

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND NAPOLEON: A CHRONOLOGY

FIRST PERIOD: PREHISTORY, BEGINNINGS, CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY (1778/1789-1792)--main phase of revolutionary legislation

1778-83. French intervention in the British war in North America; causes a financial crisis.

1787, Feb. Assembly of Notables; resistance of Parlement of Paris to the Crown.

1788, summer. Calling of the *ESTATES-GENERAL* (first time since 1614).

1789, 5 May. Estates-General meets; becomes the *NATIONAL ASSEMBLY* (17 June); abolition of the nobility as a legal class (16 June); Fall of the Bastille (14 July).

--Summer. Rural insurrections ("the Great Fear").

--4 Aug. End of feudal rights; abolition of the Royal Army, est. of National Guard (10 Aug.).

--27 Aug. Declaration of Rights of Man & Citizen.

--5-6 Oct. First Demonstrations of the Paris "mob".

1790. Main legislative phase of the Revolution: abolition of the province in favor of departments (26 Feb.); Civil Constitution of the Clergy (12 July); king's acceptance of the constitution (14 July); reorganization of the courts (16 Aug.); free trade est. in France (31 Oct.).

1791, 20-25 June. Flight of the royal family; Dissolution of National Assembly (30 Sept.)

1791, 1 Oct. Opening of the *LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*.

1792, 7 Feb. Alliance of Austria & Prussia vs. France.

--20 April. France declares war vs. Prussia & Austria, **WAR OF THE FIRST COALITION** (1792-97).

--10 Aug. Storming of the Tuileries Palace. Sept. Massacres (2-7 Sept.).

--20 Sept. Battle of *Valmy*, French defeat of Prussians.

SECOND PERIOD: THE NATIONAL CONVENTION (1792-95)--Radicalism, Terror, War

1792, 21 Sept. Opening of the *NATIONAL CONVENTION*; abolition of the monarchy; the Revolutionary Calendar (22 Sept).

--Dec. Trial of Louis XVI.

1793, 21 Jan. Execution of Louis XVI.

--1 Feb. France declares war vs. Britain, Holland, & Spain.

--March. Anti-government revolt in the Vendée (defeated Oct. 1793).

--6 April. Est. of the *COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY*.

--22 June. Constitution of 1793 (democratic).

--July. Beginning of the Terror; dominance of Robespierre.

--23 Aug. Levée en masse; organization of 14 new armies.

--17 Sept. Law of the Maximum (price controls).

--16 Oct. Execution of Marie Antoinette.

--10 Nov. Abolition of the worship of God; Cult of Reason. Festival of Supreme Being (8 June 1794).

1794, 10 June. Law of 22 Prairial, beginning of the "Great Terror."

--27 July (9 Thermidor). Fall of Robespierre.

--24 Dec. Repeal of the Maximum (price controls).

1795, spring. Revival of monarchism ("White Terror").

--5 March. *Treaty of Basel* with Prussia.

--22 Aug. Constitution of 1795.

THIRD PERIOD: THE DIRECTORY (1795-1799)--first phase of revolutionary imperialism

1796, 5 March. End of the revolts in the Vendée and Brittany.

--Spring. French invasion of the Holy Roman Empire. Napoleon Bonaparte's first Italian Campaign vs. the Austrians (spring 1796-spring 1797).

1797, 17 Oct. *Treaty of Campo Formio* between France and Austria; France receives Belgium, western Germany, Holland. End of the **WAR OF THE FIRST COALITION**.

1798. Bonaparte's Egyptian Expedition (1798-99). Battle of the Pyramids 21 (July). Battle of the *Nile* (1 Aug.).

--Dec. Alliance of Russia and Britain vs. France. **WAR OF THE SECOND COALITION** (1798-1802).

1799, 9 Nov. (18 Brumaire). Coup d'état by Bonaparte; overthrow of the **DIRECTORY**.

FOURTH PERIOD: THE CONSULATE (1799-1804)--Napoleon comes to power; second phase of imperialism

1799, 24 Dec. **CONSTITUTION OF THE YEAR VIII**; virtual dictatorship of Napoleon Bonaparte; reorganization of administration (prefectures), taxes, civil service.

1801, 9 Feb. *Treaty of Lunéville* with Austria; treaty between France and the Papacy.

1802, 27 May. *Treaty of Amiens* between France & Britain.

--2 Aug. Napoleon made Consul for life.

1803, Feb. End of the Holy Roman Empire.

FIFTH PERIOD: THE EMPIRE (1804-1815)--Napoleon's zenith and fall; zenith and ruin of the French empire in Europe

1804, 18 May. Napoleon proclaimed "**EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH**."

1805. May. England, Russia, Austria, and Sweden ally vs. France; **WAR OF THE THIRD COALITION** (1805-1809).

--21 Oct. Battle of *Trafalgar*, crushing of French fleet (Horatio Nelson).

--2 Dec. Battle of *Austerlitz* ("Battle of the Three Emperors"); defeat of Russia and Austria. Peace of Pressburg w. Austria (26 Dec.).

1806. 12 July. Reorganization of Germany (Confederation of the Rhine). Defeats of Prussia at *Jena* and *Auerstädt* (12 July).

1807. Defeat of Russia at *Eylau* and *Friedland*; Treaty of Tilsit (7-9 July).

1808, March. French armies invade Spain--**PENINSULAR WAR** vs. Britain in Spain & Portugal (1808-14).

1809, Apr. Austrian revolt against France. Battle of *Wagram*, French victory (5-6 July). Treaty of *Schönbrunn* between France & Austria (14 Oct.).

1809-10. Revolution in Sweden.

1810, Apr. Napoleon marries Archduchess Marie Louise of Austria.

1812, June. The Grand Army invades Russia. Battle of *Borodino*, draw (7 Sept.). Retreat from Moscow (19 Oct.).

1813. Revolt of Prussia, allied with Russia and Sweden; Austria declares war (12 Aug.); alliance of Prussia, Russia, and Austria (9 Sept.); Battle of *Leipzig* (16-19 Oct.).

1814, 31 March. The Allies enter Paris. Abdication of Napoleon (11 Apr.). *First Treaty of Paris* (30 May), restoration of the Bourbon monarchy.

1814, Sept. **CONGRESS OF VIENNA** convenes. Restoration of lands and dynasties—Austria, Prussia, Spain, Sardinia, Tuscany, etc.; creation of kingdoms of Netherlands and Poland and of the German Federation (8 June 1815).

1815, 1 March. Napoleon, escaped from Elba, lands in France; beginning of the "Hundred Days." Napoleon enters Paris (20 March). Quadruple Alliance vs. France (Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia) (25 March). Battles of *Quatre Bras* and *Waterloo* (16-18 June). Napoleon's second abdication (22 June).

20 Nov. *Second Peace of Paris*. Renewal of the Quadruple Alliance. Beginning of Restoration.