

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

2.1. PHASES OF THE REVOLUTION

- A) Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1792):** First liberal government with a constitutional monarchy.
- B) Social Republic (1792-1794):** which is divided in 2 periods:
- **Girondine Convention (1792-93):** Moderate bourgeoisie. Execution of the kings for not accepting the constitution.
 - **Jacobine Convention (1793-94):** Radical bourgeoisie. Reign of Terror. Social laws.
- C) Conservative Republic (1794-1799):** Moderate bourgeoisie took power with a Directory. It finished with Napoleon's coup in 1799.



A) The Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1792) ⁽¹⁾

The National Constituent Assembly:

- Abolished the Ancien Régime.
- Constitutional and parliamentary monarchy.
- Approved the **Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen** (individual rights and freedom, equality in law and taxation) August, 1789.
- **Constitution, 1791**: separation of powers, national sovereignty, but the king had right of veto. Census suffrage (vote to men with certain level of wealth).



A) The Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1792)⁽²⁾

Once the Constitution was approved:

Legislative Assembly:

- Issued new laws to implement liberalism: privileged had to pay tributes and abolition of guilds.
- **National Guard**: army to defend revolution.
- Church **properties expropriated** and sold (incomes to the government). In exchange: **Civil Constitution of the Clergy**: They funded the Catholicism, but the Church must be separated from the State.



A) The Constitutional Monarchy (1789-1792) ⁽³⁾

- Constitution of 1791 NOT ACCEPTED by the royal family and the privileged.
- They asked for help to European absolute monarchies in Europe to restore absolutism.
- An Austrian army invaded France while Louis XVI's family was fleeing to Austria in June 1791.
- He was arrested in Varennes and brought back to Paris.
- Louis accepted the constitution without any conviction.



"Look — if I'd had any idea what a constitution was, I never would have signed the darn thing, okay?"

B)The Social Republic (1792-1794)

In August 1792, the common people (*sans-culotte*) stormed Tuileries Palace and imprisoned the royal family. Austrian army was about to arrive to Paris.

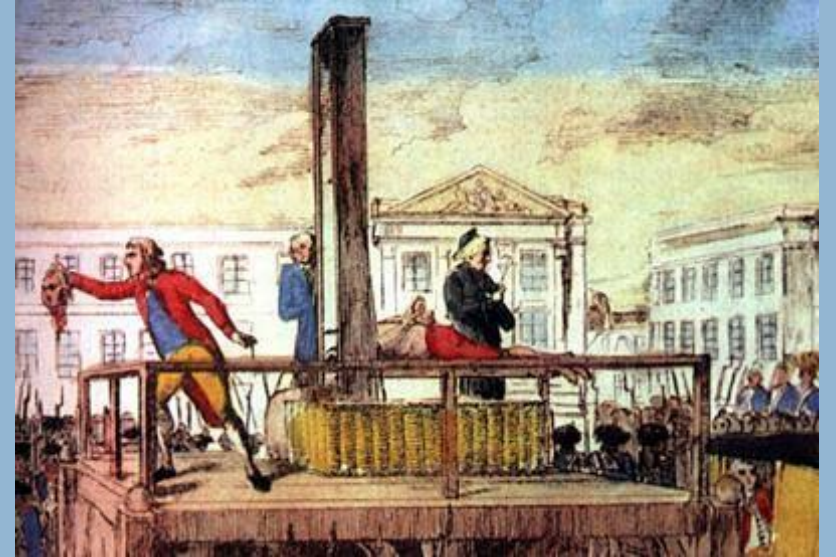
The King was considered a traitor.

A REPUBLIC was declared.



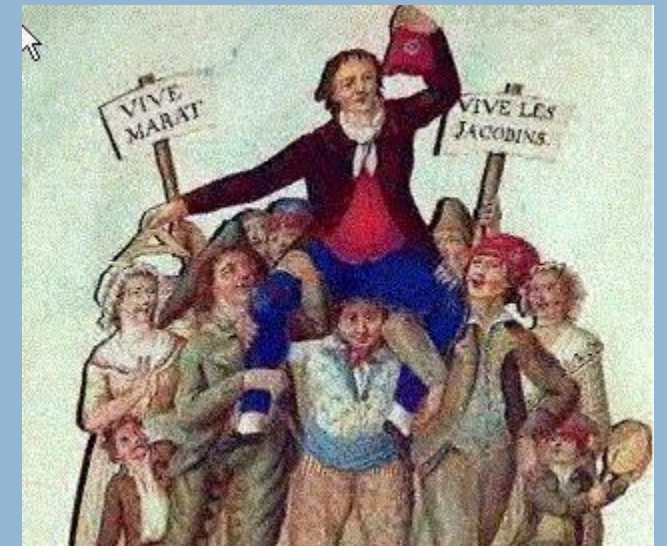
B) The Social Republic (1792-1794): THE GIRONDIN CONVENTION (1792-1793)

- A new Assembly, the National Convention, was elected by universal male suffrage. Girondin were the moderate bourgeoisie who were elected.
- Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoniette were convicted of treason and executed (1793).
- In response, European monarchies formed an absolutist military coalition against France.
- The royalist organised royal plots and counter-revolutionary revolts.



B) The Social Republic (1792-1794): THE JACOBIN CONVENTION (1793-1794) ⁽¹⁾

- Jacobins: most radical sector of bourgeoisie, that endorsed the demands of popular sectors
- In **1793** they assumed the government and enacted a **new CONSTITUTION**: popular sovereignty, universal male suffrage, legal social equality
- **Social laws** to satisfy *sans-culottes*' demands: **regulation of prices** and salaries (**Law of the Maximum**), **properties of counter-revolutionaries distributed** among the poor, **Church lands sold**, **education** became compulsory. They also changed the calendar by a revolutionary one.



B) The Social Republic (1792-1794): THE JACOBIN CONVENTION (1793-1794) ⁽²⁾

- To reject the Austrian invasion: **mass levy (levée en masse)**: forced all men to join the army
- Executive led by the **Committee of Public Safety** (purpose, save the Republic): Robespierre
- **Reign of Terror**: freedoms suspended, opponents to the government or the revolution were imprisoned or executed by guillotine (**Law of Suspects**)
- In July, 1794: a coup ended with the Jacobine government and Robespierre and other leaders were guillotined.



C) The Conservative Republic: THE DIRECTORY (1794-1799)

- Moderate bourgeoisie came back to the power
- Exiles from France returned to the country
- Constitution (1795): conservative government: executive power to a collegial government or Directory. Census suffrage
- Directory was unstable: monarchial wanted the monarchy back and the commoners wanted the return of the Jacobins. Some directors were weak.
- Napoleon Bonaparte, most important director, coup d'Etat in 1799: only director

