French Revolution and Napoleon

1792-1794
NATIONAL (Constituent) ASSEMBLY

June 20, 1789     Tennis Court Oath
Aug. 4, 1789      “Abolition of Privilege”
June 20, 1791     Flight to Varennes

LEGISLATIVE (National) ASSEMBLY

Oct. 1, 1791      first meeting of Legislative Assembly
Aug. 10, 1792     monarchy abolished

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Sept. 22, 1792    Republic declared
Jan. 20, 1793     former Louis XVI executed
April 6, 1793     Committee of Public Safety created
Sept. 5, 1793     Paris sections march on Convention;
                  demand that terror be made “the order of the day”
Feb. 4, 1794      slavery abolished in the colonies
                  (Pluviôse 16, year 2)
July 27, 1794     fall of Robespierre
                  (Thermidor 9, year 2)
French Republics

1792-1799 First Republic
   1799-1804 Consulate
   1804-1814 First Empire
   1814-1815 First Restoration
   1815 Napoleon’s Hundred Days
   1815-1830 Restoration
   1830-1848 July Monarchy

1848-1852 Second Republic
   1852-1870 Second Empire
   1870-1871 Provisional govt of national defence

1871-1944 Third Republic
   1940-1944 The French State (Vichy)
   1944-1946 Occupied France

1946-1958 Fourth Republic

1958-present Fifth Republic

Eugène Delacroix, Liberty Leading the People (1830)
What role does violence play in the French Revolution?

Kinds of violence:

- popular, crowd, “the people”
- organized, international, military
- state-based
follows patterns of Old-Regime public participation
   religious processions
   food riots
   mobilizes when “authority fails”
   occupies public spaces

Examples:
   Sainte Geneviève processions

women’s march to Versailles, Oct. 1789

sugar and coffee riots, winter 1792

“..."The King leaves the Hotel de Ville [city hall] and shows the national cockade to the people"
storming of the Bastille (July 14, 1789)

the Great Fear (summer 1789)

attack on Tuileries Palace (June 20, 1792)

“This is how we punish traitors”

popular violence: largely defensive
The Event: the October Days

October 5, 1789: “Marie Rose Barré, 20 years old, an unmarried lace worker, says that she was going to return some work at 8:00 in the morning and was stopped on the Notre Dame Bridge by about a hundred women who said she had to go to Versailles with them to ask for bread there. Not being able to resist such a large number of women, she went with them… “ – police report
The Event: Fall of the Monarchy

July 31, 1792: “The section, gathered in the number of more than 600 citizens, considering the dangers that face the fatherland… Considering that Louis XVI has lost the confidence of the nation, that the constituted powers have no force other than public opinion, and that the expression of this opinion is a strict and sacred duty of all citizens; Consequently declares to all its brothers [the other sections] that it no longer recognizes Louis XVI as King of the French and that in renewing the oath so dear to its heart, to live and die free and be faithful to the nation, it also renounces the remainder of its vows [i.e., loyalty to King]…

The section resolves that next Sunday, 5 August, it will proceed in its entirety into the midst of the legislative body, to notify that body of this present declaration and ask whether it wishes or not to save the fatherland [patrie] … and further resolves that while it cannot extend this measure to all corners of the empire, it will make sure that this resolution is carried to the other forty-seven sections of Paris and that they are all invited to appear in the Assembly on the fifth of August…”

Registers of the Mauconseil Section [central Paris].
August 10, 1792: Monarchy Abolished

Paris sections march to palace
royal family hides in Legislative Assembly
Assembly votes to:
suspend King
call new elections
establish Provisional Council
royal family imprisoned
Lafayette flees the country

popular violence: defensive, increasingly organized, especially effective in Paris
July 1789    National Guard forms to protect Paris from both foreign attack and popular violence

paid for own equipment;
restricted to “active” citizens

summer    beginning of emigration

spring 1790    rumor of war with Britain

June 1791    flight to Varennes

July 1791    émigrés ordered to return

Oct. 1791    Brissot calls for military action against émigrés

Feb. 1792    émigrés’ property sequestered

April 20, 1792    war declared

organized violence: militarization of society
Who emigrated?

the King’s brothers and aunts

over half the men elected in 1789 as representatives of the nobility

60% of the officer corps

150,000 total (approximately) of which 25% clergy and 17% noble less than 20% of émigrés were women

“The Prince de Condé gives the spurs to his ostrich/Austrian mount”
**Brissot’s arguments for war**
- Austria and Prussia harbored and aided the émigrés

- “Remember those crusades, when Europe took up arms for a few superstitions. … The moment has come for a new crusade… more noble and holy. A crusade for universal liberty.”
  

- “It is a cruel thing to think, but peace is taking us backwards. …Our shallow national character, our frivolous morals—these are incompatible with liberty and must be regenerated.”
  
  Madame Roland to her husband (late June 1791).

**Robespierre’s arguments against war**
- more internal enemies than external ones

- war will strengthen the King and lead to military dictatorship

- “No one loves armed missionaries. … The Declaration of the Rights of Man is not a beam of sunlight that shines on all men”

Organized violence: calling for war in the Legislative Assembly, 1791-1792
[The King and Emperor intend in marching against France]… To put an end to the anarchy that reigns and stop the attacks on the French throne… To restore to the King the security and liberty of which he has been deprived and put him in a position to exercise his legitimate authority… Convinced that the sound part of the French nation abhors the excesses of the dominant faction…[the German Armies will protect those who do not resist] But those who dare to defend themselves will be punished immediately and their houses destroyed… if the least violence or force be used against the French King or Queen, the Allied monarchs will exact exemplary and ever memorable vengeance, by delivering the city of Paris over to military rule and to complete ruin…

The Brunswick Manifesto, 25 July 1792.
summer 1789  popular violence in Paris and the countryside
Aug. 4-5, 1789  abolition of privilege
summer 1791  emigration after flight to Varennes
April 20, 1792  France declares war on Austria and Prussia
June 20, 1792  attack on Tuileries Palace
July 25, 1792  Brunswick Manifesto
August 10, 1792  King suspended
Aug. 19, 1792  Lafayette flees the country
Sept. 2-6, 1792  “September Massacres” in Paris
Sept. 20, 1792  Battle of Valmy
Sept. 20, 1792  first meeting of the Convention
Sept. 22, 1792  Republic declared

interaction of popular and organized violence with political change
Credits
1. Place de la Concorde (“Place de la Révolution”), Paris; photo RLSpan
4. *Triumph of the Parisian Army on its way Back from Versailles*; (slnd) gallica.bnf.fr; *Beautiful Action of 500,000 Republicans Defending our Constitution against the Allied Enemies* (1793).