

# Timeline: The French Revolution

## 1789

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- January 24: The **Estates-General** is convoked for the first time since 1614
- April 27: The Reveillon riots in Paris
- **Estates-General and Constituent Assembly**
- May 5: Meeting of the Estates-General
- June 10: The Third Estate (*Tiers Etat*) (commons) votes for the common verification of credentials, in opposition to the First Estate (the clergy) and the Second Estate (the aristocracy)
- June 13: Some priests from the First Estate choose to join the Third Estate
- June 17: The Third Estate (commons) declares itself as a **National Assembly**
- June 20: Third Estate/National Assembly are locked out of meeting houses by royal decree; the Third Estate chooses to continue despite decree and decides upon a declarative vow, known as the "serment au Jeu de Paume" (**The Tennis Court Oath**), not to dissolve until the constitution has been established
- June 23: Two companies of French guards mutiny in the face of public unrest. Louis XVI puts forward his 35-point program aimed at allowing the continuation of the three estates.
- June 24: 48 nobles, headed by the Duke of Orleans, side with the Third Estate. A significant number of the clergy follow their example.
- June 27: Louis orders the First and Second estates to join the Third.
- June 30: Large crowd storms left bank prison and frees mutinous French Guards
- July 1: Louis recruits more troops, among them many foreign mercenaries
- July 9: National Assembly reconstitutes itself as **National Constituent Assembly**
- July 11: Necker dismissed by Louis; populace sack the monasteries, ransack aristocrats homes in search of food and weapons
- July 12: The Prince de Lambesc appears at the Tuilleries with an armed guard.
- July 14: **Storming of the Bastille**; de l'Aulnay, (the governor), Foulon (the Secretary of State) and de Flesselle (the then equivalent of the mayor of Paris), amongst others, are massacred
- July 15: **Lafayette** appointed Commander of the National Guard
- July 16: Necker recalled, troops pulled out of Paris
- July 17: The beginning of the **Great Fear**, the peasantry revolt against feudalism and a number of urban disturbances and revolts
- August 4: Surrender of feudal rights: **The August Decrees**
- August 27: **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** approved by the National Assembly
- September 11: The National Assembly grants suspensive veto to the King; King fails to ratify the August acts of the National Assembly.
- October 5-6: Outbreak of the **Paris mob**; Liberal monarchical constitution; the Women's March on Versailles
- October 6: Louis XVI agrees to ratify the August Decrees, palace at Versailles stormed. Louis and the National Assembly move to Paris.
- November 2: Church property nationalized and otherwise expropriated
- December 12: *Assignats* are used as legal tender

## 1790

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- February 13: Suppression of monastic vows and religious orders
- March 29: Pope Pius condemns the Declaration of the Rights of Man in secret consistory.
- May 19: Nobility abolished by the National Assembly
- July 12: **The Civil Constitution of the Clergy**. Demands priests to take an oath of loyalty to the state, splitting the clergy between juring (oath-taking) and non-juring priests.

July 14:	Constitution accepted by King Louis XVI; the first Fete of Federation begins, celebrating the fall of the Bastille.
July:	Growing power of the clubs (including <b><i>Cordeliers, Jacobin Club</i></b> )
July:	Reorganisation of Paris
August 16:	The <b><i>Parlements</i></b> are abolished
September:	Fall of Necker

## 1791

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January 30:	Mirabeau elected President of the Assembly
February 28:	<b><i>Day of Daggers</i></b> ; Lafayette orders the arrest of 400 armed aristocrats at the Tuileries
March 2:	Abolition of trade guilds
March 10:	Pope Pius condemns the <i>Civil Constitution of the Clergy</i>
April 2:	Death of Mirabeau
April 13:	Papal bull, <i>Cavitas</i> , condemning the Civil Constitution and the <i>Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen</i> is published
April 18:	Louis and Marie-Antoinette prevented from traveling to Saint-Cloud for Easter
June 14:	Le Chapelier law banning trade unions is passed by National Assembly
June 20–25:	Royal family's <b><i>Flight to Varennes</i></b>
June 25:	Louis XVI forced to return to Paris
July 10:	Leopold II issues the Padua Circular calling on the royal houses of Europe to come to his brother-in-law, Louis XVI's aid.
July 14:	Second Anniversary of the fall of the Bastille is celebrated at the Champs de Mars.
July 15:	National Assembly declares the king to be inviolable and he is reinstated.
July 17:	<b><i>Champ-de-Mars Massacre</i></b> in which the National Guard fire on protestors against the reinstatement of the king
August 14:	Slave revolts in Saint Domingue (Haiti)
August 27:	<b><i>Declaration of Pillnitz</i></b> (Frederick William II and Leopold II)
September 13–14:	Louis XVI accepts the constitution formally
September 30:	Dissolution of the National Constituent Assembly

### • ***Legislative Assembly***

October 1:	<b><i>Legislative Assembly</i></b> meets
November 9:	All <i>emigrés</i> are ordered by the Assembly to return under threat of death
November 11:	Louis vetoes the ruling of the Assembly on <i>emigrés</i> .

## 1792

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January – March:	Food riots in Paris
February 7:	Alliance of Austria and Prussia
April 20:	French declare war against Austria
August 10–13:	<b><i>Storming of the Tuileries Palace</i></b> . Louis XVI of France is arrested and taken into custody, along with his family
August 19:	Lafayette flees to Austria
August 22:	Royalist riots in Brittany, La Vendée and Dauphiné
September 2–7:	<b><i>The September Massacres</i></b>
September 22:	First day of the <b><i>French Revolutionary Calendar</i></b> .

### • ***The National Convention***

September 20:	<b><i>Battle of Valmy</i></b>
September 20:	Final sessions of the Legislative Assembly and first meeting of the <b><i>National Convention</i></b> ;

	unanimous vote for the abolition of the monarchy
September 20:	France declared a Republic by the National Convention
October 10:	The terms <i>monsieur</i> and <i>madame</i> are banned by decree, to be replaced with <i>citoyen</i> and <i>citoyenne</i>
December 11:	Commencement of the trial of Louis XVI before the Convention

## 1793

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January 14:	The Convention votes in affirmation of Louis' guilt, but by only a minor majority.
January 17:	A sentence of death is imposed on the King by the majority of a single vote
January 21:	Execution of Louis XVI
February 1:	War declared against Britain, Holland, Spain
February 14:	France annexes Monaco
March:	Royalist revolt in the Vendée
March 10:	Establishment of the Revolutionary Tribunal
April 6:	Power centered in the <b>Committee of Public Safety</b> and the <b>Committee of General Security</b>
June 2:	Arrest of 31 Girondist deputies
June 24:	Ratification of the Constitution of 1793 (the Constitution was never put into effect)
July 12:	Royalist revolt in Toulon
July 13:	<b>Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat</b>
July 27:	<b>Robespierre</b> joins the Committee of Public Safety
August 23:	Levy of entire male population, the <i>Levée en masse</i>
September 17:	Passing of the Law of Suspects
September 29:	Passing of the <i>Law of Maximum Général</i> , a comprehensive program of wage and price controls
October 9:	Lyons retaken by republicans from rebelling federalists
October 16:	<b>Execution of Marie Antoinette</b>
October 31:	Execution of Girondist leaders
November 8:	Madame Roland executed
November 10:	Abolition of the worship of god: <b>Cult of Reason</b>
December:	Retreat of the allies across the Rhine
December 19:	English evacuate Toulon
December 23:	Battle of Savenay crushes the royalist revolt in La Vendée

## 1794

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January 19:	English land in Corsica
February 4:	Abolition of slavery in colonies
March 24:	Execution of the Hébertists
April 2:	Trial of Danton begins
April 6:	Execution of the Dantonists
May 7:	Beginning of Cult of the Supreme Being
June 8:	Festival of the Supreme Being
June 10:	Law of 22 Prairial
June 26:	Battle of Fleurus (1794) (French victory in Belgium)
July 2- 13:	Battle of the Vosges (French victory on the Rhine)
July 27:	<b>Fall of Maximilien Robespierre</b> (9 Thermidor)
December 24:	Repeal of <i>maximum</i>

## 1795

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March 5:	Peace of Basel (Prussia withdraws from war)
April 1:	Bread riots in Paris
June 8:	Death of the dauphin (Louis XVII)
August 22:	Constitution of 1795

### • **The Directory**

October 5:	13 Vendémiaire – Napoleon
October 26:	Convention dissolved; <b>Directory</b> begins

## **1796**

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March 5:	War against the Holy Roman Empire
March 9:	Marriage of Napoleon Bonaparte and Josephine
May 10:	Battle of Lodi (Napoleon in Italy)
June 4:	Beginning of the Siege of Mantua

## **1797**

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April 18:	Preliminary Peace of Leoben
July 8:	Cisalpine Republic established
September 4:	<i>Coup d'Etat</i> at Paris (republicans over reactionaries)
October 17:	Treaty of Campo Formio

## **1798**

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February:	Roman Republic proclaimed
April:	Helvetian Republic proclaimed
July 21:	Battle of the Pyramids
August 1:	Battle of the Nile
December 24:	Alliance between Russia and Britain

## **1799**

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June 17–19:	Battle of the Trebia (Suvorov defeats French)
August 24:	Napoleon leaves Egypt
October 22:	Russians withdraw from coalition