

### What should I revise for AOS 2?

- READING THE CONTRACT
- Are we able to analyse the challenges faced by the new order?
- Are we able to analyse the attempts to create the new society?
- Are we able to analyse the new society created by the revolution?

### CONTRACT: “Analyse the way in which attempts were made to create the new society”

- For France, you can usefully point out that the nature of the people driving the revolution - largely bourgeois - determined the type of new society they aimed to create.
- The original ‘project’ was tripartite:
- Political change + Legal change + Administrative change
- The creation of the new society began with a statement of principles and proceeded by a complete reordering of France

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE FIRST STAGE, 1789-1791

- The first national assembly was soon called the Constituent Assembly, meaning that its role was to frame a constitution for France.
- The creation of the new society in France was a project with three main components:
- I) Political: To create a constitutional monarchy
- II) Administrative: To re-organise the structures of France.
- III) Civic/legal: The codification of basic rights

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE FOUNDATION DEEDS, 1789

- THE DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND CITIZEN
- **SOVEREIGNTY**: The origins of power, from below, not above
- **LIBERTY**: The definition of personal freedoms
- **EQUALITY**: In opportunity, before law, in employment
- **MERIT AND UTILITY**: The new basis for social distinctions
- **PROPERTY**: The sacrosanct nature of property

### THE NATURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY France reconfigured, 1789-1790

- The Revisionist argument is that while the FR caused massive changes in political structure and in civic rights, it did not do much to improve the everyday lives of ordinary working people. The poor were still poor, workers still worked.
- The Revisionists appear to have forgotten, however, that the creation of a new society in France involved the massive overhaul of all administrative structures relating to government, bureaucracy, law, the army and religion.
- These structures, created in 1789-1791, were so effective that they have lasted to this day, creating a more efficient and reasonable structure for everyday life.

### THE NATURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY: The new administrative grid

- The great Enlightenment principle of Reason was now translated into reality, and became ‘rationalisation’.
- By February 1790, the revolutionaries had swept away the chaos of overlapping administrative structures of the old regime, and created 83 (later 86) roughly equal departments, each subdivided into districts and cantons.
- This new administrative grid became the structure within which government, justice and religion were all organised.

**THE NATURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY:  
The principle of decentralisation**

- After July 1789, the revolution in Paris had been followed by a 'municipal revolution' right across France, when towns and villages threw out their old royal administrations and created their own local authorities.
- By December 1789, the Constituent Assembly had recognised these new authorities, creating the structures for fair elections and giving them real power.
- This was a genuine decentralisation of authority, to make any royal comeback more difficult

**THE NATURE OF THE NEW SOCIETY  
The principle of equality before the law**

- By August 1790, the revolutionaries had removed many of the legal problems of the old regime: separate courts, venality of office and inhuman punishments were all abolished.
- There was now one legal system for all citizens
- Judges were required to be properly trained
- Criminal trials had to include a jury
- Capital punishment was to be only by beheading

**READING THE CONTRACT  
THE CONCEPT OF CONSOLIDATION**

- In the Study Design, *Criterion 4 is knowledge of key events, factors, individuals and/or groups influencing the revolution and its consolidation.*
- The term 'consolidation' is an important one: it literally means 'making something solid' or 'stabilising it'.
- Remember Mirabeau's famous comment, that it is very easy to stir the crowd up to action, but far more difficult to control them once they are in motion.
- This leads us to the general point that revolutionary leaders often spend more time trying to stabilise the revolution than they do trying to radicalise it.

**THE ROLE OF LEADERS  
THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**

- This idea of consolidation leads us to the marquis de Lafayette, a perfect example of a fusion between the leader, new ideas and the popular revolutionary movement.
- Lafayette was a **REVOLUTIONARY LEADER**, and some would say the most important in France from 1789-1790.
- He had some influence over the **REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT** by his reputation as a freedom fighter in America.
- He used **IDEAS** to consolidate the revolution.

**THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE  
Can a leader control the Paris crowd?**

- Documentary evidence:
- *"The people can only be moderated by me ... Forty thousand souls gather, the excitement reaches fever pitch, I appear, and one word from me disperses them. I have already saved the lives of six persons who were about to be hanged in different parts of the city, but these furious, intoxicated people will not always listen to me."*  
– Buckman, *Lafayette*, p. 148.

**ANALYSIS/SYNTHESIS  
How did Lafayette consolidate the revolution?**

- In conclusion, Lafayette consolidated the revolution in 1789 by his formation of the National Guard, which was to protect the revolution against royal/noble reaction, and also to control the revolutionary crowd (eg Martial Law).
- Lafayette also tried to moderate crowd violence (22 July 1789).
- Lafayette consolidated the revolution in 1790 by the Festival of Federation, which used ceremony to combine his leadership, the new political ideas and the popular revolutionary movement in a unity that was confirmed by an oath.

### **CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY OPPOSITION EMERGES, 1790-1791**

- Historiography: William Doyle: "It is resistance that makes revolutions become violent".
- Doyle's comment is proved by the FR, which showed some years of quite peaceful reforms before the emergence of opposition created a need for **AUTHORITARIAN MEASURES** and **COERCION**, including the use of 'state violence' (le Terror).
- The Study Design follows the same argument: "in times of crisis, revolutionary governments often become more authoritarian, instituting more severe policies of social control."

### **CONTRACT: "the difficulties encountered as the new state was consolidated (1791-1792)"**

- Specifically, we need to know what exactly caused "the difficulties they encountered as the new society was consolidated". Who resisted, and why?
- **THE CLERGY:** 50% (60%) resistance to CCC (1790-1791)
- **THE KING:** Flight to Varennes (1791)
- **EMIGRATED NOBLES:** Formed army at Koblenz
- **PARISIAN CROWD:** Radicalised by Varennes.
- **FOREIGN POWERS:** Pillnitz, Brunswick Manifesto

### **OPPOSITION TO THE NEW SOCIETY THE CLERGY**

- The French clergy were not automatically opposed to reform of the Church: most had demanded this in the BoGs.
- Many reforms of the CCC (1790) reformed problems such as plurality, absenteeism and fair pay for lower clergy.
- However, the abbé Grégoire and other deputies took reform much further, by nationalising all church land and property.
- The assembly closed down most monastic orders.
- The assembly also demanded an oath of loyalty from priests.

### **OPPOSITION TO THE NEW SOCIETY THE EMIGRATED NOBLES**

- The outbreak of revolution in 1789 caused some nobles, such as the King's brothers, to flee the country, with the numbers increasing in 1791-1792.
- The revolution did not necessarily attack nobles: many liberal nobles served the revolution, and many more stayed in France, attracted no attention and survived the experience.
- Many emigrated nobles gathered in Koblenz and prepared an 'army' to reconquer France.

### **OPPOSITION TO THE NEW SOCIETY THE KING**

- Louis XVI is quoted as having said that the best way to reject something you do not like is to pretend to accept it, then await the moment when you can destroy it.
- In July 1789, the King not only agreed to the NA's demands, but had worn a cockade and pretended to be a 'constitutional' king. People believed him, as seen in images depicting 'Louis, the Saviour of French Liberty'.
- However, doubts emerged early, when he refused to confirm the ADs and the DORMAC

### **RESISTANCE THE CHAMP DE MARS PETITION AND MASSACRE, 1791**

- The Champ de Mars petition was a direct challenge to the authority of the NA by the radical club movement, especially the Cordeliers Club and the Jacobins Club.
- The radicals had not mentioned the word 'republic' yet, but that would be the next logical step if the King were to be deposed

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE REVOLUTION

- **ANTOINE BARNAVE AND THE FEUILLANTS CLUB - 1**
- After Varennes, it was urgent to persuade the King to sign the constitution, to block demands for more radical solutions.
- Antoine Barnave and the other members of the Feuillants Club argued that the constitutional monarchy must be saved, and that this would have to be done by the King.
- Barnave (wealthy Protestant family, lawyer) had accompanied the royal family back from Varennes, felt sorry for them, but above all believed that a republic would divide and weaken the revolution, allowing foreign powers to crush it.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE REVOLUTION

- **ANTOINE BARNAVE AND THE FEUILLANTS CLUB - 2**
- Barnave was aware that the Brissotins in the LA were growing in power, and that the Parisians revolutionary movement was becoming more radical.
- He wrote secretly to the Queen to urge her, as well as the King, the Austrian emperor and the emigrated nobles, to accept the revolution.
- The King finally signed the constitution in September 1791, and declared that the revolution was now "over".
- Too late ...

### CONTRACT: "endangered and radicalised by political dissent (1791-1792)"

- Specifically, we need to know why the new society was endangered and radicalised by political dissent
- **THE CLERGY:** 50% (60%) resistance to CCC (1790-1791)
- **THE KING:** Flight to Varennes (1791)
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- **FOREIGN POWERS:** Pillnitz, Brunswick Manifesto

### RESPONSES TO RESISTANCE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (1791-1792)

- The Legislative Assembly (LA) was of short duration, but was crucial to the onward direction of the revolution.
- Made up of all new members, it was determined to introduce forceful measures to respond to the resistance of refractory clergy and emigrated nobles.
- It introduced measures such as 'home visits' of suspect persons, which might be called the 'pre-Terror'.
- Historian Gwynn Lewis points out that the first measures of the Terror were actually made by the Girondins, not the Jacobins.

### THE ROLE OF KEY GROUPS THE SANS-CULOTTES - 1

- From the earliest stages of the revolution, it was clear that the revolution needed the popular movement (the action of the crowd) to CONSOLIDATE its achievements (eg the Capture of the Bastille).
- However, the revolution could also be RADICALISED and DESTABILISED by the action of the crowd (eg the Second Revolution).
- In this, the second stage of the revolution, the working people of Paris assumed a new degree of SELF-AWARENESS and MILITANCY.

### THE ROLE OF KEY GROUPS THE SANS-CULOTTES - 2

- The 18th century crowd did use violence as both a language and as an instrument. In this, it differed from the middle-class deputies of the national assembly, who usually preferred legal means such as fair trial and du punishment.
- This contrast became clear as early as 14 July 1789, when the crowd clashed with the Paris city Committee of Electors over the punishment of de Launey.
- The crowd won, and de Launey was brutally murdered on the spot.

### THE ROLE OF KEY GROUPS THE SANS-CULOTTES - 3

- The revolutionary crowd was by 1791 changing, because political clubs - led by the Cordeliers Club - had allowed working people to join its session, where they learnt the language of political debate.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE SECOND REVOLUTION, 1792

- The onward development of the revolution was caused by:
- The radicalisation of the Parisian crowd
- The formation of a new, radical body called the Paris (Insurrectionary) Commune
- The first rehearsal for insurrection was the journée of 20 June 1792, when the crowd invaded the royal palace.
- The actual insurrection was the journée of 10 August 1792, when the crowd forced the overthrow of the monarchy.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION THE JOURNÉE OF 20 JUNE 1792 - 1

- This revolutionary 'day' shows how the radical club movement interacted with the revolutionary crowd to create action.
- Led by men like Santerre (Cordeliers Club) and women like Etta Palm (Society of Revolutionary Women), the crowd of 8,000 working people went to the Legislative Assembly to demand the recall of Brissotin ministers recently dismissed by the King, and condemn the King's suspensive veto.
- The crowd invaded the Tuileries Palace, and demanded that the King restore the ministers and abandon his veto. He refused, but calmed the crowd by drinking a toast to the nation.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION THE JOURNÉE OF 20 JUNE 1792 - 2

- Analysis: What was the significance of this day to the development of the revolution?
- First, this episode showed that the revolutionary crowd could be summonsed up by radical club leaders.
- Second, it showed that, when angered, the crowd would target both the NA and the King.
- Third, it showed that the crowd was a real threat. This day was relatively peaceful, but the large size of the armed crowd was an implicit threat.

### THE REVOLUTION RADICALISED THE PARIS REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNE

- The Parisian crowd had a long tradition of taking action in the streets, but by mid-1792 it was beginning to find actual organisations for its political activity.
- Popular clubs, eg the Cordeliers Club, involved working people and introduced them to the language of politics.
- There were 48 'sections' (= suburbs) of Paris, and their meetings, open to ordinary people, rapidly became very radical.

### A NEW PLAYER ON THE FIELD THE PARIS REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNE

- The original Paris Commune (ie a local government for Paris) had been quite bourgeois in membership and character.
- On 9 August 1792, the 48 'sections' of Paris (local suburban meetings) formed a new commune referred to as 'insurrectionary' or 'revolutionary'.
- The Commune also controlled the National Guard, commanded by the radical Santerre.
- The Commune then became the voice of the crowd, and could command enormous demonstrations.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION THE JOURNÉE OF 10 AUGUST 1792 - 1

- The Paris Revolutionary Commune was formed on 9 August 1792, and immediately used its powers to call for a massive demonstration of 20,000 sans-culottes from the sections, National Guards and the *fédérés* from the provinces.
- The attack on the Tuileries Palace on 10 August was by direct order of the new Commune.
- The King took his family to the NA in the hope of preventing an attack on the Tuileries.
- Because the Swiss Guards fired on the crowd, the attack turned into a massacre (560 guards killed, 300 crowd killed).

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REVOLUTION THE JOURNÉE OF 10 AUGUST 1792 - 2

- What was the significance of this day to the ongoing development of the revolution?
- The 'day' of 10 August was a watershed in the French Revolution, because it ushered in a new political atmosphere. From now on, all bourgeois, even the revolutionaries, lived in fear of the armed and militant crowd.
- The crowd had always been powerful, but from now on national assemblies lived in fear of it. The Legislative Assembly now agreed to all radical demands, including the imprisonment of the king and family.

### THE IMPACT OF WAR THE SEPTEMBER MASSACRES, 1792 - 1

- By August-September 1792 the war was going badly, as the Prussians captured key fortresses near Paris (Longwy, then Verdun). An attack on Paris seemed imminent.
- This caused a general panic in Paris: Danton had to urge the LA not to depart from Paris. Soldiers headed en masse to the front.
- Radical leaders like Marat (newspaper Friend of the People) warned that the prisons contained dangerous people (priests, nobles) who would break out, slaughter the Parisians and assist the advance of the Prussians.

### THE IMPACT OF WAR THE SEPTEMBER MASSACRES, 1792 - 2

- Marat and other radical sans-culottes leaders such as Hébert urged the populace to arm itself and to kill the traitors first.
- The massacres began on 2 September and continued until 6 September: some were outright mob murders, others had the appearance of a 'tribunal' which 'tried' people, but usually on spurious grounds.
- Approximately 1200 people were killed, most of them people such as priests and prostitutes who were unlikely to provide any real threat.
- The LA did nothing to stop the violence.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - 1

- France's third national assembly was overwhelmingly bourgeois: 47% from law, many more from government administration. There were fewer priests and nobles.
- Their main tasks were to establish a republic and to decide upon the fate of the King.
- When they met on 20 September 1792, they decided to rewind the clock to call that year Year I of French Liberty.
- They were now also responsible for taking effective measures to win the war.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - 2

- JACOBINS vs GIRONDINS.
- The largest faction was the GIRONDINS (previously known as Brissotins etc), with 200 deputies. They had less support in Paris (had opposed the Second Revolution) but considerable support in the provinces.
- The new, more radical group was the MONTAGNARDS (= Jacobins + Cordeliers), with strong support in Paris from the radical clubs and section meetings.
- THE PLAIN were the 349 uncommitted deputies in the middle. Held balance of power.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - 3

- **THE TRIAL OF THE KING, 1792-1793.**
- The accusation against the King was one of treason, based on the interpretation of the Flight to Varennes and the discovery of secret letters to the Austrian emperor. On this, the vote was unanimous.
- The GIRONDINS opposed the death penalty, and begged that the matter be put to the people by referendum.
- THE JACOBINS, led by Robespierre and Saint-Just, argued that the King had already been 'tried' by the people and deposed on 10 August. Vote: 387 in favour of execution to 334 against.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - 4

- **THE CONSTITUTION OF 1793.**
- The Constitution of 1793 created a republic, as well as the most democratic statement of political principles France has ever had.
- Article 107 declares that the duty of the whole nation is to defend the republic, and to learn the use of weapons.
- Article 2 defines RIGHTS as equality, liberty, security, property.
- Article 5 defines equal admission to office.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION - 5

- Articles 8-15 define personal freedom and security.
- Article 35 defines the right to insurrection.
- The constitution shifted the source of sovereignty from 'the Nation' to 'the People'.
- The Constitution was also accompanied by a raft of social reforms, including the sale of nobles' properties in small lots (June 1793), the complete, final abolition of feudal dues without a buy-out obligation (July 1793) and the distribution of common lands to villagers (June 1793).
- Having finished the constitution by June 1793, the Jacobins suspended it in October 1793.

### CONTRACT: "the difficulties encountered as the new state was consolidated (1792-1794)"

- Specifically, we need to know what exactly caused "the difficulties they encountered as the new society was consolidated".
- **ECONOMIC:** The financial crisis of the new society
- **MILITARY:** Escalating international war.
- **POLITICAL:** Revolt in the Vendée; Federalist opposition.
- **ECONOMIC:** Food issues, price of bread, popular radicalism.

### CHALLENGES: ECONOMIC THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

- Ironically, the revolution that had been caused by the financial crisis of the monarchy itself became a victim of financial problems, due to:
- A desire to deal with the inherited national debt.
- The massive non-compliance in paying taxes after 1789.
- The escalating costs of international war after 1792.

### RESPONSES THE ASSIGNATS (Revolutionary bonds)

- In theory, the idea of issuing a revolutionary bond, backed by the value of the national lands, was a very sound one. The new government's mistake was to start treating the assignat like money, and then to overprint to values far beyond the revenue raised by the sale of land.
- By January 1792, the real value of the bond had fallen 28% below its original value.
- **Evidence:** Between 1790-1797, the government printed 45,000 million livres (pounds) of assignats, sending its actual value plunging to one seventh of the original 1790 value. (Doyle, p. 401)

**CONTRACT: “endangered and radicalised by wars of foreign intervention (1792-1794)”**

- Specifically, we need to know why the new society was endangered and radicalised by wars of foreign intervention.”
- **THE IDEA OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR:** First proposed by groups around the Brissotins in the Legislative Assembly
- **THE AIMS:** To carry revolutionary freedoms to other peoples, and to unify the revolution at home.
- The idea was supported, cynically, by the King and Queen, who believed the French armies would be beaten.

**CHALLENGES: MILITARY INTERNATIONAL WAR (FIRST COALITION)**

- While the war had been in progress since April 1792, the execution of the King (January 1793) heightened France's conflict with Europe.
- The Convention, anticipating conflict, forged ahead and declared war on Britain, Holland and Spain, who then joined forces with Austria and Prussia.
- The Girondins became distrusted when General Lafayette left France (1792) and General Dumouriez went over to the Austrians (1793).

**CONTRACT: “endangered and radicalised by civil war (1793)”**

- **THE VENDÉE REVOLT, 1793**
- Specifically, we need to know why “the new society was endangered and radicalised by civil war.”
- **THE VENDÉE REGION** is a hilly agricultural region in the west of France, where 90% of priests refused the oath.
- **THE PEASANT REVOLT** started in late 1791 in response to the CCC, but flared into guerilla warfare by March 1793 due primarily to conscription.
- A second cause was peasant disappointment about being unable to buy large/expensive lots of church land.

**CONTRACT: “endangered and radicalised by political dissent (1793)”**

- **THE FEDERALIST REVOLT, 1793**
- One form of political dissent comes from more moderate political groups, who criticised the radicalisation of the revolution.
- One such group were the revolutionaries out in the provinces - many of them supporters of the Girondins - who had little or no understanding of the conditions in Paris.
- The Federalist Revolt in 60/83 departments was a provincial opposition to the radicalism of Paris.

**CHALLENGES:  
THE FEDERALIST REVOLT, 1793 - 2**

- **Analysis: The Federalist revolt was not counter-revolutionary, but a conflict between revolutionaries and revolutionaries.**
- **Specifically, it was opposition to the rule of Paris from the provinces, and opposition to radicalism by more moderate revolutionaries.**
- Its centres were the great regional cities like Bordeaux, Lyon, Toulouse, Toulon and Marseille, many of them great trading ports that had been ruined by the disruption of trade by the revolution.

**CHALLENGES:  
THE FEDERALIST REVOLT, 1793 - 3**

- Girondin clubs such as the Society of the Friends of the Constitution met to discuss the growing radicalism, especially the way the sans-culottes could threaten the Convention.
- In Bordeaux, Jacobin local government was overthrown; in Lyon, the whole city rose against the Jacobins.
- The Girondins planned to raise an army from the provinces to go to Paris to protect the Convention. This shows how little they understood about Paris ...

### CONTRACT: “the contribution of key revolutionary individuals”

- Specifically, we need to know how leaders responded to “the difficulties they encountered as the new society was consolidated”.
- **LAFAYETTE:** Partially controlled/channeled popular radicalism
- **DANTON:** Inspired war effort, introduced some early Terror.
- **ROBESPIERRE:** Proposed ‘revolutionary government’.
- **MARAT:** Became the martyr of the revolution.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE - 1

- **Analysis:** Robespierre (like Lenin, later, in Russia) helped consolidate the revolution by compromising his own principles in two major ways:
- **POLITICAL/LEGAL:** He reluctantly agreed to join the emergency government, which used Terror to discourage opposition.
- **ECONOMIC:** He understood the need to win the loyalty of the working class people by government regulation of prices (The Law of the Maximum) and of wages (The Law of the Minimum).

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS MAXIMILIEN ROBESPIERRE - 4

- His relationship to the *popular movement* was therefore a special one: the *sans-culottes* responded to him not for his personal qualities, but for impersonal things, such as his policies (sympathy for direct democracy, acceptance of government economic interference) and his more abstract incarnation of the popular will.
- Nonetheless, he enjoyed greater popularity than the self-styled ‘friends of the people’: in the elections to the Convention, he was the most popular deputy, gaining more votes than either Marat or Danton.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS GEORGES DANTON - 1

- Danton was active in the revolution from 1789, and rose to prominence via local suburban politics, in the 6th arrondissement, through the radical Cordeliers Club (established August 1790).
- He was vocally critical of Lafayette and the constitutional monarchists in 1791, and after the Flight to Varennes was totally opposed to the King continuing on the throne.
- In 1792, he was involved in the takeover by which the original, moderate Paris Commune was replaced by the **Paris Insurrectionary Commune (9 August 1792)**.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS Danton as democrat

- Danton was a *superb public speaker*. With Desmoulins, he called for action in July 1789, and by October was so popular that he was elected President of his local ‘section’ meeting in Paris.
- Danton was a ‘democrat’ who believed that political discussion should be opened up to ordinary people. Evidence: He was a founding member of the radical *Cordeliers Club*, which was the first to expand its membership beyond middle-class debate and open its doors to working people and women. The contribution of this individual and group was therefore to open up the French Revolution to greater popular debate and involvement.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS GEORGES DANTON - 2

- The Girondins now turned to Danton because they needed a minister who was respected by the Parisian crowd. Elected Minister of Justice by a massive 222 votes out of 285.
- He used his authority to legitimise the Insurrection of 10 August, writing to the judges of France to say that it had been a response to a plot against the revolution.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS GEORGES DANTON - 3

- In the case of the war emergency of August-September 1792, his response was crucial. When news arrived in Paris that Longwy had been taken by the Austrian army, there was a moment of panic and there was talk of retreating the seat of government to the Loire Valley. The fall of the last fortress at Verdun, on 2 September 1792, seemed to herald the end. It was then that Danton went to the national assembly and roared at them in stentorian tones that the approach of the enemy was a good thing, because it would give them a chance to embrace their foes and crush them to death in their very arms.

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS GEORGES DANTON - 4

- In earlier years, Danton had seemed to become a little hysterical when excited, but now he seemed to breathe the fire of passion into the petrified deputies as he roared at them:
- *"We ask that whoever refuses to serve in person, or hand over his arms, be punished with death. The tocsin which is about to ring is not a signal of alarm; it sounds the charge against the enemies of the country. To defeat them, gentlemen, we must dare, and dare again, and dare forever, and so France will be saved."* (Cited in Scott and Rotthaus, p. 286).

### THE CONTRIBUTION OF KEY INDIVIDUALS HISTORIANS ON DANTON - 5

- **Thompson** notes that Danton was long deprived of the reputation he deserved, perhaps due to prejudice against his democratic characteristics. He might have seemed too radical to the well-to-do republicans after 1795. Historians focused on Danton's alleged corruption and love of money.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> century historian, **Jules Michelet** (*History of the Revolution*) more accurately assessed Danton, defining his main contribution as action.
- **Historian Mona Ozouf** feels that Danton's contribution was to second Robespierre's own policies at the time of emergency: Danton, too, understood that the revolution was in exceptional circumstances, and therefore needed to take exceptional measures. He supported, and contributed to, the construction of the special measures known as 'revolutionary government'.

**CONTRACT:** "in times of crisis, revolutionary governments often become more authoritarian, instituting more severe policies of social control."

- **THE MILITARY RESPONSE:** Girding up the army, and the nation, to win a war.
- **THE POLICE RESPONSE:** The use of police and the community to identify traitors.
- **THE JUDICIAL RESPONSE:** The creation of special laws and tribunals to try 'traitors' quickly.
- **THE CULTURAL RESPONSE:** The use of dress, language, images, ceremonies to create a common culture.

### ANALYSIS: THE CONTRIBUTION OF LEADERS

- **Analysis:** When discussing the role of leaders, the following analytical points can be made:
- In France, no leader could ever completely control the powerful popular movement. Leadership only meant 'influencing', not directing.
- Leaders come to power at a given point in a revolution, when they have a specific skill that is needed at the time.
- Robespierre guided the revolution through its emergency phase.

### CONTRACT: "The response of key revolutionary groups ... the Jacobin Terror"

- The meaning of Terror: The official and legal use of coercion and violence by a government to discourage its enemies during a time of national emergency.
- The earliest forms of Terror were actually introduced by the Girondins, before the Jacobins assumed power in the Convention.
- The use of Terror was formally created by the Convention by laws (eg Law of Suspects) and emergency committees (eg CPS).
- The use of Terror violated the 'Liberty' principles of the DORMAC

CONTRACT: "The compromise of revolutionary ideals, for example, during the authoritarian rule of the CPS in France"

- The Study Design specifically instructs us to consider why the rule of the Committee of Public Safety may be considered a 'compromise' of revolutionary ideals.
- In the past, some examination essay topics have asked us to write about the compromising of revolutionary deals.
- To respond properly to this, we need to be able to describe Robespierre's Theory of Revolutionary Government, to identify that it was meant to be a temporary response to exceptional circumstances.
- Nonetheless, many of the Liberty provisions of the DORMAC were violated by the laws of the Terror.

## RESPONSES COMMITTEES OF THE TERROR - CPS (1)

- The idea of special, emergency co-ordinating committees began slowly: the Girondins who first dominated the Convention believed in the separation of powers, but felt obliged to create a Committee of General Defence (January 1793) to co-ordinate the war. It was not effective.
- This did set precedent of giving real executive powers to a small group of elected representatives, thus compromising the original ideal of separation of powers..
- The Girondins then proposed a smaller group, to be called the Committee of Public Safety, and to contain both Girondins and Jacobins (March 1793).

## RESPONSES COMMITTEES OF THE TERROR - CPS (2)

- **THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, 1793-1795**
- The FIRST CPS was dominated by Girondins, and Danton was influential. The Girondins, however, were rapidly losing power.
- After the arrest of the Girondins (31 May-2 June 179), the Mountain dominated the Convention, and they sent radicals such as Saint-Just and Couthon to the CPS.
- The SECOND CPS was the great committee (1793-1794), which undertook the massive task of organising every aspect of the war.

## RESPONSES COMMITTEES OF THE TERROR - CPS (3)

- **THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, 1793-1795**
- The CPS now acted with complete delegation of power from the Convention. The Theory of Revolutionary Government provided a rationale, the Law of Frimaire gave them legal basis, and the Terror gave them coercive power.
- The CPS consisted of 12 members who met in secret, kept no records, and acted with complete authority.
- The military effort was directed by Carnot and Saint-Just, who relied heavily on the 82 Representatives on Mission.

## RESPONSES COMMITTEES OF THE TERROR - CGS (1)

- A second important committee was **THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL SECURITY**, which was more of a police committee.
- It was established earlier than the CPS, in October 1792, to prevent a recurrence of the September Massacres.
- Its main role was surveillance and spying to identify counter-revolutionary activity, as well as the police role of rounding them up an arranging their detention.
- The dominant figure was Nicholas Fouché.

## RESPONSES: THE REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL (1793)

- **THE REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL (March 1793)** was created to swiftly and effectively to try crimes against the Republic.
- Located in Paris, its 5 judges and 12 man jury were to try any form of counter-revolutionary activity. Initially, it was slow and careful, and did not condemn many people, but the Jacobins and sans-culottes urged it to do more.
- In September 1793, the Convention made Terror the order of the day, and pushed the tribunal into the mass condemnations of the Great Terror, eg Bailly, Marie-Antoinette, Barnave, the Girondins etc etc.

### RESPONSES: THE LAWS OF THE TERROR

- > **THE LAW OF SUSPECTS (September 1793)** provided the legal basis for the Terror. It set out categories of people who could be presumed to be enemies of the revolution. They could be dealt with by special emergency justice.
- > **THE LAW OF FRIMAIRE (December 1793)** was 'the provisional constitution of the Terror' and regularised and controlled all the various revolutionary bodies that had been created.
- > **THE LAW OF PRAIRIAL (June 1794)** described a wide array of vague crimes ("have sought to inspire discouragement"). The accused had no counsel and no witnesses.

### RESPONSES: THE MILITARY TERROR THE REPRESENTATIVES ON MISSION - 1

- > **The Representatives on Mission** were created by the Convention in March 1793: these were deputies sent out like 'commissars' to check on each of the 83 departments.
- > They were instructed to check that the Convention's decrees were being implemented, to look out for evidence of counter-revolutionary behaviour and, where armies were fighting, to check on the political allegiance of the officers.
- > In due course, they became the 'eyes and ears' of the two great committees of the Terror, the CPS and the CGS.

### RESPONSES: THE MILITARY TERROR THE REPRESENTATIVES ON MISSION - 2

- > In the west, for example, the Representative on Mission, fanatical **Joseph Carrier** attempted to subdue the rebellious area by the atrocity of mass murder.
- > The 'noyades' were the mass drownings of refractory priests in the Loire River.
- > He boasted he would turn the river into 'the national bathtub', and boasted: "We shall turn France into a cemetery rather than fail in her regeneration."

### RESPONSES: THE ECONOMIC TERROR GOVERNMENT LAWS ON SUBSISTENCE

- > The Jacobins in the Convention were pushed into taking action on the price of bread by the militant action of the sans-culottes, the women's clubs and the radical *enragés*.
- > **THE LAW OF THE GENERAL MAXIMUM (September 1793)** set official rates for all goods, services and wages throughout France.
- > **THE LAW AGAINST HOARDING** first made the speculative hoarding of grain illegal, then punishable by death.

### RESPONSES THE 'POLITICAL' OR 'FACTIONAL' TERROR

- > The Terror assumed a new dimension when Robespierre and the Jacobins argued that, in a state of national emergency, ANY questioning of the government, from left or right, was a form of treason. The Terror first eliminated many of the Jacobins' moderate opponents, **the Girondins (October 1793)**.
- > The Terror next eliminated the left-wing group of **the Hébertistes (March 1794)**, on the grounds they wanted to push the revolution further and did actually threaten insurrection.
- > The Terror eliminated **Danton, Desmoulins and other 'Indulgents'** for suggesting that the Terror could be stopped (April 1794).

### RESPONSES THE 'POLITICAL' OR 'FACTIONAL' TERROR

- > **THE ARREST AND EXECUTION OF THE GIRONDINS**
- > By May 1793, Marat and other members of the Cordeliers Club were rousing popular feeling against the Girondins.
- > In the riots of 31 May-2 June, the *sans-culottes*, backed by 75,000 National Guards, invaded the Convention, demanding the expulsion of 30 Girondins and the arrest of certain ministers such as Roland. They had cannon pointed at the doors of the building.
- > The Jacobins dominated the voting, deciding to arrest 29 deputies, a violation of parliamentary rights. The Plain stayed silent.

### Historiography The debate over the Terror - Marxists

- For **Marxist historians**, the Terror was seen simply as a necessary, and temporary, response to the emergency conditions of 1792-1794.
- **Marxist historian Albert Soboul** saw it as the means by which the working people, led by radical sans-culottes, pushed the more cautious bourgeois deputies to finally destroy the feudal regime entirely.

### Historiography The debate over the Terror - Revisionists

- For **Revisionist historians**, the Terror cannot be seen just as a response to war emergency. Evidence: the Terror actually got worse after the war was under control by late 1793.
- **Revisionist historian Francois Furet**, who originally accepted the Terror as a response to an emergency, later decided that it was the result of the political culture and language of the revolution. It was caused by a coercive insistence on unity (ie lack of tolerance) plus a paranoid fear of a noble plot.

### Historiography The debate over the Terror - D. G. Wright

- **Historian D. G. Wright** argues that the Terror did do the job of consolidating the revolution: *"Although the declaration of war in 1792 was a disastrous error, the Convention deserves some credit for coping with its consequences and constructing the military and administrative machine which defeated the counter-revolution at home, split and the coalition of France's enemies [...] although again at a terrible cost."*

### Historiography The debate over the Terror - D. G. Wright

- **Historian D. G. Wright** agrees with Furet that the French tradition tended to be too intolerant of differences of opinion: *"Even though the terror did not last long, its legacy was the reintroduction of the spirit of religious warfare ... Both politics and war became black-and-white struggles between good and evil, with compromise or negotiation ruled out of court."*

### Historiography THE JACOBIN IDEAL OF THE VIRTUOUS CITIZEN

- Recent cultural historians, such as **Robert Darnton** (*The Kiss of Lamourette*), have pointed out that the Jacobins did not try to meet resistance solely with violence. He would not deny that the Terror did kill some 18,000 people.
- **Analysis: Darnton pointed out that much of the revolution did not involve violence. Contra Simon Schama, he would argue that its driving force was not brutality, but energy.**
- He points to the Jacobin programme to create a new society by creating a new type of 'virtuous' citizen.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: EVENTS OF THERMIDOR (JULY 1794) - 1

- As early as June 1794, the successful Battle of Fleurus proved that the emergency was over, hence 'revolutionary government' and Terror were not necessary.
- Some revolutionaries were worried that new laws were expanding the Terror eg Law of Prairial (June 1794) made vague crimes, such as not being enthusiastic, punishable by death.
- Deputies were frightened because of a) execution of Danton (April 1794) and b) the new law could be applied to them.
- The "Great Terror" (= indiscriminate killings) was in full swing by July 1794.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: EVENTS OF THERMIDOR (JULY 1794) - 2

- Panic set in amongst moderate deputies of the Plain, fearing that they must, by definition, be next.
- Some radical members of the Mountain, such as Reqs on Mission, feared that they would be punished for their atrocities.
- On 26-27 July, Robespierre made an ambiguous, threatening speech.
- The 'Thermidor Conspiracy' was led by Tallien (RoM), Boissy d'Anglas (Plain) and Amar (CPS).

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: EVENTS OF THERMIDOR (JULY 1794) - 3

- Turning the new laws against Robespierre, this group arrested the leader, plus Saint-Just and 20 key supporters and locked them up in the Hotel de Ville.
- They now used quick trial to try the Jacobins; they were almost immediately executed on 28 July 1794.
- The *sans-culottes* did not rise to save them, perhaps because the Jacobins had recently been rolling back all the compromises they had made eg the Maximum.
- Another 100 Jacobins were later executed.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY THE THIRD STAGE, 1794-1795

- Although brief, this final stage of the revolution will help us to address an important theme of the Study Design, the extent to which the revolution compromised its original principles.
- In the case of France, this can work very neatly. We can start by defining the original principles as being those of the key documents of 1789, namely the DORMAC. It is clear that these principles were massively compromised during the emergency of 1792-1794, as acknowledged by the Jacobins themselves when they symbolically buried the Constitution of 1793, until it was safe to reintroduce democratic rights.
- Once the emergency was over, the revolutionaries returned to the great principles of 1789, but avoided the dangerous radicalism of 1793.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 1

- **THE MEN OF 1795**
- The men who came back onto the devastated political stage were all *moderates*: 75 surviving Girondins, middling deputies from the Plain. They were joined by some royalists who formed a healthy right wing to the parliament.
- Historian William Doyle argues that the men of 1795 were not primarily distinguished by their political beliefs, rather by their *social vision*. They were more established, more successful and more tough-minded. They were by now used to holding positions of authority, something that revolutionary government had given them.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 2

- **THE MEN OF 1795**
- They were wealthy because of the revolution itself, either because they had gained huge govt. contracts for the revolutionary armies, or because they had been in a position to buy church lands. They had a large stake in society, and were determined not to lose it.
- This does not mean that they were without principles, but on the whole practical concerns were uppermost. For example, the aspect of Jacobin rule that probably most disturbs the modern observer, the use of Terror to silence critics, did not seem to bother them; but the idea of stirring up the working classes and the interfering in the economy seemed to them to be positively dangerous.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: WHO SAT IN THE CONVENTION IN 1795?

- The men you see sitting here are survivors of the storm of the Terror.
- **GIRONDINS**: Seventy-five surviving members, with a hatred of everything Jacobin..
- **THE PLAIN**: Moderate, middling deputies who had still finally felt threatened by Robespierre.
- **A NEW RIGHT WING**: Returned royalists and nobles, who detested popular radicalism.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: WHAT WAS THE IDEOLOGY OF 1795?

- The men of 1795 still believed in DEMOCRACY and in CIVIL RIGHTS; in this sense, they were still men of 1789.
- However, they removed the Jacobin ideal of FRATERNITY.
- They also added the new idea of DUTIES, things everyone had to do for the good of society.
- Basic rights were now LIBERTY + EQUALITY + SECURITY + PROPERTY.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 5

- **DISMANTLING THE TERROR**
- The Convention set about dismantling the machinery of Terror in August 1794.
- The two great committees (CPS + CGS) were brought under control by rotation of membership and by supervision by the Convention itself.
- A new body, the LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE took control of justice, law and matters of the interior.
- These three committees now became properly 'parliamentary committees', controlled by the Convention.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 6

- **DISMANTLING THE TERROR**
- Crowds now invaded the sectional assemblies and demanded the release of people still held in jail (July 1794).
- The Law of Suspects was abolished, and so was the draconian Law of 22 Prairial (August 1794). Trial for opinion was abolished.
- The Revolutionary Tribunal was first reorganised, then abolished (May 1795).
- The long trial and execution of Fouquier-Tinville (May 1795) expressed a rejection of 'revolutionary justice'.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 7

- **DISMANTLING PARISIAN RADICALISM**
- The Paris (Revolutionary) Commune was closed down, and replaced by a purely administrative committee, responsible to the Convention, to administer the city of Paris (August 1794).
- The radical 48 Section Meetings of Paris were also tamed: they were reordered into 12 zones, called *arrondissements*, and popular radicalism discouraged.
- When the Jacobin Club tried to fight back and demand renewed Terror, it was shut down (November 1794).

### FORCES DESTABILISING THE REVOLUTION THE WHITE TERROR, 1795 - 1

- The execution of Robespierre was the trigger for an outpouring of anger from those who had suffered during the Terror.
- These included:
  - Prisoners recently released from jail
  - Returned emigrated nobles
  - Priests angry at sale of church lands
  - Merchants angry at the disruption of trade

### FORCES DESTABILISING THE REVOLUTION THE WHITE TERROR, 1795 - 2

- The White Terror was particularly murderous in S. E. France in cities such as Marseille and Lyon.
- Former victims of the Terror now formed armed bands with colourful names ('Company of the Sun') to attack, torture and murder anybody associated with the Jacobin 'dictatorship'.

### FORCES DESTABILISING THE REVOLUTION THE WHITE TERROR, 1795 - 3

- The city of Lyon, which had suffered severely during the repression of the Federalist Revolt, now produced murderous gangs such as the Company of Jesus.
- They produced their own version of prison massacres, breaking into prisons to murder anybody who was a former Jacobin - and sometimes their family - or who was deemed radical in any way.
- They also took revenge for the sale of church property and the excesses of the de-christianisation movement.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 1

- **THE MAN OF 1795: COUNT BOISSY D'ANGLAS**
- Born in Protestant family, trained in law, noble of the robe.
- Elected as deputy for 3E to EG.
- Defended Constitution of 1791.
- In Convention, initially sat with Girondins, then the Plain.
- Supported Thermidor Pact to overthrow Robespierre.
- Became a national hero when he appeared firm in handling uprisings of 12 Germinal and 1 Prairial.
- Would have preferred return to constitutional monarchy.
- Recognised death of Dauphin (1795) made a republic necessary.

### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: THE SETTLEMENT OF 1795 - 2

- **THE MAN OF 1795: COUNT BOISSY D'ANGLAS**
- He concluded that if France had to have a republic, it should be carefully controlled so that it was conservative.
- **Analysis: Leaders come to power because they have a special skill to offer at a given moment of the revolution. In 1795, what Boissy d'Anglas offered was 'the conviction of moderation'.**
- In the 1795 elections, 77 out of 86 departments voted for him.
- He believed in the principles of 1789, carefully set in a conservative democracy.

### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 1 Key values

- Boissy d'Anglas stated that he would base the new constitution on the common belief that politics were best handled by men of property, because only they had a vested interest in defending the political and social order (June 1795).

### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 2 The suffrage (who could vote)

- The suffrage was apparently very democratic: in essence, all men over 21 years who paid tax could vote.
- However, this was an indirect system of voting. While all male French citizens could vote in the first stage (primary assembly), they only chose 5 deputies to the second stage (an electoral assembly), who then elected deputies to go into the legislature.
- Boissy d'Anglas placed tight restrictions on the special electoral assemblies that chose deputies: it was limited to men who owned or rented substantial property, effectively about 300,000 out of 25 million.

### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 3 The suffrage (who could vote)

- Once Boissy d'Anglas had created this highly selective group, he did not feel the need to make any property qualification to be a deputy in the two Councils. He assumed, correctly, that this cohort of wealthy, propertied men could be relied upon to choose people like themselves.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 4 Redefinition of rights

- **THE RIGHTS** were liberty, equality, security and property. These hard-headed businessmen apparently had little room for fraternity in their vocabulary; by now, fraternity was a dirty word, signifying a dangerous sympathy for working people.
- **THE DUTIES** were all related to the good of society: in whatever form might be required, every citizen had to serve the Nation.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 5 The Legislature

- **THE LEGISLATURE** was a two-house system, a safer option than a single-house system.
- It consisted of the **COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED**, whose role was to frame new laws and to propose them.
- Total of 500 members, of course, who had to be 30+ yrs of age and resident for a decade.
- This council framed laws, read them, voted on them, then sent them to the upper house for approval.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 6 The Legislature

- **THE COUNCIL OF ANCIENTS**, a group of 250 deputies whose minimum age had to be 40, married (or widowed).
- There was extensive rotation: one third of its members were replaced each year.
- This council could not frame laws itself, and could not change the laws sent to it by the lower house; they simply had the power to return the law unapproved.

#### THE CONSTITUTION OF YEAR III (1795) - 7 The Executive: The Directory

- **THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT** was designed to be strong.
- The Council of Ancients chose 50 reliable men, who in turn chose five men, who formed a tight, effective, compact executive government, known as the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORY**. They were given a strong mandate, which was simply to defend the republic internally and externally, and they were given significant powers. They were not, however, allowed to become powerful: each of them took a turn at being president for three months, and then rotated.

#### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: WHY WAS THE CONVENTION UNSTABLE?

- Thermidor and the Thermidorian Reaction might have stopped the Terror, but it did not stabilise the revolution.
- By 1795, much of France was torn by the White Terror.
- The Convention itself was torn between a powerful left (working-class movement) and a powerful right (nobles, priests).
- When threatened by the radical left, the deputies had to seek assistance from the right. When threatened by the conservative right ...

#### CREATING THE NEW SOCIETY: WHY WAS THE CONVENTION UNSTABLE?

- **THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF 1795.**
- In mid-1794, France had suffered the worst harvest of wheat ever. By mid-1795, the working people of Paris were again suffering extreme hunger and hardship due to rising bread prices.
- The black market ruined the technique of government price controls, and so the Maximum was lifted. (December 1794).
- The revolutionary *assignat* also fell to 20% of its value.
- Inflation of food prices: meat increased 300%

### THE CHALLENGE FROM THE LEFT WING: THE SANS-CULOTTES REBEL - 1

- THE JOURNÉE OF GERMINAL, April 1795.
- Hunger caused bread riots and attacks on shops. This rioting turned into an unplanned uprising of desperate *sans-culottes*, who invaded the Convention and demanded the return of the democratic Constitution of 1793 and the provision of bread.
- They also demanded an end to the White Terror, and insisted that the groups of gilded youths be brought under control. Jacobins who had been arrested were to be released

### THE CHALLENGE FROM THE LEFT WING: THE SANS-CULOTTES REBEL - 2

- THE JOURNÉE OF GERMINAL, April 1795.
- The Convention called in the army and the National Guard, arrested 26 Jacobin deputies (accused of inciting the rebellion) and some 4,000 demonstrators (accused of threatening the legitimate government).
- The Convention also ordered the trial of former members of the CPS, such as Barère, for their role in the Terror. Now, however, they were not guillotined. The Convention adopted the technique of 'the dry guillotine', ie, sending prisoners to remote islands where they could die in oblivion.

### THE CHALLENGE FROM THE LEFT WING: THE SANS-CULOTTES REBEL - 3

- THE JOURNÉE OF PRAIRIAL, May 1795.
- The second great uprising started as a riot of market women, and turned into an attack on the Convention. An anonymous pamphlet declared that it was time for "A peoples' insurrection to obtain bread and recover our rights."
- The Convention was again invaded, and the deputy Feraud murdered.
- The Convention called up loyal National Guards and supporters and, much strengthened, accepted a petition for "Bread and the Constitution of 1793".

### THE CHALLENGE FROM THE RIGHT WING THE VENDEMIARE REBELLION, 1795 - 1

- By October 1795, the political right wing, made up of monarchists, was ready to challenge the Convention and try to raise popular support for a restoration.
- They played upon popular discontent with a law that ensured that 2/3rds of the members of the Convention would sit in the new government, the Directory.
- The right-wing roused a demonstration of 25,000 people.
- The Convention had 6,000 troops but no commander; they turned to the 26 year old artillery commander, Napoleon-Bonaparte.

### THE CHALLENGE FROM THE RIGHT WING THE VENDEMIARE REBELLION, 1795 - 2

- Contrary to mythology, N-B DID NOT simply disperse them with "a whiff of grapeshot". It was a long, murderous battle fought over 5-6 October 1795, and hundreds were killed.
- Nonetheless, N-B won. The Convention was able to keep the 2/3rds law, and so most of its members went on to the Directory.
- However, the Directory remained frightened of the right-wing, and had to turn to the left-wing of the *sans-culottes* for support. Jacobin clubs and journals were allowed to become active again.

### THE END OF THE CONVENTION OCTOBER, 1795

- With the Constitution of the Year III (= 1795) approved (August 1795) and promulgated (September 1795), the Convention had finished its work and closed (26 October 1795).
- The Directory became the new government of France (November 1795). This closes our course ...

**CONTRACT: “Historians debate/evaluate the nature of the new society” - 2**

- *Radical historian Eugene Guerin* is very critical, arguing that once the Jacobins started repressing working people in 1793, the real revolution was over; the rest, including the settlement of 1795, was just the propertied classes consolidating their power.
- *Historian Martyn Lyons* believes that the Terror had really suffocated democracy, and that the return to some form of constitutional government allowed democratic political life to resume.

**Historiography  
1795 restores the true bourgeois revolution**

- *Historian Peter McPhee*, argues that 1795 was an important correction to the course of the revolution: the war emergency and the popular radicalism of 1792-1793 had thrown the revolution off its original course, which was really only a bourgeois revolution, and this superheated radicalism just could not last. For McPhee, the Constitution of 1795 pulls the revolution back into its original course, trimming it back to the sort of revolution the bourgeoisie could comfortably live with.
- Even Marx saw this as no more than a bourgeois revolution, for which the subsequent stages of socialism and communism would proceed in due course.