

= Louis XVIII of France =

Louis XVIII ( Louis Stanislas Xavier ; 17 November 1755 ? 16 September 1824 ) , known as " the Desired " ( le Désiré ) , was a monarch of the House of Bourbon who ruled as King of France from 1814 to 1824 except for a period in 1815 known as the Hundred Days . Louis XVIII spent twenty @-@ three years in exile , from 1791 to 1814 , during the French Revolution and the First French Empire , and again in 1815 , during the period of the Hundred Days , upon the return of Napoleon I from Elba .

Until his accession to the throne of France , Louis held the title of Count of Provence as brother of King Louis XVI . On 21 September 1792 , the National Convention abolished the monarchy and deposed King Louis XVI , who was later executed by guillotine . When the young Louis XVII , Louis XVI 's son , died in prison in June 1795 , Louis XVIII succeeded his nephew as titular King .

During the French Revolution and Napoleonic era , Louis XVIII lived in exile in Prussia , the United Kingdom and Russia . When the Sixth Coalition finally defeated Napoleon in 1814 , Louis was placed in what he , and the French royalists , considered his rightful position . Napoleon escaped from his exile in Elba , however , and restored his French Empire . Louis XVIII fled and a Seventh Coalition declared war on the French Empire , defeated Napoleon , and restored Louis XVIII to the French throne .

Louis XVIII ruled as king for slightly less than a decade . The Bourbon Restoration regime was a constitutional monarchy ( unlike the ancien régime , which was absolutist ) . As a constitutional monarch , Louis XVIII 's royal prerogative was reduced substantially by the Charter of 1814 , France 's new constitution . Louis had no children ; therefore , upon his death , the crown passed to his brother , Charles , Count of Artois . Louis XVIII was the last French monarch to die while reigning ; as his successor Charles X ( 1824 @-@ 1830 ) abdicated and both Louis Philippe I ( 1830 @-@ 1848 ) and Napoléon III ( 1852 @-@ 1870 ) were deposed .

= = Youth = =

Louis Stanislas Xavier , styled Count of Provence from birth , was born on 17 November 1755 in the Palace of Versailles , the son of Louis , Dauphin of France , and his wife Maria Josepha of Saxony . He was the grandson of the reigning King Louis XV . As a son of the Dauphin he was a Fils de France . Louis Stanislas was christened Louis Stanislas Xavier six months after his birth in accordance with Bourbon family tradition , being nameless before his baptism . By this act , he became also a Knight of the Order of the Holy Spirit . The name of Louis was bestowed because it was typical of a prince of France ; Stanislas was chosen to honour his great @-@ grandfather King Stanisław I of Poland ; and Xavier was chosen for Saint Francis Xavier , whom his mother 's family held as one of their patron saints .

At the time of his birth , Louis Stanislas was fourth in line to the throne of France , behind his father and his two elder brothers : Louis Joseph Xavier , Duke of Burgundy , and Louis Auguste , Duke of Berry . The former died in 1761 , leaving Louis Auguste as heir apparent until the Dauphin 's own premature death in 1765 . The two deaths elevated Louis Stanislas to second in the line of succession , while Louis Auguste acquired the title Dauphin .

Louis Stanislas found comfort in his governess , Madame de Marsan , Governess of the Children of France , as he was her favourite among his siblings . Louis Stanislas was taken away from his governess when he turned seven , the age at which the education of boys of royal blood and of the nobility was turned over to men . Antoine de Quélen de Stuer de Caussade , Duke of La Vauguyon , a friend of his father , was named his governor .

Louis Stanislas was an intelligent boy , excelling in classics . His education was of the same quality and consistency as that of his older brother , Louis Auguste , despite the fact that Louis Auguste was heir and Louis Stanislas was not . Louis Stanislas ' education was quite religious in nature ; several of his teachers were men of the cloth . La Vauguyon drilled into young Louis Stanislas and his brothers the way he thought princes should " know how to withdraw themselves , to like to work , " and " to know how to reason correctly " .

In April 1771 , Louis Stanislas ' education was formally concluded and his own independent household was established , which astounded contemporaries with its extravagance : in 1773 , the number of servants reached 390 . In the same month his household was founded , Louis was granted several titles by his grandfather , Louis XV : Duke of Anjou , Count of Maine , Count of Perche , and Count of Senoches . During this period of his life he was often known by the title Count of Provence .

On 17 December 1773 , he was ordained as a Grand Master of the Order of St. Lazarus .

= = Marriage = =

On 14 May 1771 , Louis Stanislas married Princess Maria Giuseppina of Savoy . Marie Joséphine ( as she was known in France ) was a daughter of Victor Amadeus , Duke of Savoy ( later King Victor Amadeus III of Sardinia ) , and his wife Maria Antonia Ferdinanda of Spain .

A luxurious ball followed the wedding on 20 May . Louis Stanislas was repulsed by his wife , who was considered ugly , tedious , and ignorant of the customs of the court of Versailles . The marriage remained unconsummated for years . Biographers disagree about the reason . The most common theories propose Louis Stanislas ' alleged impotence ( according to biographer Antonia Fraser ) or his unwillingness to sleep with his wife due to her poor personal hygiene . She never brushed her teeth , plucked her eyebrows , or used any perfumes . At the time of his marriage , Louis Stanislas was obese and waddled instead of walked . He never exercised and continued to eat enormous amounts of food .

Despite the fact that Louis Stanislas was not infatuated with his wife , he boasted that the two enjoyed vigorous conjugal relations ? but such declarations were held in low esteem by courtiers at Versailles . He also proclaimed his wife to be pregnant merely to spite Louis Auguste and his wife Marie Antoinette , who had not yet consummated their marriage . The Dauphin and Louis Stanislas did not enjoy a harmonious relationship and often quarrelled , as did their wives . Louis Stanislas did impregnate his wife in 1774 , having conquered his aversion . However , the pregnancy ended in a miscarriage . A second pregnancy in 1781 also miscarried , and the marriage remained childless .

= = At his brother 's court = =

On 27 April 1774 , Louis XV fell ill after contracting smallpox and died the following 10 May . The Dauphin , Louis Auguste , succeeded his grandfather as King Louis XVI . As eldest brother of the king , Louis Stanislas received the title Monsieur . Louis Stanislas longed for political influence . He attempted to gain admittance to the king 's council in 1774 , but failed . Louis Stanislas was left in a political limbo that he called " a gap of 12 years in my political life " . Louis XVI granted Louis Stanislas revenues from the Duchy of Alençon in December 1774 . The duchy was given to enhance Louis Stanislas ' prestige , however , the appanage generated only 300 @, @ 000 livres per annum , an amount much lower than it had been at its peak in the fourteenth century .

Louis Stanislas travelled more through France than other members of the royal family , who rarely left the Île @-@ de @-@ France . In 1774 , he accompanied his sister Clotilde to Chambéry on the journey to meet her bridegroom Charles Emmanuel , Prince of Piedmont , heir to the throne of Sardinia . In 1775 , he visited Lyon and also his spinster aunts Adélaïde and Victoire while they were taking the waters at Vichy . The four provincial tours that Louis Stanislas took before the year 1791 amounted to a total of three months .

On 5 May 1778 , Dr. Lassonne , Marie Antoinette 's private physician , confirmed her pregnancy . On 19 December 1778 , the Queen gave birth to a daughter , who was named Marie @-@ Thérèse Charlotte de France and given the honorific title Madame Royale . The birth of a girl came as a relief to the Count of Provence , who kept his position as heir to Louis XVI , since Salic Law excluded women from acceding to the throne of France . However , Louis Stanislas did not remain heir to the throne much longer . On 22 October 1781 , Marie Antoinette gave birth to the Dauphin Louis Joseph . Louis Stanislas and his brother , the Count of Artois , served as godfathers by proxy for Joseph II , Holy Roman Emperor , the queen 's brother . When Marie Antoinette gave birth to her second son ,

Louis Charles , in March 1785 , Louis Stanislas slid further down the line of succession .

In 1780 , Anne Nompars de Caumont , Countess of Balbi , entered the service of Marie Joséphine . Louis Stanislas soon fell in love with his wife 's new lady @-@ in @-@ waiting and installed her as his mistress , which resulted in the couple 's already small affection for each other cooling entirely . Louis Stanislas commissioned a pavilion for his mistress on a parcel that became known as the Parc Balbi at Versailles .

Louis Stanislas lived a quiet and sedentary lifestyle at this point , not having a great deal to do since his self @-@ proclaimed political exclusion in 1774 . He kept himself occupied with his vast library of over 11 @,@ 000 books at Balbi 's pavilion , reading for several hours each morning . In the early 1780s , he also incurred huge debts totalling 10 million livres , which his brother Louis XVI paid .

An Assembly of Notables ( the members consisted of magistrates , mayors , nobles and clergy ) was convened in February 1787 to ratify the financial reforms sought by the Controller @-@ General of Finance Charles Alexandre de Calonne . This provided the Count of Provence , who abhorred the radical reforms proposed by Calonne , the opportunity he had long been waiting for to establish himself in politics . The reforms proposed a new property tax , and new elected provincial assemblies that would have a say in local taxation . Calonne 's proposition was rejected outright by the notables , and , as a result , Louis XVI dismissed him . The Archbishop of Toulouse , Étienne Charles de Loménie de Brienne , acquired Calonne 's ministry . Brienne attempted to salvage Calonne 's reforms , but ultimately failed to convince the notables to approve them . A frustrated Louis XVI dissolved the assembly .

Brienne 's reforms were then submitted to the Parlement of Paris in the hopes that they would be approved . ( A parlement was responsible for ratifying the king 's edicts . Each province had its own parlement , but the Parlement of Paris was the most significant of all . ) The Parlement of Paris refused to accept Brienne 's proposals and pronounced that any new taxation would have to be approved by an Estates @-@ General ( the nominal parliament of France ) . Louis XVI and Brienne took a hostile stance against this rejection , and Louis XVI had to implement a " bed of justice " ( Lit de justice ) , which automatically registered an edict in the Parlement of Paris , to ratify the desired reforms . On 8 May , two of the leading members of the Parlement of Paris were arrested . There was rioting in Brittany , Provence , Burgundy and Béarn in reaction to their arrest . This unrest was engineered by local magistrates and nobles , who enticed the people to revolt against the Lit de Justice , which was quite unfavourable to the nobles and magistrates . The clergy also joined the provincial cause , and condemned Brienne 's tax reforms . Brienne conceded defeat in July and agreed to calling the Estates @-@ General to meet in 1789 . He resigned from his post in August and was replaced by the Swiss magnate Jacques Necker .

In November 1788 , a second Assembly of Notables was convened by Jacques Necker , to consider the makeup of the next Estates @-@ General . The Parlement de Paris recommended that the Estates should be the same as they were at the last assembly , in 1614 ( this would mean that the clergy and nobility would have more representation than the Third Estate ) . The notables rejected the " dual representation " proposal . Louis Stanislas was the only notable to vote to increase the size of the Third Estate . Necker disregarded the notables ' judgment , and convinced Louis XVI to grant the extra representation ? Louis duly obliged on 27 December .

= = = The outbreak of the French Revolution = = =

The Estates @-@ General were convened in May 1789 to ratify financial reforms . The Count of Provence favoured a stalwart position against the Third Estate and its demands for tax reform . On 17 June , the Third Estate declared itself a National Assembly , an Assembly not of the Estates , but of the people .

Provence urged the king to act strongly against the declaration , while the king 's popular minister Jacques Necker intended to compromise with the new assembly . Louis XVI was characteristically indecisive . On 9 July , the assembly declared itself a National Constituent Assembly that would give France a Constitution . On 11 July , Louis XVI dismissed Necker , which led to widespread rioting across Paris . On 12 July , the sabre charge of the cavalry regiment of Charles @-@ Eugène de

Lorraine , prince de Lambesc , on a crowd gathered at the Tuileries gardens , sparked the Storming of the Bastille two days later .

On 16 July , the Count of Artois left France with his wife and children , along with many other courtiers . Artois and his family took up residence in Turin , the capital city of his father @-@ in @-@ law 's Kingdom of Sardinia , with the family of the Princes of Condé .

The Count of Provence decided to remain at Versailles . When the royal family plotted to abscond from Versailles to Metz , Provence advised the king not to leave , a suggestion he accepted .

The royal family was forced to leave the palace at Versailles on the day after The Women 's March on Versailles , 5 October 1789 . They were re @-@ located to Paris . There , the Count of Provence and his wife lodged in the Luxembourg Palace , while the rest of the royal family stayed in the Tuileries Palace . In March 1791 , the National Assembly created a law outlining the regency of Louis Charles in case his father died while he was still too young to reign . This law awarded the regency to Louis Charles ' nearest male relative in France ( at that time the Count of Provence ) , and after him , the Duke of Orléans ( bypassing the Count of Artois ) . If Orléans were unavailable , the regency would be submitted to election .

The Count of Provence and his wife fled to the Austrian Netherlands in conjunction with the royal family 's failed Flight to Varennes in June 1791 .

= = Exile = =

= = = The early years = = =

When the Count of Provence arrived in the Low Countries , he proclaimed himself de facto regent of France . He exploited a document that he and Louis XVI had written before the latter 's failed escape to Varennes . The document gave him the regency in the event of his brother 's death or inability to perform his role as king . He would join the other princes @-@ in @-@ exile at Coblenz soon after his escape . It was there that he , the Count of Artois , and the Condés proclaimed that their objective was to invade France . Louis XVI was greatly annoyed by his brothers ' behaviour . Provence sent emissaries to various European courts asking for financial aid , soldiers , and munition . Artois secured a castle for the court in exile in the Electorate of Treves , where their maternal uncle , Clemens Wenceslaus of Saxony , was the Archbishop @-@ Elector . The activities of the émigrés bore fruit when the rulers of Prussia and the Holy Roman Empire gathered at Dresden . They released the Declaration of Pillnitz in August 1791 , which urged Europe to intervene in France if Louis XVI or his family were threatened . Provence 's endorsement of the declaration was not well received in France , either by the ordinary citizens or Louis XVI himself .

In January 1792 , the Legislative Assembly declared that all of the émigrés were traitors to France . Their property and titles were confiscated . The monarchy of France was abolished by the National Convention on 21 September 1792 .

Louis XVI was executed in January 1793 . This left his young son , Louis Charles , as the titular King . The princes @-@ in @-@ exile proclaimed Louis Charles " Louis XVII of France " . The Count of Provence now unilaterally declared himself regent for his nephew , who was too young to be head of the House of Bourbon .

Louis Charles died in June 1795 . His only surviving sibling was his sister Marie @-@ Thérèse , who was not considered a candidate for the throne because of France 's traditional adherence to Salic Law . Thus on 16 June , the princes @-@ in @-@ exile declared the Count of Provence " King Louis XVIII " . The new king accepted their declaration soon after . Louis XVIII busied himself drafting a manifesto in response to Louis XVII 's death . The manifesto , known as " The Declaration of Verona , " was Louis XVIII 's attempt to introduce the French people to his politics . The Declaration of Verona beckoned France back into the arms of the monarchy , " which for fourteen centuries was the glory of France " .

Louis XVIII negotiated Marie @-@ Thérèse 's release from her Paris prison in 1795 . He desperately wanted her to marry her first cousin , Louis @-@ Antoine , Duke of Angoulême , the son

of the Count of Artois . Louis XVIII deceived his niece by telling her that her parents ' last wishes were for her to marry Louis Antoine , and she duly agreed to her uncle @-@ king 's wishes .

Louis XVIII was forced to abandon Verona when Napoleon Bonaparte invaded the Republic of Venice in 1796 .

= = = 1796 ? 1807 = = =

Louis XVIII had been vying for the custody of his niece Marie @-@ Thérèse since her release from the Temple Tower in December 1795 . He succeeded when Francis II , Holy Roman Emperor , agreed to relinquish his custody of her in 1796 . She had been staying in Vienna with her Habsburg relatives since January 1796 . Louis XVIII moved to Blankenburg in the Duchy of Brunswick after his departure from Verona . He lived in a modest two @-@ bedroom apartment over a shop . Louis XVIII was forced to leave Blankenburg when King Frederick William II of Prussia died . In light of this , Marie @-@ Thérèse decided to wait a while longer before reuniting with her uncle .

In 1798 , Tsar Paul I of Russia offered Louis the use of Jelgava Palace in Courland ( now Latvia ) . Paul I also guaranteed Louis 's safety and bestowed upon him a generous pension , however , the tsar later disregarded this allowance . Marie @-@ Thérèse finally joined Louis XVIII at Jelgava in 1799 . In the winter of 1798 ? 1799 , Louis XVIII wrote a biography of Marie Antoinette titled *Réflexions Historiques sur Marie Antoinette* . He attempted to recreate the court life of Versailles at Jelgava , where many old courtiers lived , re @-@ establishing all the court ceremonies , including the lever and coucher ( ceremonies that accompanied waking and bedding , respectively ) .

Marie @-@ Thérèse married her cousin Louis Antoine on 9 June 1799 at Jelgava Palace . Louis XVIII ordered his wife to attend the marriage ceremony in Courland without her long @-@ time friend ( and rumoured lover ) Marguerite de Gourbillon . Queen Marie Joséphine lived apart from her husband in Schleswig Holstein . Louis XVIII was trying desperately to display to the world a united family front . The queen refused to leave her friend behind with unpleasant consequences that rivalled the wedding in notoriety . Louis XVIII knew that his nephew Louis Antoine was not compatible with Marie @-@ Thérèse . Despite this , he still pressed for the marriage , which proved to be quite unhappy and produced no children .

Louis XVIII attempted to strike up a correspondence with Napoleon Bonaparte ( now First Consul of France ) in 1800 . Louis XVIII urged Bonaparte to restore the Bourbons to their throne , but the future emperor was immune to Louis 's requests and continued to consolidate his position as ruler of France .

Louis XVIII encouraged his niece to write her memoirs , as he wished them to be used as Bourbon propaganda . In 1796 and 1803 , Louis also used the diaries of Louis XVI 's final attendants in the same way . In January 1801 , Tsar Paul told Louis XVIII that he could no longer live in Russia . The court at Jelgava was so low on funds that it had to auction some of its possessions to afford the journey out of Russia . Marie @-@ Thérèse even sold a diamond necklace that the Emperor Paul had given her as a wedding gift .

Marie @-@ Thérèse persuaded Queen Louise of Prussia to give her family refuge in Prussian territory . Louise consented , but the Bourbons were forced to assume pseudonyms . With Louis XVIII using the title Comte d 'Isle ( named after his estate in Languedoc ) and at times Comte de Lille , he and his family assumed residence in Warsaw , then part of the province of South Prussia , in the ?azienki Palace from 1801 to 1804 , after an arduous voyage from Jelgava . According to Wirydianna Fiszerowa , a contemporary living there at the time , the Prussian local authorities , wishing to honour the arrivals , had music played , but , wishing to give them a national and patriotic character , chose the *La Marseillaise* , the hymn of the First French Republic with unflattering allusions to both Louis XVI and Louis XVIII . They later apologised for their mistake . ,

It was very soon after their arrival that they learned of the death of Paul I. Louis hoped that Paul 's successor , Alexander I , would repudiate his father 's banishment of the Bourbons ( which he later did ) . Louis XVIII then intended to set off to the Kingdom of Naples . The Count of Artois asked Louis to send his son , Louis Antoine , and daughter @-@ in @-@ law , Marie @-@ Thérèse , to him in Edinburgh , but they did not at this time . Artois had an allowance from King George III of

Great Britain and sent some money to Louis . Louis XVIII 's court in exile was being spied on by French police . The court @-@ in @-@ exile was being financed mainly by interest owed from Francis II on valuables his aunt , Marie Antoinette , had removed from France and had to cut its expenses significantly .

In 1803 , Napoleon tried to force Louis XVIII to renounce his right to the throne of France , but Louis refused . In May 1804 , Napoleon Bonaparte declared himself Emperor of the French . Louis XVIII and his nephew departed for Sweden in July for a Bourbon family conference , where Louis XVIII , the comte d 'Artois , and the duc d 'Angoulême issued a statement condemning Napoleon 's decision to declare himself emperor . The King of Prussia issued a proclamation saying that Louis XVIII would have to leave Prussian territory , which meant leaving Warsaw . Alexander I of Russia invited Louis XVIII to resume residence in Jelgava . Louis XVIII had to live under less generous conditions than those enjoyed under Paul I , and he intended to embark for England as soon as possible .

As time went on , Louis XVIII realised that France would never accept an attempt to return to the Ancien Régime . Accordingly , he created another policy in 1805 with a view toward reclaiming his throne : a declaration that was far more liberal than his former ones . It repudiated his Declaration of Verona , promised to abolish conscription , retain Napoleon I 's administrative and judicial system , reduce taxes , eliminate political prisons , and guarantee amnesty to everyone who did not oppose a Bourbon Restoration . The opinions expressed in the declaration were largely those of the Count of Avaray , Louis 's closest associate in exile .

Louis XVIII was forced once again to leave Jelgava when Alexander of Russia informed him that his safety could not be guaranteed on continental Europe . In July 1807 , Louis boarded a Swedish frigate to Stockholm , bringing with him only the Duke of Angoulême . Louis did not stay in Sweden for long ; he arrived in Great Yarmouth , Norfolk , England , in November 1807 . He took up residence in Gosfield Hall , leased to him by the Marquess of Buckingham .

= = = England = = =

Louis brought his wife and queen , Marie Joséphine , from mainland Europe in 1808 . Louis 's stay at Gosfield Hall did not last long ; he soon moved to Hartwell House in Buckinghamshire , where over one hundred courtiers were housed . The King paid £ 500 in rent each year to the proprietor , Sir George Lee . The Prince of Wales ( the future George IV of Great Britain ) was very charitable to the exiled Bourbons . As Prince Regent , he granted them permanent right of asylum and extremely generous allowances .

The Count of Artois did not join the court @-@ in @-@ exile in Hartwell , preferring to continue his frivolous life in London . Louis 's friend the Count of Avaray left Hartwell for Madeira in 1809 , and died there in 1811 . Louis replaced Avaray with the Comte de Blacas as his principal political advisor . Queen Marie Joséphine died on 13 November 1810 . That same winter , Louis suffered a particularly severe case of gout , which was a recurring problem for him at Hartwell , and he had to be put in a wheelchair .

Napoleon I embarked on an invasion of Russia in 1812 . This war would prove to be the turning point in his fortunes , as the expedition failed miserably and Napoleon was forced to retreat with an army in tatters .

In 1813 , Louis XVIII issued another declaration while at Hartwell . " The Declaration of Hartwell " was even more liberal than his " Declaration of 1805 " , asserting that all those who served Napoleon or the Republic would not suffer repercussions for their acts , and that the original owners of the Biens nationaux ( lands confiscated from the nobles and clergy during the Revolution ) were to be compensated for their losses .

Allied troops entered Paris on 31 March 1814 . Louis , however , was unable to walk , and so sent the Count of Artois to France in January 1814 . Louis XVIII issued letters patent appointing Artois Lieutenant General of the Kingdom in the event of the Bourbons being restored . Napoleon I abdicated on 11 April , five days after his Senate had invited the Bourbons to re @-@ assume the throne of France .

= = Bourbon Restoration = =

= = = Restoration I = = =

The Count of Artois ruled as Lieutenant @-@ General of the kingdom until his brother 's arrival in Paris on 3 May . Upon his return , the king displayed himself to his subjects by creating a procession through the city . He took up residence in the Tuileries Palace the same day . His niece , the Duchess of Angoulême , fainted at the sight of the Tuileries , where she had lived during the time of the French Revolution .

Napoleon 's senate called Louis XVIII to the throne on the condition that he would accept a constitution that entailed recognition of the Republic and the Empire , a bicameral parliament elected every year , and the tri @-@ colour flag of the aforementioned regimes . Louis XVIII opposed the senate 's constitution and stated that he was " disbanding the current senate in all the crimes of Bonaparte , and appealing to the French people " . The senatorial constitution was burned in a theatre in royalist Bordeaux , and the Municipal Council of Lyon voted for a speech that defamed the senate .

The Great Powers occupying Paris demanded that Louis XVIII implement a constitution . Louis responded with the Charter of 1814 , which included many progressive provisions : freedom of religion , a legislature composed of the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Peers , a press that would enjoy a degree of freedom , and a provision that the Biens nationaux would remain in the hands of their current owners . The constitution had 76 articles . Taxation was to be voted on by the chambers . Catholicism was to be the official religion of France . To be eligible for membership in the Chamber of Deputies , one had to pay over 1 @,@ 000 francs per year in tax , and be over the age of forty . The king would appoint peers to the Chamber of Peers on a hereditary basis , or for life at his discretion . Deputies would be elected every five years , with one fifth of them up for election each year . There were 90 @,@ 000 citizens eligible to vote .

Louis XVIII signed the Treaty of Paris on 30 May 1814 . The treaty gave France her 1792 borders , which extended east of the Rhine . She had to pay no war indemnity , and the occupying armies of the Sixth Coalition withdrew instantly from French soil . These generous terms would be reversed in the next Treaty of Paris after the Hundred Days ( Napoleon 's return to France in 1815 ) .

It did not take Louis XVIII long to go back on one of his many promises . He and his Controller @-@ General of Finance Baron Louis were determined not to let the exchequer fall into deficit ( there was a 75 million franc debt inherited from Napoleon I ) , and took fiscal measures to ensure this . Louis XVIII assured the French that the unpopular taxes on tobacco , wine and salt would be abolished when he was restored , but he failed to do so , which led to rioting in Bordeaux . Expenditures on the army was slashed in the 1815 budget ? in 1814 , the military had accounted for 55 % of government spending .

Louis XVIII admitted the Count of Artois and his nephews the Dukes of Angoulême and Berry into the king 's council in May 1814 , upon its establishment . The council was informally headed by Prince Talleyrand . Louis XVIII took a large interest in the goings @-@ on of the Congress of Vienna ( set up to redraw the map of Europe after Napoleon 's demise ) . Talleyrand represented France at the proceedings . Louis was horrified by Prussia 's intention to annex the Kingdom of Saxony , to which he was attached because his mother was born a Saxon princess , and he was also concerned that Prussia would dominate Germany . He also wished the Duchy of Parma to be restored to the Parmese Bourbons , and not to Empress Marie Louise of France , as was being suggested by the Allies . Louis also protested the Allies ' inaction in Naples , where he wanted the Napoleonic usurper Joachim Murat removed in favour of the Neapolitan Bourbons .

On behalf of the Allies , Austria agreed to send a force to the Kingdom of Naples to depose Murat in February 1815 , when it became apparent that Murat corresponded with Napoleon I , which was explicitly forbidden by a recent treaty . Murat never actually wrote to Napoleon , but Louis , intent on restoring the Neapolitan Bourbons at any cost , forged the correspondence , and subsidised the

Austrian expedition with 25 million francs .

Louis XVIII succeeded in getting the Neapolitan Bourbons restored immediately . Parma was bestowed upon Empress Marie Louise for life , and the Parmese Bourbons were given the Duchy of Lucca until the death of Marie Louise .

= = = Hundred Days = = =

On 26 February 1815 , Napoleon Bonaparte escaped his island prison of Elba and embarked for France . He arrived with about 1 @, @ 000 troops near Cannes on 1 March . Louis XVIII was not particularly worried by Bonaparte 's excursion , as such small numbers of troops could be easily overcome . There was , however , a major underlying problem for the Bourbons : Louis XVIII had failed to purge the military of its Bonapartist troops . This led to mass desertions from the Bourbon armies to Bonaparte 's . Furthermore , Louis XVIII could not join the campaign against Napoleon in the south of France because he was suffering from another case of gout . Minister of War Marshall Soult dispatched Louis Philippe , Duke of Orléans ( later King Louis Philippe I ) , the Count of Artois , and Marshall MacDonald to apprehend Napoleon .

Louis XVIII 's underestimation of Bonaparte proved disastrous . On 19 March , the army stationed outside Paris defected to Bonaparte , leaving the city vulnerable to attack . That same day , Louis XVIII quit the capital with a small escort at midnight . Louis decided to go first to Lille , and then crossed the border into the United Kingdom of the Netherlands , staying in Ghent . Other leaders , most prominently Alexander I of Russia , debated whether in the case of a second victory over the French Empire , the Duke of Orléans should be proclaimed king instead of Louis XVIII .

However , Napoleon did not rule France again for very long , suffering a decisive defeat at the hands of the armies of the Duke of Wellington and Field Marshal Blücher at the Battle of Waterloo on 18 June . The Allies came to the consensus that Louis XVIII should be restored to the throne of France .

= = = 1815 ? 1824 = = =

Louis XVIII returned to France promptly after Napoleon 's defeat to ensure his second restoration " in baggage train of the enemy " , i.e. with Wellington 's troops . The Duke of Wellington used King Louis 's person to open up the route to Paris , as some fortresses refused to surrender to the Allies , but agreed to do so for their king . King Louis arrived at Cambrai on 26 June , where he released a proclamation stating that those who served the Emperor in the Hundred Days would not be persecuted , except for the " instigators " . It was also acknowledged that Louis XVIII 's government might have made mistakes during the First Restoration . On 29 June , a deputation of five from the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Peers approached Wellington about putting a foreign prince on the throne of France . Wellington rejected their pleas outright , declaring that " [ Louis XVIII is ] the best way to preserve the integrity of France " . Wellington ordered the deputies to espouse King Louis 's cause . Louis XVIII entered Paris on 8 July to a boisterous reception : the Tuileries Palace gardens were thronged with bystanders , and , according to the Duke of Wellington , the acclamation of the crowds there were so loud that evening that he could not converse with the king .

Louis XVIII 's role in politics from the Hundred Days onward was voluntarily diminished ; he resigned most of his duties to his council . He and his ministry embarked on a series of reforms through the summer of 1815 . The king 's council , an informal group of ministers that advised Louis XVIII , was dissolved and replaced by a tighter knit privy council , the " Ministère de Roi " . Artois , Berry and Angoulême were purged from the new " ministère " , and Talleyrand was appointed as the first Président du Conseil , i.e. Prime Minister of France . On 14 July , the ministry dissolved the units of the army deemed " rebellious " . Hereditary peerage was re @-@ established to Louis 's behest by the ministry .

In August , elections for the Chamber of Deputies returned unfavourable results for Talleyrand . The ministry wished for moderate deputies , but the electorate voted almost exclusively for ultra @-@



royalists , resulting in the so @-@ called Chambre introuvable . The Duchess of Angoulême and the Count of Artois pressured King Louis for the dismissal of his obsolete ministry . Talleyrand tendered his resignation on 20 September . Louis XVIII chose the Duke of Richelieu to be his new Prime Minister . Richelieu was chosen because he was accepted by Louis 's family and the reactionary Chamber of Deputies .

Anti @-@ Napoleonic sentiment was high in Southern France , and this was prominently displayed in the White Terror , which saw the purge of all important Napoleonic officials from government and the execution of others . The people of France committed barbarous acts against some of these officials . Guillaume Marie Anne Brune ( a Napoleonic marshal ) was savagely assassinated , and his remains thrown into the Rhône River . Louis XVIII deplored such illegal acts , but vehemently supported the prosecution of those marshals that helped Napoleon in the Hundred Days . Louis XVIII 's government executed Napoleon 's Marshal Ney in December 1815 for treason . His confidants Charles François , Marquis de Bonnay , and the Duke de La Chatre advised him to inflict firm punishments on the ? traitors ? .

The king was reluctant to shed blood , and this greatly irritated the ultra @-@ reactionary Chamber of Deputies , who felt that Louis XVIII was not executing enough . The government issued a proclamation of amnesty to the ? traitors ? in January 1816 , but the trials that had already begun were finished in due course . That same declaration also banned any member of the House of Bonaparte from owning property in , or entering , France . It is estimated that between 50 @,@ 000 ? 80 @,@ 000 officials were purged from the government during what was known as the Second White Terror .

In November 1815 , Louis XVIII 's government had to sign another Treaty of Paris that formally ended Napoleon 's Hundred Days . The previous treaty had been quite favourable to France , but this one took a hard line . France 's borders were retracted to their extent at 1790 . France had to pay for an army to occupy her , for at least five years , at a cost of 150 million francs per year . France also had to pay a war indemnity of 700 million francs to the allies .

In 1818 , the Chambers passed a military law that increased the size of the army by over 100 @,@ 000 . In October of the same year , Louis XVIII 's foreign minister , the Duke of Richelieu , succeeded in convincing the powers to withdraw their armies early in exchange for a sum of over 200 million francs .

Louis XVIII chose many centrist cabinets , as he wanted to appease the populace , much to the dismay of his brother , the ultra @-@ royalist Count of Artois . Louis always dreaded the day he would die , believing that his brother , and heir , Artois , would abandon the centrist government for an ultra @-@ royalist autocracy , which would not bring favourable results .

King Louis disliked the First Prince of the Blood Louis @-@ Philippe d 'Orléans , and took every opportunity to snub him , denying him the title of " Royal Highness " , partly out of resentment for the Duke 's father 's role in voting for Louis XVI 's execution . Louis XVIII 's nephew , the Duke of Berry , was assassinated at the Paris Opera on 14 February 1820 . The royal family was grief @-@ stricken and Louis XVIII broke an ancient tradition to attend his nephew 's funeral , as previous kings of France could not have any association with death . The death of the Duke of Berry meant that the House of Orléans was more likely to succeed to the throne .

Berry was the only member of the family thought to be able to beget children . His wife gave birth to a posthumous son in September , Henry , Duke of Bordeaux , nicknamed Dieudonné ( God @-@ given ) by the Bourbons because he was thought to have secured the future of the dynasty . However the Bourbon succession was still in doubt . The Chamber of Deputies proposed amending Salic law to allow the Duchess of Angoulême to accede to the throne . On 12 June 1820 , the Chambers ratified legislation that increased the number of deputies from 258 to 430 . The extra deputies were to be elected by the wealthiest quarter of the population in each département . These individuals now effectively had two votes . Around the same time as the ? law of the two votes ? , Louis XVIII began to receive visits every Wednesday from a lady named Zoé Talon , and ordered that nobody should disturb him while he was with her . It was rumoured that he inhaled snuff from her breasts , which earned her the nickname of tabatière ( snuffbox ) . In 1823 , France embarked on a military intervention in Spain , where a revolt had occurred against the King Ferdinand VII .

France succeeded in crushing the rebellion , an effort headed by the Duke of Angoulême .

= = = Death = = =

Louis XVIII 's health began to fail in the spring of 1824 . He was suffering from obesity , gout and gangrene , both dry and wet , in his legs and spine . Louis died on 16 September 1824 surrounded by the extended royal family and some government officials . He was succeeded by his youngest brother , the Count of Artois , as Charles X.

Louis XVIII was the last French monarch , and the only one after 1774 , to die while still ruling . He was interred at the Basilica of St Denis , the necropolis of French kings .

= = Ancestors = =

= = In fiction = =

Louis XVIII has a cameo rôle in the novella *Le Bal de Sceaux* by Honoré de Balzac .

Louis XVIII appears briefly in the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo* , by Alexandre Dumas .

The young Count of Provence was portrayed by Sebastian Armesto in a few brief scenes in the 2006 motion picture *Marie Antoinette* , a biographical film written and directed by Sofia Coppola , based on the book , *Marie Antoinette : The Journey* by Lady Antonia Fraser . This movie makes a great error by naming him as the father of Louis XIX , who was in fact the son of Louis XVIII 's brother Charles X.

In the 1970 film *Waterloo* , Louis XVIII was portrayed by Orson Welles .

He appears briefly as well in the novel " *Les Misérables* " , by Victor Hugo . In Book the Third , Hugo writes that Louis XVIII enjoys running fast in his carriage as he is unable to walk .