

THE COURSE/ EVENTS OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

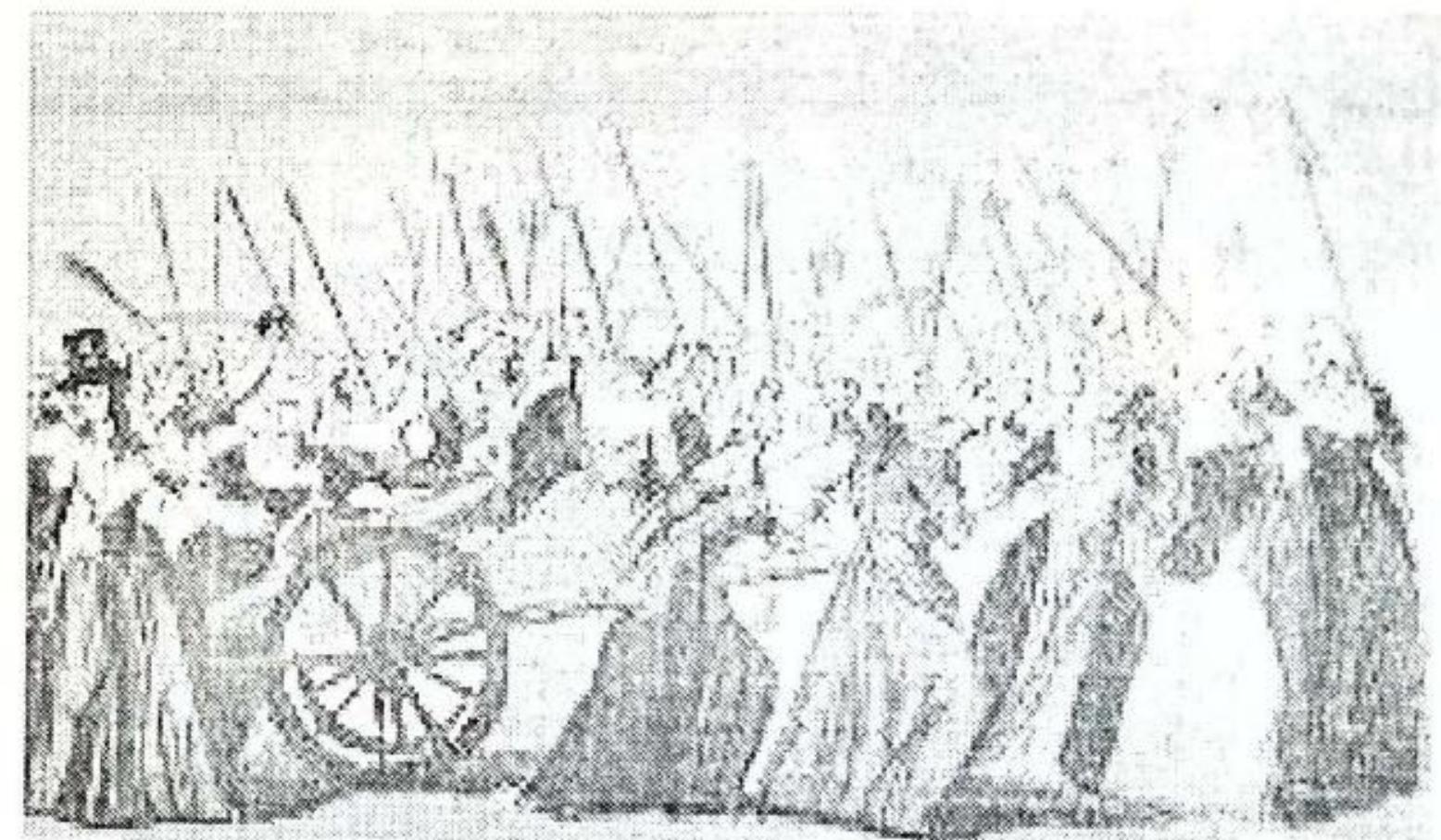
1. **The calling of the estate general meeting 15th May 1789.** The estates general meeting was to be attended by 308 clergy, 285 nobles and 621 members of the third estate. It was intended to find solutions to the worsening economic crisis in France, it should be noted that King Louis XVI demanded that the three estates seat separately and present all of the grievances. King Louis refused to meet the third estate and under the leadership of Comte De Mirabeau, the third estate declared themselves into the national assembly. This event had a number of implications towards the progress of the revolution.
 - i. The calling of estate general meeting brought the third estate together and realized that they had the same grievances. Thus unity was created.
 - ii. The calling of estate general meeting gave the revolution a starting point in that it was after this that the third estate formed the national assembly.
 - iii. It exposed the weakness of King Louis the XVI after refusing to meet the third estate.
 - iv. The inconsistence of King Louis XVI was exposed and this signified that the king was not willing to listen to the third estate.
 - v. It led to rejuvenation of parliamentary system of government as before the calling of the estate general parliamentaLism had been put in the political limbo.
2. **The storming of the bastile prison 14th July 1789.** On 14th the revolutionists went on rampage and attacked the bastile prison, confiscated arms and released the prisoners. This prison was a center of the unfair practices of *letter- de- cachets*, symbolized autocracy and dictatorship. This event had a lot of implications to the revolution.
 - i. It led to the release of all prisoners, many of whom were being detained unfairly and thus were in position to regain their fundamental rights.
 - ii. The storming of the prison led to the establishment of the National Guard and disbandment of the royal guard. The National Guard became a revolutionary army and was out to protect the gains and interest of revolution.
 - iii. The storming of the prison also symbolized collapse of dictatorship in France as the prison symbolized king's powers of *letter- de- cachets*.
 - iv. The revolutionaries were able to acquire arms and ammunitions and this in the end guaranteed their safety.
 - v. With the storming bastile prison, the French flag was changed from white flag to tri-colour flag which symbolized the revolutionary doctrines of liberty, equality and fraternity.
 - vi. The day is still remembered in the history of France because it laid foundation of the collapse he despotism.
 - vii. The old courts in which the French masses suffered were swept aside and thus were replaced by the new local councils to promote justice and fairness in the French society.

- viii. The fall of the Bastille prison changed the political history of France. It was because this that on 14th July every year is cerebrated in France.
- ix. The revolutionists captured guns, took over the command of France and hotel Villa and the whole of Paris and this reduced and weakened the powers of the king who no longer had control over the revolutionists.
- x. With the fall of the Bastille prison, Necker was re-instated as the general controller of France's finances and duke de-Broglie; the hated noble was dismissed implying that revolutionaries were gaining a lot of influence in the politics of France.
- xi. It forced the nobles and clergies to begin running into exile in Austria, Prussia and England where they lived as imigrees.
3. **The abolition of feudal privileges and the session of the stupid dukes 4th August 1789.** It was on 4th August 1789 in the assembly at Versailles that one remarkable event in France took place. The assembly passed 30 proposals to change the whole system of the French law and most of the proposals were raised by the nobles and the clergies hence shouting against themselves and for that matter becoming stupid dukes. The assembly resolved that,
- There were to be abolition of games laws which had made the peasants suffer and which had discriminated them so much.
 - The assembly also resolved that the **salt tax (Gabelle tax)** which had enslaved the common man and promoted his exploitation also was to be abolished.
 - It was also agreed that several feudal dues which were monopolized by the nobles and the clergy and which had complicated the life of the common man be denounced leading to social liberation.
 - It emphasized equality in taxation system implying that even the noble and clergy were to pay taxes and hence the common man was liberated from the burden of taxation and this was a turning point in the history of France.
 - The assembly resolved that there was to be freedom of worship implying that Catholicism was no longer the monopoly of worship.
 - The assembly passed a resolution that there was to be legal punishment and trial by the jury and this liberated the common man from all sorts of suffering and punishment administered by the nobles.
 - The assembly decreed that admission in public service was upon to all French men regardless of their social status hence the principle of promotion was based on merit.
- viii. The assembly agreed with the proposal raised by bishops and clergies where church land and property was to be disposed and distributed to the peasants.
4. **Declaration of rights of man and citizens in August 1789.** After the formation of the national assembly, the delegates deliberated on how to promote equality, peace, unity, reviving the economy and others. After the deliberation a document was produced this came to be known as the "**declaration of rights of man and citizens in France**". This document showed the rights of individual persons in France and it emphasized equality of mankind in all spheres. This document had the following importance:

- i. Declaration of rights of man and citizens brought about equality to all French men as no more privileges were given to persons because of their birth.
- ii. Political liberties were officially announced e.g. freedom of speech, freedom of association, freedom of worship etc.
- iii. Feudalism and its negative implications were abolished as all people had rights.
- iv. It led to the foundation for the fundamental human rights worldwide, all human rights and freedom worldwide have their basis from the declaration of rights of man and citizens.
- v. French masses got a chance to participate evenly in formulating state policies and parliamentary deliberation.
- vi. The document also showed that it was the right of man to demonstrate against any injustice and this was termed as the "**holy duty of every citizen**".

5. **The march of women to Versailles in October 15th 1789.** In October 1789, the Paris commune organization about 6500 women accompanied by men disguising as women and marched for a distance of 20 km from Paris to Versailles. These were demanding for the king's Consideration to reduce the prices of breads and sign on the declaration of rights of man and citizens document. These were guarded by revolutionary guard under the command of General Laffayet. This event had a number of implications in that:

- i. They forced King Louis XVI to sign on the declaration of rights of man and citizens which he had hitherto refused thus the document became regal.
 - ii. As women also participated in the revolution, it signaled equality among the French people as a principal advocated for by the revolution.
 - iii. The march of women led to the transfer of national assembly from Paris to Versailles. Versailles was a strong hold of the monarchy and Paris the breeding ground and center of the revolution.
 - iv. The march of the women forced the king to promise food relief to hungry people and this indicated transformation that the king was going through.
 - v. As a result of the marching of the women, King Louis XVI accepted to be protected by the National Guard which was the revolution army other than the royal guard
 - vi. It humiliated the king in that he was forced to march from Versailles to Paris with the revolutionaries.
6. **The civil constitution of the clergy in July 1790.** In 1790 the national assembly enacted a law which was intended to reduce the influence of the Catholic Church in the



MARCH OF WOMEN TO VERSAILLES IN OCTOBER 1789

Feminists were present in large numbers during the revolution. Women's demands were mainly focused on reducing the cost of living and improving working conditions. They also demanded the right to vote and to participate in government. The march of women to Versailles was a significant moment in the revolution, as it forced the king to agree to the demands of the revolutionaries.

affairs of France. The Catholic Church had dominated all aspects of French politics to the dissatisfaction of the masses. Thus a law was passed which came to be known as the "civil constitution of clergy" where the clergy became civil servants and it had the following implication.

- i. Large chunks of land which belonged to the Catholic Church were nationalized and sold to the peasants; this gave a chance to the landless French men to acquire land.
- ii. There was abolition of Church taxes which was being imposed on to the peasants. In so doing feudal tendencies were reduced.
- iii. With the civil constitution of clergy, it granted religious freedom which the French masses were fighting for thus religious intolerance which was practiced by the Catholic Church was abolished.
- iv. It crippled the influence of the Catholic Church in state affairs. It should be noted that before the civil constitution of the clergy the clergy and the Catholic Church had unlimited powers in state affairs.
- v. The civil constitution of clergy worsened the relationship between France and the rest of the Catholic states. This was so because the constitution had humiliated the Catholics and the pope.
- vi. The constitution divided the church into two i.e. the juror and non-juror priests which inevitably contributed to the reign of terror.
- vii. It influenced many clergies and nobles to flee France to neighboring states where they become imigrees.

7. **The king attempted flight to verrennes of 22nd June 1791.** As events were unfolding the king choose to free French to Austria. On 22nd the king and his family fled to Austria but they were interrupted at the Austria boarder and were brought back, this event had far reaching impact on the course of French revolution.

- i. It showed the inconsistent nature of King Louis XVI and his weak character i.e. he was ill advised by his brain chicken woman Marie Antoinette to take such a risky move
- ii. It made the revolutionaries to declare a republic in France in 1792 and this symbolise the end of monarchism in France.
- iii. It made the revolutionaries to view king louis XVI as a traitor and anti revolution. This was so because he was trying to free France to join the imigres to fight against France.
- iv. The king lost support even from the few people (peasants) who still loved him.
- v. The aborted flight of king intensified enmity between France and the rest of Europe depending on the way the royal family was treated.
- vi. It compelled the staunch aristocrats to revolt against the revolutionary government and this in the end conditioned the out break of the reign of terror.

8. **The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.** After the aborted flight, King Louis was tried and sentenced to death thus in 1793 he was killed together with his family. This event was important in that:

- i. It ended the bourbon's monarchy in France.
- ii. It further worsened the relationship between France and the rest of the Europe.

- iii. It conditioned the outbreak of revolutionary wars i.e. when France was fighting the rest of Europe.
- iv. It exposed the barbaric nature of the revolutionary government.

THE REIGN OF TERROR (1792-1794)

Reign of terror was a second phase in the course of the French revolution. This is so because the French revolution had started as a mere demonstration and agitation for reforms but later changed course into violence. The reign of terror was a situation where France was characterized by fear, panic, and uncertainty of people's lives. It was spear

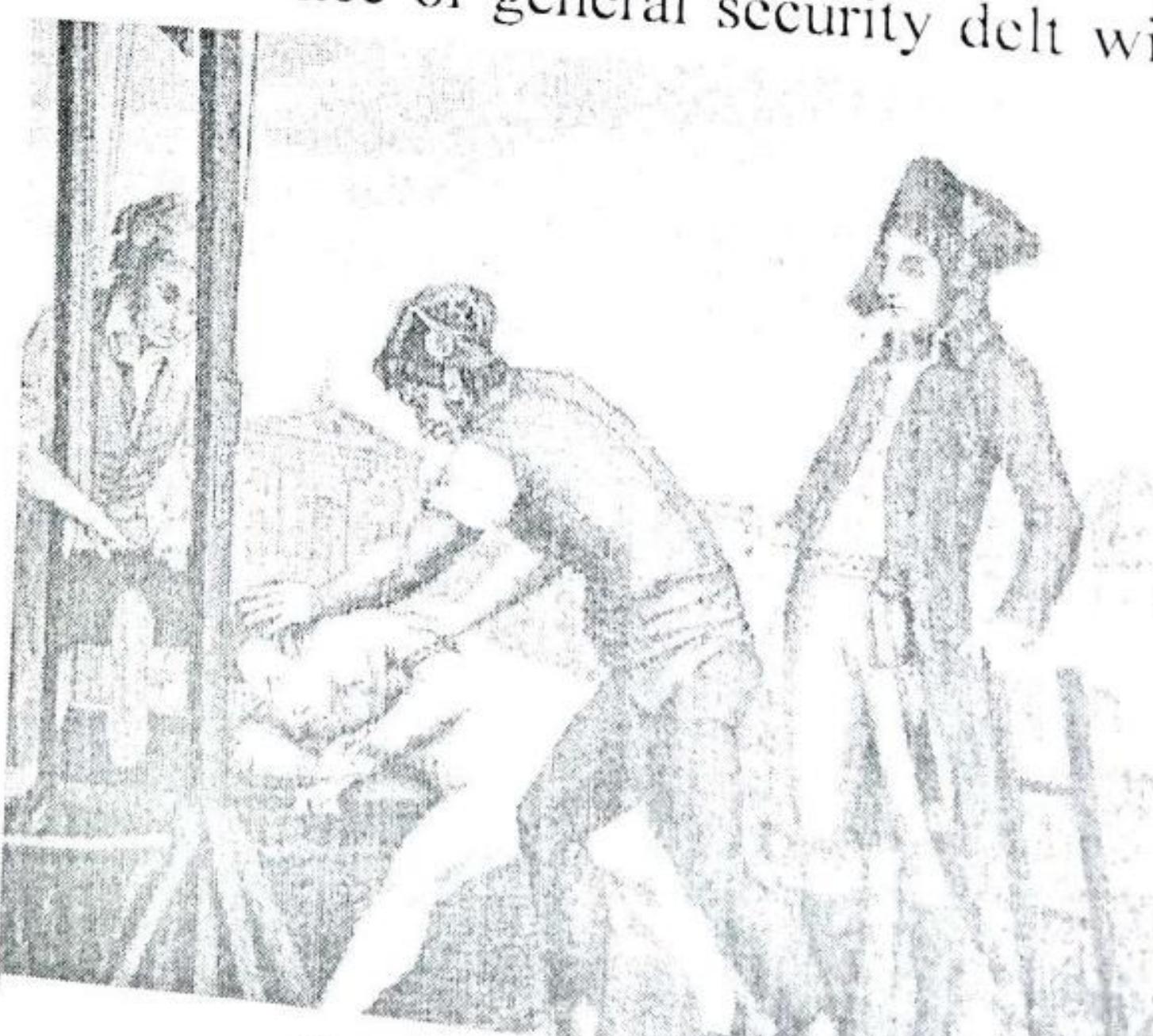
headed by revolutionary diehards e.g. Robespierre, Marat, Danton, Herbert etc. during this time many people were guillotined. The reign of terror was instigated by a number of factors.



King's head after execution

1. 1. The barbaric execution of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie in 1793 led to the reign of terror. After this event many people who still loved King Louis opposed the revolutionary government and these were being supported by other European monarchs who viewed this event as barbaric and satanic. In so doing the revolutionaries employed violence to bring the country to terror.
2. The death of Mirabeau in April 1791 signified the occurrence of the reign of terror. It should be noted that Mirabeau was a moderate and acted as a go between revolutionist and the monarchy. At his death bed he said "***I see myself going to die, but I carry with me the last rags of the monarchy***". His death left a political vacuum which was exploited by extremists hence leading to terror.
3. The weak character of King Louis XVI also contributed to the reign of terror. The stubbornness of King Louis to give reforms e.g. his refusal to sign in the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and his attempted flight, made the revolutionaries to become violent as he was viewed as a traitor. This consequently led to the outbreak of the reign of terror.
4. The impact of 1790 Civil Constitution of the Clergy had far reaching influence towards the reign of terror. It should be acknowledged that this constitution created two classes of clergy e.g. the juror priests and non-juror priests. The juror priests signed the constitution but the non-juror priests refused and became rebellious e.g. they organized revolts in the western districts of France against the revolutionary government. As a result the revolutionaries reacted with extreme brutality which led to the bloodshed hence terror.

5. The declaration of the right of man and citizens left a lot to be desired. The French masses became extremely excited and the vehemently criticized the revolutionary government for its failure to arrest the social, political and economic difficulties that France was experiencing. Thus for revolutionaries to calm down the situation employed violence which amounted to terror.
6. The threat of emigrees should not be underestimated to have caused the reign of terror. These were major nobles and clergy who had fled to France especially after the declaration of rights of man and citizens and the civil constitution of the clergy. These had wanted to have a counter revolution against France to do away with the new government. Thus for the revolutionary government to do away with the threat of emigrees, it became violent to both real and suspected support of emigrees hence terror.
7. The rise of political clubs also contributed to the reign of terror. Between 1791 and 1792, many political parties emerged e.g. the Jacobins, the Girondines etc. It should also be emphasised that these political parties struggled to eliminate each other from the political arena in order to take over leadership thus the struggle created political instabilities making the revolution to embark on a new course of violence.
8. The threat from the foreign powers also had an implication towards the occurrence of terror. The attempt by the revolutionaries to export the revolution to other powers of Europe made France to conflict with other powers. Consequently as a result, it resulted into the revolutionary wars in which France was defeated. As a result of defeat led to massive opposition from the masses.
9. The influence of Paris mob partly made the outbreak of the reign of terror inevitable. As a result of economic hardship in France many people were forced to go in urban areas where the living conditions were even worse. This forced them to organise themselves into mobs and used mob justice to achieve their aims. These were also used by extremists like Robespierre to harass and exterminate his critics. They caused a lot of uncertainty which conditioned the occurrence of terror.
10. The formation of different committees e.g. the Committee of Public Safety which passed law and spy on different departments in France, the Committee of General Security dealt with internal affairs and the Revolutionary Tribunal which was responsible for trying all those who seemed to be against the revolution. Although these committees were established to bring stability in France, their activities created fear and panic as many real and suspected anti-revolutionaries were taken to the guillotine.
11. The tension between the conservatives and reformists also caused terror. It should be noted that the revolution led to the end of



King Louis at the guillotine

dictatorship and therefor established democracy in France. As a result tension, suspicion and direct confrontation broke out between the reformists and the conservatives. The conservatives tried to destroy what had been achieved by the revolution, Consequently forcing extreme reformist to use brutality against conservatives hence leading to the reign of terror.

12. The role of leaders of the government e.g danton and Robespierre who were extremists and used extreme measure to make people appreciate the achievements of the revolution.
13. The over expectation of the french masses for reforms in an over night which did not happen. This led to frequent demonstrations against the government and as a result ,for the government to bring certainty, it used terror.
14. The introduction of worship of reason and the law of 22nd prairial introduced by Robespierre and those who refused this, were forced. As a result many people were killed / guillotined and hence the reign of terror.
15. The pilmtz declaration of 1792 when the kings of Austria and Prussia jointly made a declaration to fight against France and stop the violence of the revolution. This forced the revolutionarists to become more violent on real and suspected supporters of these countries.
16. The rise of Herbart who was an atheist and was determined to destroy christianity in France together with its followers. They closed churches and disrupted the functions of the catholic church hence causing uncertainty among catholics.
17. The failure of the national guard to control the situation especially after general lafayete had escaped into exile. This weakened the french army hence leading to increased violence.
18. The need by the revolutionalists to internationalise the revolution in what come to be known as "**the edit of fraternity**" ie war to kings and peace to the people.
19. The storming of the bastile prison.
20. The influence of the king's attempted flight to Austria.

EFFECTS OF THE REIGN OF TERROR

1. The reign of teror led to the end of Bourbon monarchy. With the execution of the king Louis XVI in January 21st 1793, the Bourbon's monarchy and ancient regime came to an end.
2. It led to massive loss of lives in France and even important person like Robespierre who engineered it were killed. E.g. in about 50 (fifty) days, nearly 1500 heads fell.
3. The reign of teror partly instigated the rise of Napoleon to power. This was so because teror led to the death of very many senior officers in the French army and others went into exile living Napoleon's position unchallenged.
4. Terror worsened the economic situation in France and this was due to the fact that there was massive unemployment, massive destruction of property and other economic activities which led to the economic stagnation.

5. Terror worsened the relationship between France and the rest of Europe and consequently in 1792 European power formed a coalition against France.
6. It led to massive influx of refuge especially in Austria and Prussia. This came as a result of the fact that the nobles and clergy fled from France for the safety of their lives creating refugee problem in other countries of Europe.
7. The reign of terror led to the rise of directorate government. This government was established in order to avert and rectify the problems which were affecting France at the time. This government ruled France up to 1799 when it was overthrown by Napoleon.
8. Terror strengthened the forces of republicanism especially after the declaration of France as a republic.
9. It destroyed the relationship between France and the rest of Europe especially after the execution of King Louis XVI.
10. The reign of terror caused more fear and panic especially among the nobles and the clergy who were remaining in France and as a result began to escape into exile in Austria and Prussia where they regrouped to fight against the revolution.
11. The reign of terror discredited the political party democracy which had been introduced in France when parties like the Jacobins and Girondins were formed but their leaders in the period of terror were killed e.g. Danton, Murat and Robespierre.
12. The reign of terror completely disorganized the Catholic Church when the ideology of Herbertists was established which was in conflict with Christianity.

REVOLUTIONARY WARS (1792-1802)

Between 1792 and 1802, the revolutionary France went into war with other countries of Europe e.g. between 1792 and 1797 a number of coalitions were established against the revolutionary France. During this time France was fighting with other countries e.g. Spain, Austria, Russia, etc. there were a number of factors that instigated the occurrence of these wars

1. The execution of King Louis XVI and his wife made France to be at loggerheads with the rest of Europe. Other countries took it as a barbaric, backwardness and uncivilized. Consequently other monarchs declared war on France in order to punish the revolutionary government and out of the fear that the same would happen to them thus leading revolutionary wars.
2. The need by the revolutionaries to export the revolutionary ideas to other oppressed persons of Europe conditional occurrence of revolutionary wars. After the massive achievements that had been attained in France, the French masses (the French assembly) were determined to liberate other nationalities in Europe. As a result, wars were declared on to different countries and on the other hand European ma...

prevent the revolutionary principles from being exported into their countries thus leading to tension that resulted into the revolutionary wars.

3. The Brunswick manifesto, this was declared by general Brunswick the commander of the Austro- Prussian forces. This was intended to threaten the revolution government in France because of the way they had treated the monarchy in France. This was tantamounting to declaration of war against the revolutionary government in France. Thus the revolutionary government reacted by declaring war against Prussia and Austria hence the revolutionary wars.
4. The influence of immigrants these had fled France especially after the declaration rights of man and citizens and civil constitution of clergy. These went to countries e.g. Austria and Prussia and organized a strong force to over throw the revolutionary government. In reaction the revolutionary France declared war on all those countries that were harboring and supporting the immigrants thus the revolution wars.
5. The economic interest /colonial interest. It should be argued that the revolutionary wars were partly as a result of economic interest. This is so because the revolutionary France had wanted to extend her influence which was undermining the interest of other powers e.g. the Italian campaigning of 1796 and Egyptian campaign of 1798 were partly as a result of these interests.
6. The civil constitution of the clergy of 1790 partly conditioned the outbreak of these wars. After the revolutionaries had declared this constitution; it annoyed the Catholics in France and elsewhere in Europe. Subsequently the Catholics in other countries appealed to their government to declare war against the revolution. The people themselves condemned this constitution and therefore urged the catholic states to over throw the revolutionary government thus leading to the revolutionary wars.
7. The expansionist policy of the French revolutionary government caused war between France and the rest of Europe. The French revolutionary government had wanted to extend its influence to other countries of Europe e.g. in Belgium, Switzerland, Italy etc. This could not be accommodated by other powers that also had similar interest in those countries. Consequently this led to confrontation between France and other powers hence war.
8. These wars were also caused by the policy pursued by the directory government. The government had wanted to destroy the enemies of France e.g. Austria and Britain and this partly explains why in 1796 France launched an attack on Italy under the command Napoleon Bonaparte in the famous Italian campaign.
9. The assertion to the throne of Austria by Francis II after the death of Leopold II. Francis was more enthusiastic, heroic and favoured the war policy against France in order to protect the royal family in France.
10. The political atmosphere in France increased war feelings. The Jacobins and the Girondins believed that it was through war against the neighbours that the gains of the revolution would be protected hence influencing the assembly to maintain the war policy against neighbours.

11. The declaration of the edict of fraternity which was done by France. It was an appeal by the French people to all people of Europe to rise against their despotic governments and this influenced the European governments to declare war against France.
12. The change of public opinion in Europe against France. This was because of the fact that the developments in France were against the political and social arrangements in Europe. This forced European states to form coalitions against France and this increased war feelings in France.
13. The impact of military reforms that had been carried out in France by 1795 when general Carnot accomplished the necessary military reforms and this forced the French government to pursue a war policy against neighbours.
14. The disagreements between France and Prussia over the claims of German provinces in eastern France since 1648 when the treaty of Westphalia was signed in the time of the Holy Roman Empire. France had taken the German provinces of Alsace and Lorraine and this forced Prussia to ally with Austria to fight against the revolutionary France.
15. The impact of the declaration of France as a republic in 1792 which was a great enemy of monarchism. This therefore forced the neighbouring states to declare war on France in order to destroy the principles of republicanism.
16. The influence of the rise of Napoleon I who was a military hero, genius and brave. He successfully conducted the Italian campaign and therefore kept France in a war policy.
17. The situation of the reign of terror in France which threatened the lives of the French people including the clergy, the nobles and therefore neighbouring states like Austria declared war to create political sanity and order which had been violated by the reign of terror.
18. The appeal by the pope to the rest of Europe especially the catholic states to come together to rescue the catholic church, the king and the French Catholics of the western French region of la-vendee who opposed the changes within the catholic church. This influenced the catholic states of Europe to declare war against France.
19. The impact of the declaration of the *pilmtz* where the two leaders agreed that the cause of King Louis XVI was a cause of every monarchy in Europe they therefore declared war on France hence wars.

EFFECTS OF THE WAR

- It led to the end of the Bourbon's monarchy in 1792. After the aborted flight of the king King Louis was accused of being a traitor and anti-revolution and as a result France declared a republic and this ended the bourbon monarchy.
- The revolutionary war led to the massive loss of lives and destruction of property between 1792 and 1802 France and other countries of Europe registered a number of losses both civilians and combatants.
- These wars led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. During these wars Napoleon chosen to command the Italian and Egyptian campaigns which made him very popular.

among the French masses. Subsequently when he declared a coup in 1799, he was welcomed because of the popularity he had acquired.

4. It led to economic stagnation in France and the rest of Europe. During these wars a lot of economic resources were channeled to purchasing military hardware and other war logistics. Again political instabilities limited the smoothness of trade which resulted into economic decadence.
5. It led to the spread of revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality, and fraternity. In 1792, the national convention issued a directive and declared war to all monarchs of Europe and this in end exported revolutionary sentiments to other countries of Europe.
6. They greatly contributed to occurrence of reign of terror. This was so because the defeat of France especially in 1792 forced the masses to strongly oppose the government, a coalition of Britain, Austria, Holland, Prussia, Spain and Piedmont attacked and defeated France, this forced the revolutionary government to issue a law of suspect where all loyalist sympathizers about one thousand perished.
7. It enabled France to expand its frontiers e.g. she conquered Italy in 1797 in famous Italian campaign. This in end undermined the survival of Austria Empire.
8. The Revolutionary wars gave unity and cooperation among European states. This was so because these states formed coalitions against the revolutionary France symbolizing unity within Europe
9. It caused political instabilities and insecurity in France as the revolutionary government began to pass unrealistic laws like the law of suspect, the edict of the imigrees and the edict of the clergy.
10. The wars enabled France to acquire some territories e.g. in Italy, Germany, Belgium etc.
11. As the wars progressed, the revolutionary army was not successful, it suffered defeat and humiliation by Austria and Prussia, made Lafayette unpopular in France and it was because of this that he escaped to other countries which affected the French army for some time.
12. It was partly because of the revolutionary wars that the government in France established dictatorial organizations such as the committee of public safety, the committee of general security and the revolutionary tribunal which in the end led to the reign of terror.

Qn. Account for the collapse of the ancient regime by 1792.

1. The inherent weakness of the king.
2. The influence of the French philosophers.
3. The impact of the storming of the Bastille prison.
4. The calling of the estates general meeting.
5. The weak character of Marie Antoinette.
6. The outbreak of the French revolution of 1789.
7. The failure of the royal guard to defend the ancient regime.

8. The declaration of rights of man and citizen.
9. The death of Mirabeau in 1791.
10. The enactment on the 5th September 1791 constitution.
11. The rise of political clubs with deferent interests.
12. The hostility caused by the intervention of other European powers in the affairs of France.
13. The role and influence of mobs especially the Paris mob.
14. The role of radicals e.g. Robespierre, Danton, Marat i.e. while Robespierre was addressing the national assembly said that "**Louis must perish because our country must live**"
15. The king's attempted flight to Austria.
16. The influence of the American war of independence.
17. The influence of the British political system.
18. The king's collaboration with anti revolutionaries.
19. The execution of King Louis XVI in 1793.
20. The declaration of France as a republic in 1792.
21. The worsening financial crisis in France.
22. The impact of the civil constitution of the clergy.
23. The impact of the Pillnitz Declaration by the king of Austria and Prussia.
24. The impact of the matching of women to Versailles.

THE DIRECTORATE GOVERNMENT IN (1795-1799)

The directorate government was established in 1795 after the national assembly had voted to establish a new government which new government was to try to restore peace, unity, law, order and sanity in France. This government was dominated by conservatives who were at the same time middle class. It was indicated that directors would retire each year and at first Barras became the director, Carnot, Sieyès, Ducos etc.

The board of directors was to be assisted by two councils e.g. the council of 250 people who were above 45 years and that of 500 members which comprised men of 30 years and above. The directorate government achieved a number of things.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

1. The government was in position to successfully suppress revolts. E.g. in 1795, the loyalist had revolted against the government and the directorate government suppressed it through the effective command of Napoleon Bonaparte. This in the end saved France from internal opposition and apprising during this time.

2. This government was in position to secure foreign glory for France. This was done especially after 1796 Italian campaign where Napoleon was in position to defeat Austria and therefore Italy became a French territory. In 1798, the famous Egyptian campaign was also launched and this also glorified France in the Europe.
3. The directorate government restored constitutionalism in France. Before the directorate government, France was under the dictatorial rule of the Jacobins under Robespierre; even the 1791 constitution had loopholes. Therefore the 1795 constitution re- instituted the rights, freedom and previllages of the french masses.
4. This government brought an end to the reign of terror that had brought about anarchy and catastrophy in France. This terror had led to massive loss of live and destruction of properties e.g. during this time Louis the XVI and his wife were executed, Danton, Robespierre etc.
5. The directorate government was in position to strengthen the French army to meet the challenges of the time. The army was well equiped and most importantly was put under efficient command of army officers e.g. Napoleon Bonaparte. This increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the French army
6. The govrnment preserved the republican system of government which was established in 1792. This government had replaced the Bourbon monarchy after the declaration of france as a republic. Even with in the time of directorate government, civil and political rights as declared by the declaration of rights of man and citizen and civil constitution of the clergy were maintained.
7. The government maintained parliamentally democracy in France. It should be ascertained that the French masses had wanted to revive parliamentalism in France. In so doing the 1795 constitution voted in the favour of the establishment of the two councils i.e. the chamber of deputies which was above 45 years (elders) and the chamber of peers which was above 30 years. These were to discuss and amend the constitution were necessary.
8. The directorate government brought about political stability in France and this was partly as a result of the fact that it practised reconcilation, political prisoners were released and many imigrees were allowed to return home. This in the end made the French people who were tramatised by the reign of terror to regain their humanity and this was a step towards realisation of personal freedom and rights
9. This government managed to spread revolution ideas of liberty, equality and fraternitiy to the rest of Europe and this was in line with the revolutionary aspiration. In this case France spread revolutionary ideas in the italian peninsular and even Egypt.
10. The government acted against the Jacobins rebels when they tried to occupy the whole of the assembly but this government appointed general Murat who drove the rebels out of the assembly and the country was saved from chaos.
11. The government protected France from foreign invasion e.g. in 1797, the first coalition had been formed against France and this was defeated by France thus guaranteeing the country's security and safety.

12. The government tried to enrich the French treasury by making the conquered states pay tributes e.g. after the Italian campaign, Austria was made to pay war costs to France which enriched the French economy.
13. The government facilitated the rise of Napoleon especially after helping him in the Egyptian and Italian campaign.

FAILURES OF THE GOVERNMENT

1. There was massive corruption and embezzlement of public funds where most of the administrators were self seekers with no patriotic feelings since the government failed to deal with these problems thus making the government unfair and unpopular which in the end resulted into its collapse.
2. It failed to reconcile the Catholic Church with the state in France. Since the occurrence of French revolution and declaration of the civil constitution of the clergy, the relationship between the Catholic Church and the state was unbecoming thus the failure of this government to reconcile the two symbolized massive weakness.
3. The government failed to achieve the expectation of France people. It failed to extend the franchise due to the restrictions which were put in place as voting qualifications consequently the government had failed to live up to the expectation of French revolutionarists.
4. It failed to rectify the worsening economy of France and this was so because the French economy was characterized by massive inflation, unemployment, scarcity of goods and services, starvation etc. This made France to remain backward.
5. The directors themselves were divided and this can be exemplified when Napoleon declared a coup, same directors supported him while others opposed him. This was a clear manifestation that the government was disunited.
6. The government also failed to maintain Napoleon's Compo-Formio gains. This is so because in 1798 France was defeated in Egypt.
7. The directorate government although tried to carry out reforms in the economy of France, failed to overcome some economic pit falls e.g. agriculture remained poor and industry remained deteriorating, communication and transport remained under developed, financial bankruptcy and inflation persisted which kept the directorate government unpopular among French men.
8. The directorate government was for the rich middle class who were conservatives and neglected the interests of the peasants who had carried out the revolution. The peasants were discriminated, there was no equality and above all they remained poor and the government did nothing to alleviate the situation.
9. The government lacked clear sense of foresightedness and failed to win the loyalty of the nationals. This made the government unpopular and that's why it was overthrown by Napoleon in the Brumaire coup which they could not even suppress.

Effects of the French revolution

1. Led to the revival of parliamentary democracy i.e. the national assembly of may 1789
2. Led to the formation of the national guard which became a people's army
3. Led to the emergence of the tri- color flag that represented the revolutionary doctrines
4. The declaration of rights of man and citizens guaranteed people's rights and freedoms
5. Led to the spread of the revolutionary ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity which boosted French glory and prestige
6. Led to the revival of constitutionalism i.e. the 1791 constitution
7. Led to reforms in the local government i.e. the old provinces were destroyed and France was divided into 83 departments which were divided into districts and districts into cantons for easy administration
8. The institution of the judiciary was overhauled i.e. equality before the law was upheld, public hearing and trial by the jury
9. Promoted nationalism in France
10. Reduced the powers and influence of the catholic church especially through the civil constitution of the clergy
11. Abolished feudalism and serfdom
12. Led to the introduction of political pluralisms
13. Led to territorial gains to France e.g. in Italy
14. Abolished the discriminative social system
15. Led to the overthrow of autocratic kings
16. Led to introduction of military reforms
17. Led to introduction of economic reforms
18. Led to promotion of higher education
19. Led to abolition of privileges and limited royal powers

However

1. The declaration of rights of man and citizens neglected women's rights
2. Led to the reign of terror
3. Intensified enmity between France and other countries of Europe
4. Led to massive destruction of property
5. Led to economic crisis
6. Led to religious anarchy especially with the introduction of new religions
7. Led to massive loss of life
8. The 1791 constitution had loopholes which created uncertainty in France
9. Led to conflicts between the state and the catholic church
10. Led to the rise of radical extremists

Questions

- i. *Examine the impact of the French revolution of 1789 on Europe by 1848?*
- ii. *Assess the impact of the French revolution of 1789 by 1794?*