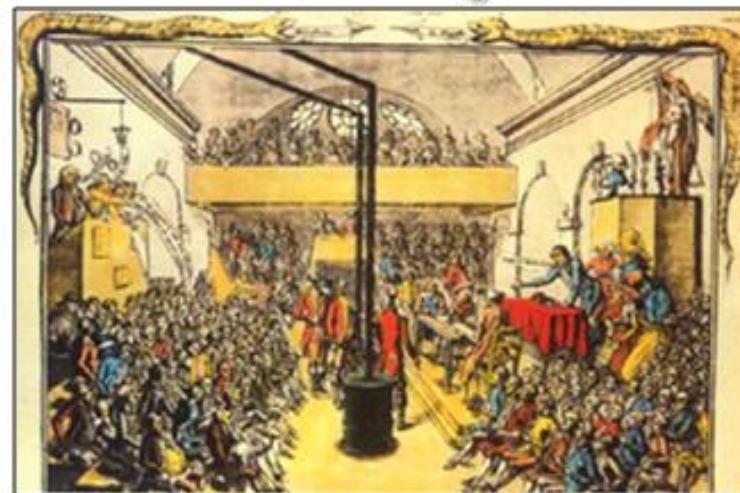
*Dessin par Monnet. Gravé par Helman. Estampe à la République Française.*

Journée du 21 Janvier 1793 ~  
la mort de Louis Capet sur la Place de la Révolution ~  
Présentée à la Convention Nationale ~  
le 3o Germinal par Helman ~  
Paris chez l'Auteur, Rue Honore N° 1297 près des Jacobins ~

# The Rise of the Jacobins



Jacobin Meeting House

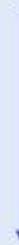


- They held their meetings in the library of a former Jacobin monastery in Paris.
- Started as a debating society.
- Membership mostly middle class.
- Created a vast network of clubs.

# **The *Sans-Culottes*:**

## *The Parisian Working Class*

- Small shopkeepers.
- Tradesmen.
- Artisans.



They shared many of the ideals of their middle class representatives in government!



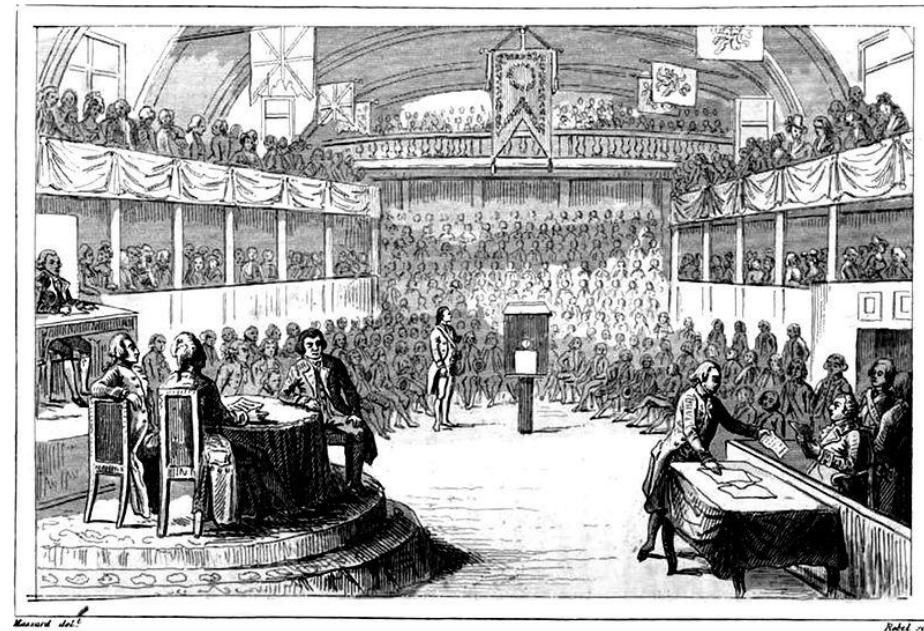
# The September Massacres

- After Louis was imprisoned, rumor-mongering swept through Paris again
  - Fear of nobles breaking out of prison and joining the invading European troops
  - How to fix it?
    - The Paris Commune, led by the Sans-Culottes, kill all the prisoners!



# The National Convention

- Convened in late September of 1792
  - Elected by universal male suffrage
  - France was now a Republic
  - The new National Convention was dominated by two opposing political parties
    - Girondists (conservative)
    - Mountain (radical)



*Interrogatoire de Louis le dernier*

# The Politics of the National Convention (1792-1795)

## Montagnards

- ★ Power base in Paris.
- ★ Main support from the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Would adopt extreme measures to achieve their goals.
- ★ Saw Paris as the center of the Revolution.
- ★ More centralized [in Paris] approach to government.

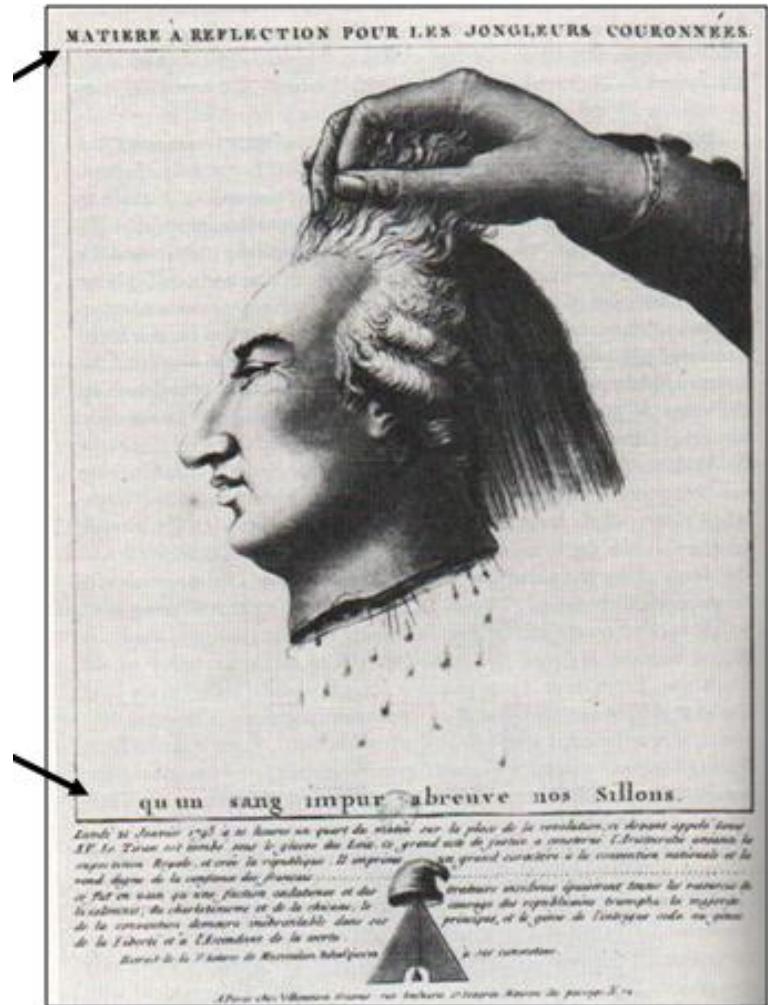
## Girondists

- ★ Power base in the provinces.
- ★ Feared the influence of the *sans-culottes*.
- ★ Feared the dominance of Paris in national politics.
- ★ Supported more national government centralization [federalism].



# Execution of Louis XVI

- Jean-Paul Marat called for the death of all those who supported Kings
  - Girondists didn't want to execute the King, but the Mountain did!
- National Convention tried Louis for treason
  - After discovering documents linking Louis to foreign invaders, the NC found him guilty and sentenced him to execution by guillotine
- Louis is killed in January 1793 and Marie Antoinette is killed in October 1793



# Execution of Louis XVI



# Crisis of Early 1793

- January 1793
  - Mountain barely achieves victory over Girondists in the vote to execute Louis XVI
- February 1793
  - NC declared war on Britain, Holland, and Spain
  - Growing resistance to enlistment among peasants
  - Republic seemed on the brink of defeat
- Spring 1793
  - Printing of more assignats sent prices skyrocketing!
  - Sans-Culottes began to demand economic reform that would eliminate unemployment and inflation



# Victory of the Mountain

- Siding with the Sans-Culottes, the Mountain turned against the Girondists
  - Led by Robespierre, the Mountain-dominated NC arrested 31 Girondist leaders
  - Provincial revolts developed in reaction to this radical takeover in Paris



# The Total War Effort

- Committee of Public Safety
  - Led by Robespierre
  - Given dictatorial power by NC to solve the emergency crisis in France
  - Used a planned economy, revolutionary terror, and modern nationalism to save France from destruction
- Reforms:
  - Law of General Maximum
    - “Bread of Equality”
  - Law of Suspects
  - Nationalization of many industries
    - Birth of Socialism?
  - Military draft
    - 1 million soldiers in 14 armies!

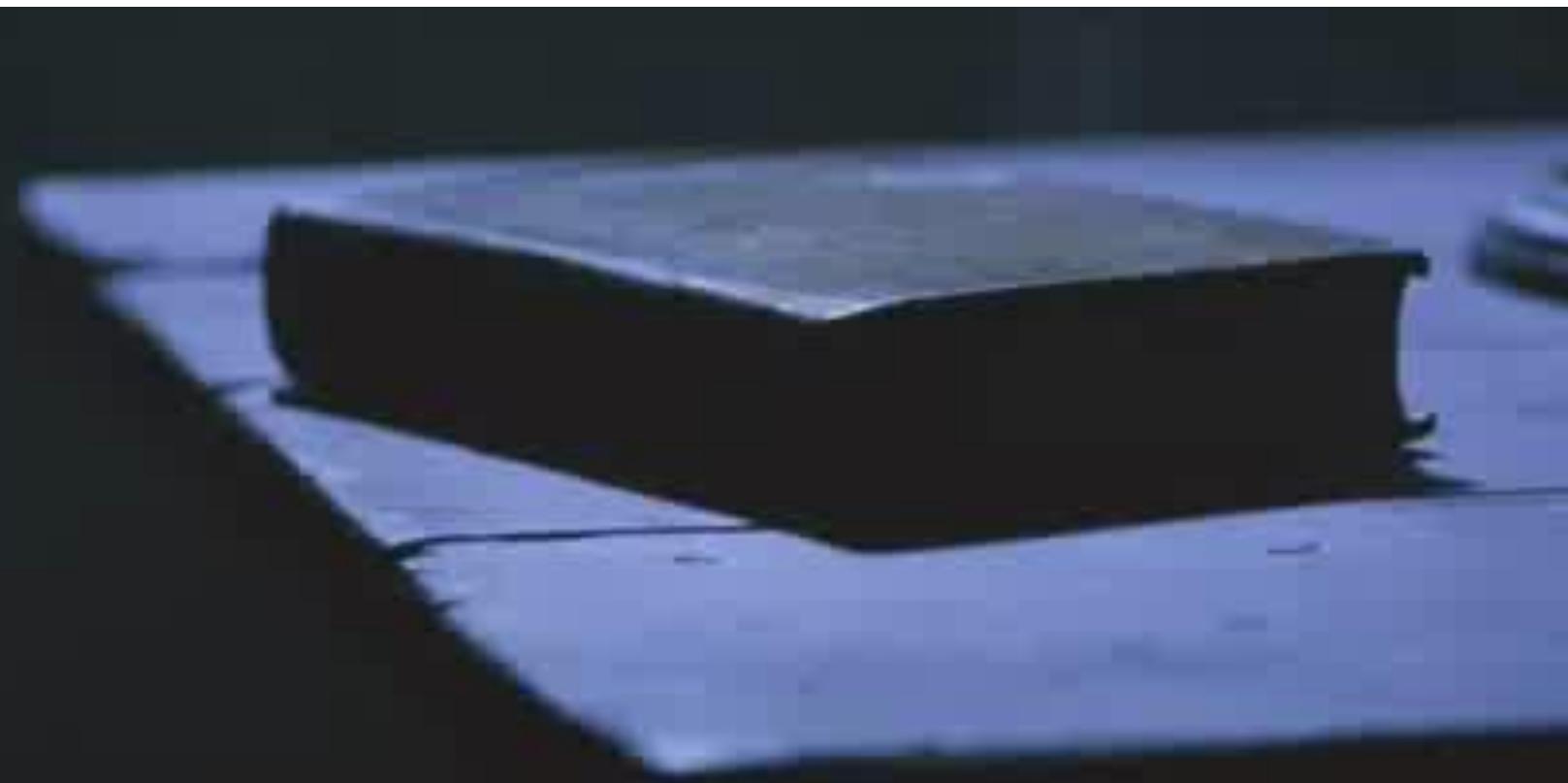


# The Reign of Terror

- Robespierre sought to create a “Republic of Virtue”
  - Protect the revolution from its enemies
  - All classes of people were suspect to execution
  - Local revolutionary tribunals, run by Jacobin clubs, judged people severely
- Executed as many as 40,000 people by guillotine

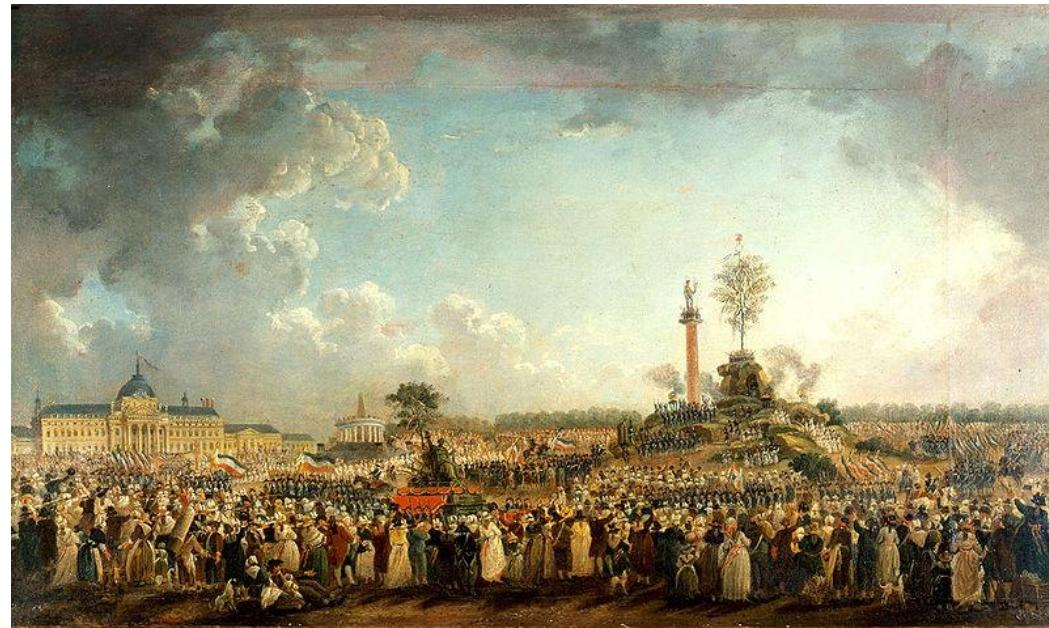


# Execution by Guillotine



# The Dechristianization of France

- Why?
  - Catholic Church was linked with potential counterrevolution
  - Religion was a tool of the Ancien Régime to encourage superstition among the masses
  - It had no place among this new rational, secular public, dominated by the sans-culottes!



# 1) French Republican Calendar

## 1792 – Year I

- Autumn:
  - Vendémiaire (from Latin *vindemia*, "vintage")
  - Brumaire (from French *brume*, "mist")
  - Frimaire (From French *frimas*, "frost")
- Winter:
  - Nivôse (from Latin *nivosus*, "snowy")
  - Pluviôse (from Latin *pluviosus*, "rainy")
  - Ventôse (from Latin *ventosus*, "windy")
- Spring:
  - Germinal (from Latin *germen*, "seed")
  - Floréal (from Latin *flos*, "flower")
  - Prairial (from French *prairie*, "meadow")
- Summer:
  - Messidor (from Latin *mессis*, "harvest")
  - Thermidor (from Greek *thermos*, "hot")
  - Fructidor (from Latin *fructus*, "fruits")
- Each month had 3 weeks of 10 days:
  - primidi (first day)
  - duodi (second day)
  - tridi (third day)
  - quartidi (fourth day)
  - quintidi (fifth day)
  - sextidi (sixth day)
  - septidi (seventh day)
  - octidi (eighth day)
  - nonidi (ninth day)
  - décadi (tenth day)

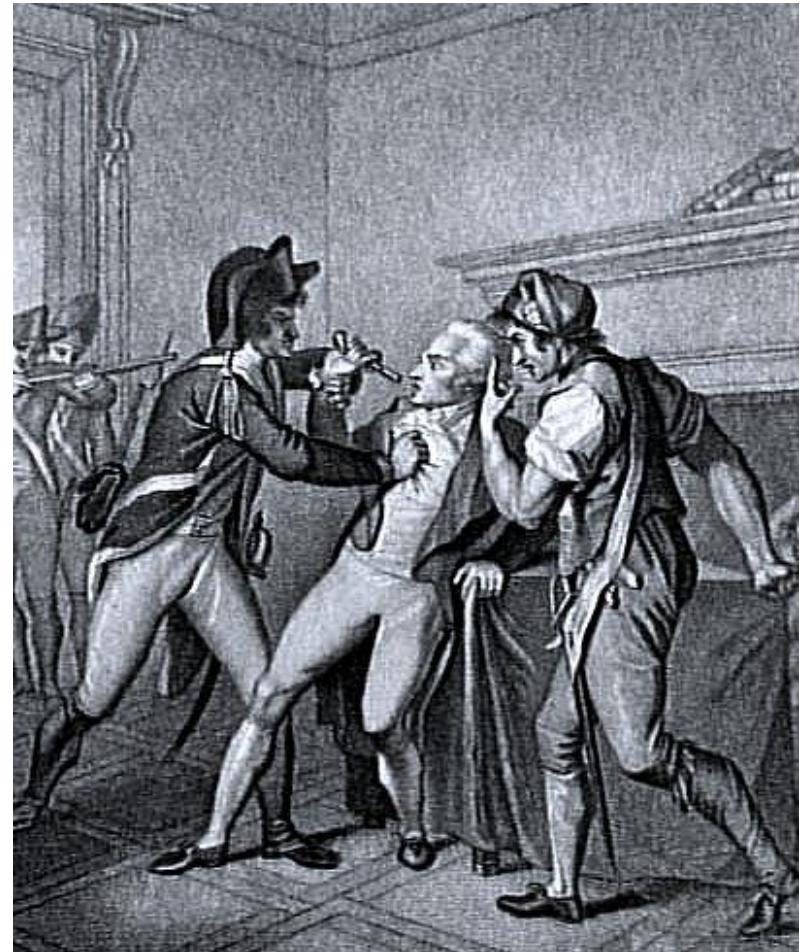
# Dechristianization of France

- 2) Public exercise of religion was abolished
- 3) Paris Commune encouraged the destruction of all things Catholic
- 4) Cult of Reason – Notre Dame turned into a Temple of Reason
- 5) Democratic festivals replaced religious holidays



# End of Robespierre and the Reign of Terror

- In 1794, Robespierre began executing those who criticized or challenged his rule as dictator
  - Including the popular Danton!
- Fearing that they could be next, members of the National Convention turned on Robespierre and demanded his execution
  - Reign of Terror was over
- The Thermidorean Reaction
  - Bourgeois class of moderates regain control and undo the radical reforms of the Committee of Public Safety
  - The power of the sans-culottes is suppressed!



# The Thermidorean Reaction

- Suppression of laboring poor of Paris
  - End to economic controls led to inflation, which led to revolts among the commoners
  - National Convention used the army to shut these down in early 1795!!!!!!
  - The revolutionary fever of the Paris commune died, and the educated bourgeoisie regained control of the French government



# Constitution of 1795

- New voting process
  - Masses → Electors → Representatives → Five-man Executive
- Legislative Assembly
  - Composed of two houses
  - First Assembly had to be 2/3 National Convention members
- The Directory
  - Continued war against Europe (mainly as a means to fight economic crisis at home)
  - Both conservatives and radicals resented the corrupt directory for not establishing peace
- Growing pro-monarchy group will cause a political crisis in 1795 and 1797, which will require the assistance of a short, little man named “Boney”

