

# THE CREATION OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM

The political spectrum is the way we divide people and ideas into conservative, liberal and moderate groups. This tradition began during the French Revolution where people sat in the Assembly in the relation to the podium. Below, take notes on the characteristics of members of the Assembly in each column.

## THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 1792

Left	Center	Right

## THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM



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**Directions:** *Read each of the statements below and write the letter of the political spectrum that best matches it.*

**L** = Left Wing

**C** = Center

**R** = Right Wing

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The Jacobins wanted to form a Republic.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The Girondins wanted to form a Constitutional Monarchy.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Émigré members of the First and Second Estates formed a Royalist army designed to overthrow the National Assembly and restore the absolute monarchy.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Members of the lower clergy were sympathetic to the democratic demands of the Third Estate but they opposed acts of violence on all sides.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Members of the First Estate opposed the new government on the grounds that it violated the principle of the Divine Right of Kings.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The poor and middle class of Paris stormed the Bastille because it was a symbol of the French Monarchy and the Old Regime.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ During the Great Fear some peasants smashed mansions owned by members of the Second Estate and tore up feudal documents that tied the peasants to the aristocrats' land.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The King's minister Mr. Necker sought to negotiate with the Third Estate but he was fired by the King and replaced.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Leaders such as Danton and Robespierre called for the execution of all traitors to the new French government.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ American revolutionary Thomas Paine supported the French Revolution but opposed its violent excesses.