

# Revolution Brings Reform and Terror

**Essential Question:** How did the slogan “Liberty, Equality and Fraternity” sum up the goals of the Revolution?

- The Assembly Reforms France
- Conflicting Goals Cause Divisions
- War and Extreme Measures
- The Terror Grips France
- End of the Terror

# The Assembly Reforms France

- Peasants weren't the only members of French society to feel the Great Fear; clergymen and nobles were equally afraid.
- They join other members of the National Assembly to sweep away the privileges of the nobility and the clergy
  - ▣ Adopts **Declaration of the Rights of Man** that says “men are born and remain free and equal.”
  - ▣ Express principles of “**Liberty, Equality, Fraternity**”
- When **Olympe de Gouges** wrote a **declaration of rights for women** however, **her ideas were rejected** and she lost her head as an enemy of the revolution

# The Assembly Reforms France

- Many of the Assembly's reforms focused on the relationship between church and state, and the state takes control of the Catholic Church.
  - ▣ When the church lost its land and independence it alarmed millions of devout peasants who rallied to support their parish priests and in the future would often oppose further revolutionary changes.
- Many of the Kings supporters warned Louis XVI that France was unsafe and he is caught as he tries to escape from France to the Netherlands with his family in June of 1791.

# Conflicting Goals Cause Divisions

- The National Assembly writes a new constitution that ends the absolute rule by creating a **limited constitutional monarchy**.
- The constitution gave the Legislative Assembly the power to create laws and to approve or prevent any war the king declared on other nations.
- Louis XVI reluctantly approved the change.

# Conflicting Goals Cause Divisions



- Despite the new government, old problems remained such as food shortages and debt.
- Angry cries for **more liberty, equality, and bread** soon caused the Revolutionary **leaders to turn against one another**
- **Legislative Assembly splits into 3 factions (Radicals, Moderates, and Conservatives)**
  - **Also new extreme groups arose such as**
    - **Émigrés** (nobles) on the far right who hoped to undo the Revolution and restore the Old Regime
    - **Sans-culottes** (shopkeepers and small wage earners) on the far left who wanted a greater voice in government.

# War and Extreme Measures

- Fearing the ideas of the French Revolution would spread to their countries and the loss of their own positions, European monarchs supported Louis XVI.
- The Legislative Assembly responded by declaring war on Austria in April of 1792.
- Louis XVI is imprisoned after a Parisian mob invade the royal palace
- The “**September Massacre**” in which Parisian mobs murder royalist, noble and clergymen prisoners
  - ▣ Leads the Legislative Assembly to dispose the king and set aside the constitution (1791)

# War and Extreme Measures

- Summer of 1792, mobs rule the country and thousands die as enemies of the revolution.
- New legislature votes to execute the king,
  - ▣ He dies on the guillotine
- The new republic's leaders are forced decree a draft into the army of 300,000 French citizens (both men and women) who become soldiers as Austrian forces press toward Paris.



# The Terror Grips France



- As dozens of leaders struggled for power, Maximilien Robespierre slowly gains control of the revolutionary government
  - ▣ Set out to build a “republic of virtue”
- Robespierre and his supporters try to wipe out every trace of French nobility.
  - ▣ Close all churches and changed the calendar to eliminate Sundays.
  - ▣ Kings, Queens and Jacks in a deck of cards were changed, and families named Leroy changed their name to something less political



# The Terror Grips France

- Robespierre became leader of the **Committee of Public Safety** in 1793
  - ▣ He could decide who should be considered enemies of the state.
- The committee often had people tried in the morning and guillotined the same afternoon.
- Robespierre institutes the **Reign of Terror**
  - ▣ A time of thousands of arbitrary executions

# End of the Terror

- July 1794 the members of the National Convention knew that none of them were safe,
  - They turned on Robespierre.
- The Reign of Terror ends when Robespierre is executed
- French public opinion had grown weary of the revolution and all the terror.

# End of the Terror

- A 3rd constitution was written in 1795
  - ▣ The Directory an executive body of 5 men
  - ▣ Two-House legislature
  - ▣ Gave power to the upper middle class
- The government finds a new general
  - ▣ Napoleon Bonaparte to lead the army
- <https://www.history.com/topics/france/the-french-revolution-video>