

The following quote is from a lecture by: [Steven Kreis](#) - **READ THIS CLOSELY!** - Then read the notes from below.

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"With all this now behind us, what did the Revolution accomplish? First, the Revolution weakened the political influence and leadership of the aristocracy. The aristocrats lost their privileges based on birth because from this point on, privilege would now be based on property and wealth. As the *sans-culottes* quickly realized, one evil simply replaced another. Second, because careers were open to talent, the bourgeoisie had access to the highest positions in the state. In fact, throughout the 19th century, the French state was a bourgeois state which echoed middle-class needs and values. Third, the Revolution transformed the dynastic state of the *ancien regime* into the modern state (natural, liberal, secular and rational). The state was no longer just a federation of provinces, it was not the private property of the king. Instead, the state now belonged to the people. The individual, formerly a subject in the old order, was now a citizen, with specific rights as well as duties. Lastly, the Revolution managed to give practical application to the ideas of the *philosophes* – equality before the law, trial by jury, the freedom of religion, speech and the press. In the 19th century, all these ideas led to the quickening pace of reform. And in that century, the voices of the *sans-culottes* would be heard once more. All these developments were accelerated by the Industrial Revolution itself. While the French Revolution politicized the *sans-culottes*, the Industrial Revolution industrialized them. Both events had the ultimate effect of making the European working classes."

Last Revised --

The Reign of Terror that arises out of the dictatorship - *The Committee of Public Safety - Marat, Robespierre, Danton and Louis St. Just.*

One of the prime movers in this period was a strange and terrible young man, Louis-Antoine de St. Just. Described by those who saw him as being as 'beautiful as an angel,'

- Known as 'the Angel of Death.'
- One historian said he was as cold as marble and as inaccessible as stone to all the warm passions of the living.

Use The Terror - destroy enemies and purge the nation of all the bad elements.

- Kill the King - January 21, 1793 executed.

Constitutional Government would have to wait until the "Terror" destroyed the enemies of the Revolution and consolidated the Revolution.

- The Terror is necessary as a means of achieving virtue.
- Arrested and eventually executed the Girondins .

Put down resistance in the provinces . This comes about in the Vendee region in reaction to the Levee en masse and the secularization of life in France. - Decentralizing tendencies also.

- Vendee Massacre - March 1793 the uprising broke out.
- The Revolution drowned peasants, priests, royalists and sympathizers in the River Loire.
 - In 1793 Nantes resisted the attacks of the Vendéens who rebelled against the French Revolution. The traders of the city, supportive of the Revolution, went as far as to drown anti-government suspects in the Loire river.
- The Revolution destroyed Lyons.
 - The Convention said: "Lyons has made war against liberty and thus Lyons no longer exists."

Positive means of rallying the nation.

- Exhortation to fight for the La Patrie (nationalism).
- Creation of enemies and modern propaganda.
- Reorganize the army to fight the wars.
- Levee en masse
- New, popular armies
- New style of fighting
 - Army could be more flexible. Did not need the large squares.
 - Nationalist beliefs
 - New symbols
 - Destroy religion
 - Cult of Reason
 - Festivals
- Creation of a new calendar
- On September 21 the convention voted to establish a republic in place of the monarchy. The founding of the first French Republic represented so important a milestone that, when the convention adopted a new revolutionary calendar, it made September 22, 1792, the first day of Year I

Republican Calendar, French, calendar adopted in France in 1793, during the French Revolution, to replace the Gregorian calendar and to commemorate the establishment of the First Republic. The year was divided into 12 months, each of which was 30 days long and was subdivided into three 10-day periods known

as décades; the last day of each década was set aside as a day of rest. The five days remaining at the end of the year (September 17 through 21 in the Gregorian calendar) were designated national holidays. The first year under the new system was known as An I ("Year I"), the second as An II, and so on. Three months were assigned to each season; the autumn months were named Vendémiaire ("month of vintage"), Brumaire ("month of fog"), and Frimaire ("month of frost"); the winter months, Nivôse ("month of snow"), Pluviôse ("month of rain"), and Ventôse ("month of wind"); the spring months, Germinal ("month of seeds"), Floréal ("month of blossoms"), and Prairial ("month of meadows"); and the summer months, Messidor ("month of harvesting"), Thermidor ("month of heat"), and Fructidor ("month of fruit"). The Republican calendar was abolished by Napoleon in August 1805.

The end of the Radical Phase: 1794

The Revolution had become too Radical, people are tired and fearful. Robespierre is too feared. And as all revolutions do it cannot sustain the intensity. You cannot continually call for sacrifice, fight wars and on and on.

Things had gone too far In the spring and early summer the Revolution had seen:

- March 24: Execution of the Hebertist leaders of the sans-culottes (Explain Sans Cullotes)
- April 6: Execution of Danton
- May 7: Cult of the Supreme Being proclaimed
- The National Convention proclaimed as an official religion the cult of the Supreme Being, which was based on Rousseau's theory of Deism.
 - This antagonizes both the Religious and the Atheists.
- June 8: Robespierre leads the celebration of the Festival of the Supreme Being

Finally, that was all that could be taken anymore.

- July 27: The Ninth of Thermidor and the fall of Robespierre
- July 28: Robespierre is executed

What were the accomplishments of this period of the revolution if any.

- Abbe Sieyes' words: "I survived."
- Political Accomplishments
- It preserves and actually expands France's borders.
- Creates the world's largest and first ever popular army, an "army of the people."
- Rationalized government
- Ended centrifugal tendencies
- Invented or tapped patriotism and nationalism.

Social Accomplishments

- Created universal manhood suffrage
- State programs for the poor.
- Eliminated all distinctions in society.
- Repealed primogeniture
- "Leveled" society - explain.
- Abolishes slavery
- Prohibited imprisonment for debt
- Established metric system

Long-range accomplishments

- Infects all of Europe and eventually the world with "liberalism"
- Revolutionary ideals are put into practice and France serves as the shining example of what can be done. The ideals spread among the lower classes especially in England and Ireland.
- Explain United Irishmen
- Worker groups in England support of the French Revolution
- **SWEPT THE OLD REGIME AWAY AND STARTED EUROPE AND THE WORLD ON THE PATH TO LIBERAL DEMOCRACY.**

Negative

- Not even counting the wars during the Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars there was incredible loss of life:
- It is estimated that between 25,000-30,000 were executed during the Terror and another 500,000 imprisoned.
 - This was only between Sept. 1793 to July 1794
 - **Keep in mind when we get to 1871 and the Paris Commune that the counter-Revolution killed more than this in one week. This will be important for understanding the violence of the 20th Century.**
- Economic retardation. - explain how the leveling of the radical period held back economic development.
- Served as an example for the totalitarian dictatorships of the twentieth century.