

The French Revolution

Chapter 6

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The French Revolution - A Chronology

The French Revolution lasted through the ten-year period from 1789 to 1799, which is divided into two phases as follows:

- 1789-1792 *Ancien régime* transformed into Constitutional Monarchy
- 1792-1799 The First Republic
 - 1792-95 Convention
 - 1795-99 The Directory

The Reign of Terror lasted 11 months from September 1793 to July 1794.

During the first six years of the ten-year period, three Revolutionary Assemblies succeeded one another as follows:

- 1789-91 National or Constituent Assembly
- 1791-92 Legislative Assembly
- 1792-95 National Convention

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Estates General and National Assembly

- 1789 May 4 Estates General open.
- June 17 Third Estate declares itself the “National Assembly.”
- 19 Clergy votes to join “General” Assembly.
- 20 Tennis Court Oath. National Assembly swears not to disband until France has a constitution.

Constituent Assembly

- 1789 July 9 Assembly declares itself “Constituent Assembly” with the right to draw up the Constitution.
- 14 Fall of the Bastille
- Aug 4 “Night of August 4th.” End of *ancien régime*. Constituent Assembly abolishes all privileges of individuals and social groups. From this point on, the clergy no longer exists in the country as a distinct order or class.
- 11 Abolition of the *dîme*.
- 27 Declaration of Human Rights.
- 1789 Oct 28 Taking monastic vows is prohibited.
- Nov 2 Church property nationalized.
- 1790 Feb 13 Abolition of all orders with solemn vows.
- June 19 Abolition of nobility

	July	12	Civil Constitution of the Clergy passed by National Assembly. Number of dioceses reduced from 135 to 85.
	Nov	27	Decree imposing the Clerical Oath passed.
	Dec	26	King sanctions the Decree.
1791	Mar	21	Nuncio in Paris hands over the Pope's condemnation of the Civil Constitution of the Clergy.
	May	4	Pope publishes his condemnation. French government severs relations with the Holy See.
	June	20	King's flight to Varennes.
	Sept	3	France becomes a Constitutional Monarchy.

Legislative Assembly

1791	Oct	1	Constituent Assembly dissolved. First meeting of the Legislative Assembly.
	Nov	20	Nonjuring priests declared "suspect of revolt against the law" and against the nation and subject to deportation. At least 30,000 ecclesiastics flee or are driven from France.
1792			Religious orders are dissolved, and civil marriage and divorce are instituted.
	Apr	20	Legislative Assembly decrees the deportation of all nonjuring priests suspected of conspiring against the State.
	June	20	Mob storms the Tuileries Palace.
	Aug	10	Mob invades the Tuileries, kills the Swiss Guard. Louis XVI dethroned. Royal family imprisoned in the Temple.
		18	Decree of suppression of secular congregations (congregations of "religious" without solemn vows).
	Aug	26	All nonjuring clerics who are not older than 60 or infirm and who are exercising or have exercised a public responsibility are ordered to leave French territory within two weeks.
	Sept	2-6	September Massacres. Paris mobs assassinate 1,200 persons, including about 100 priests detained in various prisons for political reasons.
	Sept	20	Revolutionary armies defeat Prussian counter-revolutionary forces at Battle of Valmy.

Convention

1792	Sept	21	Last session of National Assembly, first session of the Convention, which declares royalty abolished.
	Sept	22	Convention proclaims Republic and decides that beginning on this day all official rulings will now be dated from Year I of the French Republic. When the revolutionary calendar is decreed on November 24, 1793, it is backdated to start on this day (1 Vendémadaire, Year I).
1793	Jan	21	Louis XVI guillotined.
	Apr	6	Committee of Public Safety established with dictatorial powers.
	July		Robespierre becomes Chairman of Committee of Public Safety.

	Sept		Reign of Terror begins.
	Oct	16	Queen Marie Antoinette condemned to death and guillotined.
		23	All suspected priests and all persons harboring nonjuring priests declared liable to death on sight.
	Nov	24	Revolutionary calendar decreed. It is 4 Frimaire, Year II, according to the new reckoning.
1794	July	27	(9 Thermidor, Year II) Thermidorian Reaction. Fall of Robespierre and end of the Reign of Terror.
1795	Feb	21	(3 Ventose, Year III) Freedom of worship in France. Government ends payment of salaries to Constitutional clergy. Abandonment of Constitutional Church.
	Aug	22	Third French Constitution (of Year III) which dissolves Committee on Public Safety and establishes the Directory (Executive authority vested in 5 Directors, advised by Council of 500 and Council of 250 Elders).

The Directory

1795	Sept	23	Proclamation of the Third French Constitution (of Year III).
1796	Feb	23	Bonaparte given command of army in Italy.
1797	Sept	4	Coup d'état of 18 Fructidor, Year V. Jacobins regain power. Law against <i>émigrés</i> requires all emigrant priests who had returned to France to leave boundaries of their commune in 24 hours and to leave France within two weeks under pain of deportation.
1798	Feb	11	French forces take Rome.
	Feb	15	Roman Republic proclaimed and Pius VI leaves Rome for Valence.
	July		Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt and victory at the Battle of the Pyramids.
1799	Feb		Directory orders Pius VI to be captured and brought to France.
	Aug	29	Pope dies in France while still being held by French Government.
	Nov	9	Coup d'état of 18 Brumaire, Year VIII. Directory overthrown, Bonaparte made First Consul. End of the French Revolution and start of the Consulate.
	Dec	24	Constitution of Year VIII proclaimed in Paris. First Consul assisted by two consultative Consuls, Senate of 60, Tribune of 100, and Legislature of 300.

The French Revolution and Human Rights
A Brief Documentary History
Edited, Translated, and with an Introduction by Lynn Hunt

In consequence, the National Assembly recognizes and declares, in the presence and under the auspices of the Supreme Being, the following rights of man and the citizen:

1. Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be based only on common utility.

2. The purpose of all political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.

3. The principle of all sovereignty rests essentially in the nation. No body and no individual may exercise authority which does not emanate expressly from the nation.

4. Liberty consists in the ability to do whatever does no harm to another; hence the exercise of the natural rights of each man has no other limits than those which assure to other members of society the enjoyment of the same rights. These limits can only be determined by the law.

5. The law only has the right to prohibit those actions which are injurious to society. No hindrance should be put in the way of anything not prohibited by the law, nor may anyone be forced to do what the law does not require.

6. The law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to take part, in person or by their representatives, in its formation. It must be the same for everyone whether it protects or penalizes. All citizens being equal in its eyes are equally admissible to all public dignities, offices, and employments, according to their ability, and with no other distinction than that of their virtues and talents.

7. No man may be indicted, arrested, or detained except in cases determined by the law and according to the forms which it has prescribed. Those who seek, expedite, execute, or cause to be executed arbitrary orders should be punished; but citizens summoned or seized by virtue of the law should obey instantly, and not render themselves guilty by resistance.

8. Only strictly and obviously necessary punishments may be established by the law, and no one may be punished except by virtue of a law established and promulgated before the time of the offense, and legally applied.

9. Every man being presumed innocent until judged guilty, if it is deemed indispensable to arrest him, all rigor unnecessary to securing his person should be severely repressed by the law.

10. No one should be disturbed for his opinions, even in religion, provided that their manifestation does not trouble public order as established by law.

11. The free communication of thoughts and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man. Every citizen may therefore speak, write, and print freely, if he accepts his own responsibility for any abuse of this liberty in the cases set by the law.

12. The safeguard of the rights of man and the citizen requires public powers. These powers are therefore instituted for the advantage of all, and not for the private benefit of those to whom they are entrusted.

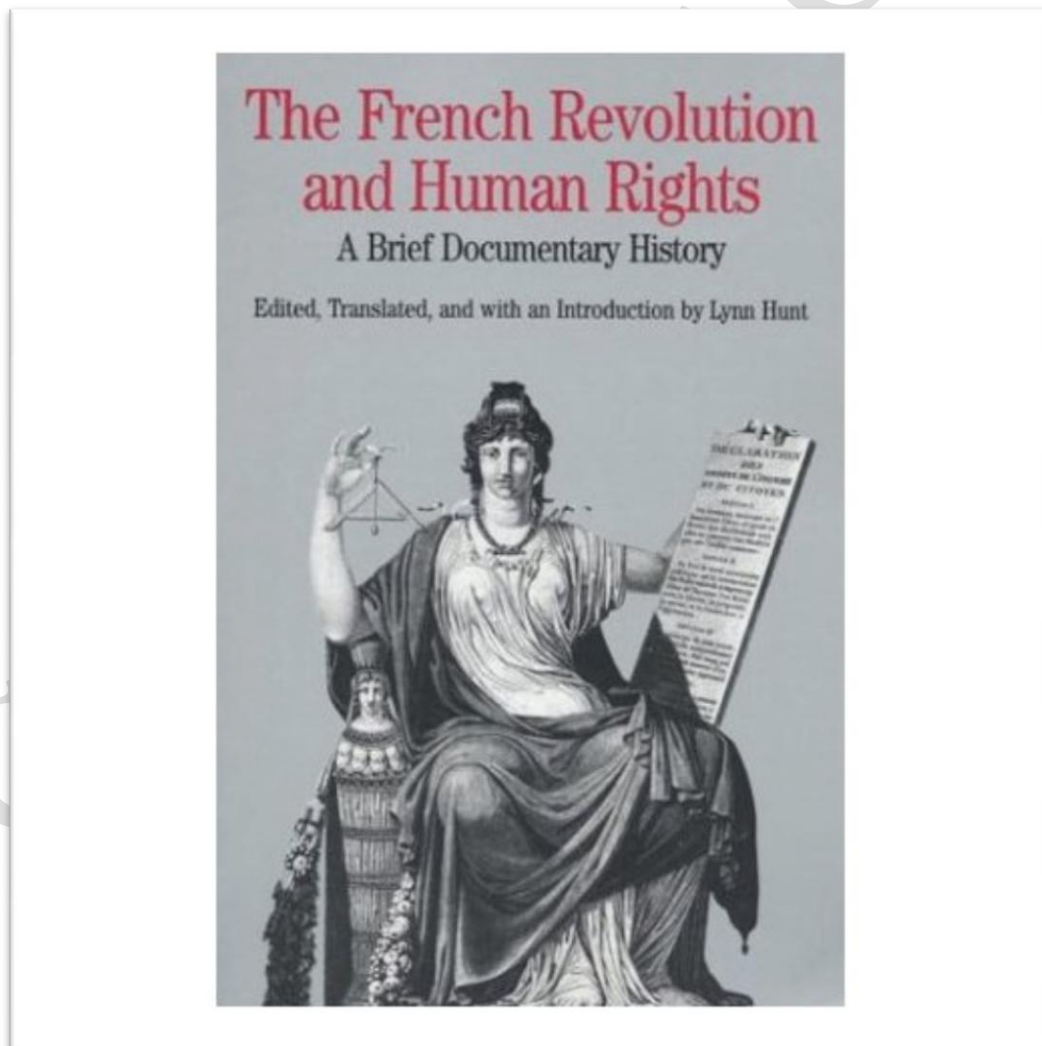
13. For maintenance of public authority and for expenses of administration, common taxation is indispensable. It should be apportioned equally among all the citizens according to their capacity to pay.

14. All citizens have the right, by themselves or through their representatives, to have demonstrated to them the necessity of public taxes, to consent to them freely, to follow the use made of the proceeds, and to determine the means of apportionment, assessment, and collection, and the duration of them.

15. Society has the right to hold accountable every public agent of the administration.

16. Any society in which the guarantee of rights is not assured or the separation of powers not settled has no constitution.

17. Property being an inviolable and sacred right, no one may be deprived of it except when public necessity, certified by law, obviously requires it, and on the condition of a just compensation in advance.



The Revolutionary Calendar

1793-1806

The National Convention introduced a new calendar in October of 1793;
it remained in effect until 1806.

The months, all having 30 days, were renamed.

Vendémiaire (vintage)	September 22 –October 21
Brumaire (mist)	October 22 – November 20
Frimaire (frost)	November 21– December 20
Nivôse (snow)	December 21– January 19
Pluviôse (rain)	January 20– February 18
Ventôse (wind)	February 19– March 20
Germinal (seedtime)	March 21– April 19
Floréal (blossoming)	April 20– May 19
Prairial (meadow)	May 20– June 18
Messidor (wheat harvest)	June 19– July 18
Thermidor (heat)	July 19– August 17
Fructidor (ripening)	August 18– September 16

The years were also renumbered, beginning from the date
on which the French Republic was proclaimed.

Year 1	began retrospectively on September 21, 1792	1792-93
Year 2	September 22, 1793 to September 21, 1794	1793-94
Year 3	September 22, 1794 to September 21, 1795	1794-95
Year 4	September 22, 1795 to September 21, 1796	1795-96
Year 5	September 22, 1796 to September 21, 1797	1796-97
Year 6	September 22, 1797 to September 21, 1798	1797-98
Year 7	September 22, 1798 to September 21, 1799	1798-99
Year 8	September 22, 1799 to September 21, 1800	1799-1800
Year 9	September 22, 1800 to September 21, 1801	1800-01
Year 10	September 22, 1801 to September 21, 1802	1801-02
Year 11	September 22, 1802 to September 21, 1803	1802-03
Year 12	September 22, 1803 to September 21, 1804	1803-04
Year 13	September 22, 1804 to September 21, 1805	1804-05
Year 14	September 22, 1805 to September 21, 1806	1805-06

Effects of the Revolution on Founders

Events in the French Revolution	Effects on the Founders	Comments
1789 May: Estates General June: Clergy votes to join the “General Assembly” after delegates locked out of meeting room and everyone adjourns to the Tennis Court Aug: All social classes dissolved Nov: Church property nationalized by act of Constituent Assembly	WJC: Mussidan Marie Thérèse: Bordeaux Adèle: Château	Chaminade was a delegate to the assembly of ecclesiastical electors who met in Périgueux. WJC signed their report.
1790 Feb: Abolition of all orders with solemn vows June: Abolition of nobility July: Civil Constitution on the Clergy passed Nov: Decree imposing the Civil Oath passed	Adèle’s aunts, who were Dominicans, return to château. School at Mussidan confiscated the property May: WJC legally established a residence in Bordeaux, but did not move there. Late 1790, early 1791, WJC and his brother refuse to take the oath.	The Chaminade brothers and the school’s directors, as well as Chaminade’s parents, were permitted to continue to live there. In France, 54% take oath; 46% refuse.
1791 March: Pope condemns the Oath May: French government severs relations with Holy see June: King flees to Varennes Sept: France becomes a Constitutional Monarchy Nov: Priests are “suspects” and subject to deportation	Adèle’s father leaves home to join counter-revolutionary forces. When that fails, he goes into exile in England. June: local town council replaces the nonjuring faculty/teachers at St. Charles. Nov: The school closes WJC moves to Bordeaux Dec: WJC purchases Villa St. Laurent with help of Father Langoiran	Adèle’s father was a member of the King’s Guard and so very loyal to the monarch.
1792 Deportation of “conspiring” non-juring priests decreed Mobs storm the Tuileries Royal family imprisoned in Temple All religious orders suppressed All clerics must leave within two weeks September Massacres Convention formed: all royalty abolished New calendar instituted	Jan: WJC mentioned in newspaper as a nonjuring priest Jan: Adèle’s brother, Charles, born April: WJC’s parents move to Villa St. Laurent July: Father Langoiran killed in first violent riots in Bordeaux July: WJC may have been in prison for two days Sept: Louis Chaminade into exile in Orense, Spain Sept: Chaminade “in hiding”	
1793 Jan: Louis XVI guillotined Apr: Committee of Public Safety formed with Robespierre as Chairman Sept: Reign of Terror begins Oct: Queen Marie Antoinette guillotined Nov: Festival of Reason	Marie Thérèse active in underground to warn priests of impending arrest and execution	

<p>1794 July: Fall of Robespierre and end of the Reign of Terror</p>	<p>April: Marie Thérèse and her father forced to leave Bordeaux; she goes to Pian. Serves as local “pastor” in her home parish and cares for extended family. Sept: WJC’s Mother dies Trenquelléon family loses ownership of their property and those remaining are under house arrest</p>	<p>Adèle’s aunt, her father’s sister, will work for several years to have the family properties restored to them. In disputes over some parcels, the family had to purchase them back.</p>
<p>1795 Feb: Constitutional church abandoned: no more salaries for any priests Aug: Committee of Public Safety dissolved, Directory established, churches reopen</p>	<p>Feb: WJC into open again. Helps take the retractions of juring priests and opens a small chapel where he conducts services. Marie Thérèse meets WJC.</p>	
<p>1796 Feb: Napoleon Bonaparte given command of army in Italy</p>		
<p>1797 Sept: Jacobins regain power. All <i>émigré</i> priests and nobles who have returned must leave home with 24 hours and leave France within two weeks.</p>	<p>Sept: WJC leaves for Saragossa; meets his brother, Louis, on the border. Adèle’s mother, with two children, goes to Tolosa, Spain. Marie Thérèse has brother-in-law who must leave; his wife and children come to Le Pian.</p>	<p>All three names mistakenly appeared on the list. WJC had hidden so well officials assumed he had left and returned. Adèle’s mother’s name was confused with a relative’s. Friends/relatives worked for three years to have names removed.</p>
<p>1798 French forces take Rome and Napoleon occupies Egypt</p>	<p>Spring: Spanish government exiles lay refugees. Mme de Trenquelléon and the children go to Bragança, Portugal. July: Adèle’s father rejoins the family.</p>	
<p>1799 Feb: Pope brought to France Aug: Pope dies in captivity Nov: Bonaparte made First Consul <i>Some mark this event as the end of the French Revolution</i></p>	<p>June: Adèle’s sister, Désirée, is born.</p>	
<p>1800</p>	<p>WJC returns to Bordeaux Marie Thérèse remains at Pian Adèle and her family first go to San Sebastián, Spain and later return to the château</p>	<p>Servants have stayed on and protected the property from raiding bands of thugs. (Hide the chapel’s vessels, etc.)</p>

Chaminade in Saragossa

Joseph Stefanelli, SM

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Two hundred years ago ... this month, Father Chaminade was enjoying, or suffering, his first winter in exile. The longer nights no doubt allowed him more time for prayer and reflection, and for coming to terms with his condition. The large number of French laity and clergy gathered in Saragossa exchanged whatever news they could receive from home. The frontier was closely guarded, for the French government continued to fear an incursion from Spain perhaps even more than an invasion from England. However, the frontier was not unbreachable. News from France, especially from the more southern regions, found its way into Spain, and vice versa. For example, Father de Casteran, vicar general of the bishop of Tarbes, had his own channel of communications. His sister Henriette balked at no danger or difficulty in maintaining ties across the border. Bales of linen and bundles of straw, in that rural environment, attracted little suspicion. Yet they could hide papers, clothing, and, on occasion, even persons. A certain Rose Duthu's donkey carried with equal indifference episcopal and pastoral directives, contraband chocolate, or turkeys.

Such communications kept the exiles informed of the ups and downs of French politics, of the moves and countermoves of republicans, monarchists, anarchists, and extremists. The exiles were well aware of the current status of French public opinion, of military operations taking place (or even being planned!), of police "visits to domiciles," and of arrests and deportations.

The local Spanish authorities played blind to many border violations, so long as they did not provoke armed conflict with French border guards. In general, such authorities did what they could to ease the lot of the exiles. Later (March 1798), King Charles of Spain bowed to French pressure and issued a directive requiring all French exiles to leave his capital within a week, and Spain within a month. (Adèle's mother fled to Portugal, and was there reunited with her husband.) The local authorities immediately set to work drawing up lists of the "elder and infirm" among the exiles. Such persons were certified by doctors as being incapable of travel. Father Chaminade, his brother Louis, and Bouet, all three, appear on such lists. Of course, at such times the exiles had to be more prudent. The archbishop of Auch, for example, counseled: "There is no need to hurry [to obey the crown's directive]. Meanwhile it would be good to appear less in public, and to avoid being seen in groups." In fact, the King's harsh directive was never enforced.

During these first months at Saragossa, Father Chaminade, besides spending much time in prayer and reflection, was also able to delve a little into the history of his new city. Though he was more interested in its Christian traditions, its architecture, language, and local customs revealed a no less interesting secular history.

The original Iberian (pre-Roman) town was named Salduba. It must have been a rather important center, for it was issuing its own money long before the coming of Christ. On the

remains of Salduba, the Romans, in 24 BC, founded a city for retired veterans of their legions. It was called the City of Caesar Augustus, Caesaraugusta. It was the homeland of the Roman poet Martial, and, later, of the Christian poet Prudentius. Around 714 AD, the Arabs occupied the city. On their lips, Caesaraugusta was gradually transformed into Saraqusta. It became a great center of culture and wealth. In the eleventh century it saw the rise of the marvelous castle of Aljaferia (still there today, and well-preserved).

In 1118, as the *reconquista* expanded, Alphonsus I conquered the city. It became Zaragoza, a Christian city and capital of Aragon. One of the main streets of the city commemorates the event, bearing the name of Alphonsus.



Saragossa, Spain

Our Lady of the Pillar



The photograph is a replica of Our Lady of the Pillar statue now enshrined in the novitiate. It was taken by Robert Resing, SM. According to an ancient story, in 40 AD before her death, Mary came to the Apostle James in Saragossa and directed him to build a church in which he was to place her image on a pillar. The present basilica which houses the statue was begun in 1681, built on the site of two former churches (one gothic and the other romanesque). It took two centuries to complete.

Nuestra Señora del Pilar has withstood the campaigns of the Moors, the siege of Napoleon, and bombs during the Spanish Civil War. To the shrine come a thousand pilgrims a day. As Marianists know, one of those was Father Chaminade who spent his exile in prayer before the statue. There he was inspired with the mission he would undertake upon his return to France. Chaminade was not the only one devoted to Nuestra Señora del Pilar. Blessed Philippine Duchesne and her companions brought a silver statue of Our Lady of the Pillar to America. Before the Franciscans came to California, the Jesuits had established a mission under the patronage of Our Lady of the Pillar. In 1769 the

Franciscan Juan Crespi named territory that bordered the land of the former Pacific Province novitiate in Santa

Cruz for Our Lady of the Pillar. Perhaps most coincidental of all, it was on the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, October 12, in 1492, that Christopher Columbus landed at San Salvador in the Bahamas.

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