



# French Revolution

Third lesson: from Constitutional Monarchy  
to Republic

# An escape that did not save the crown

**La fuga a Varennes costò cara al Re. Negli appartamenti reali si trovarono documenti che confermavano il tentativo del sovrano di complottare con Austria, Prussia e Spagna perché invadessero la Francia e salvassero la Monarchia assoluta.**

**Il Re aveva tradito la sua nazione.**



# DIVISIONS WITHIN THE PARLIAMENT

After the elections of 1791, the elected deputies formed two opposing sides

## **PLAIN (Majority)**

**It was formed above all by Foglianti, in favor of the Constitutional Monarchy**

## **MOUNTAIN (Minority)**

**It was formed above all by Giacobini (they wanted the Republic) and Girondini (upper and middle class of liberal ideas, ex Foglianti)**

# Password: war on Austria

**Once the Constitution was approved, the first elections took place in France. Parliament was made up of a majority of moderates, in favor of the King and a minority of radicals, in favor of the Republic.**

**Parliament, which should have immediately faced the problem of the economic crisis, found itself discussing another problem that was taking hold: the war against Austria, to prevent Joseph II, brother-in-law of the King, from invading France.**

## Who wanted war?

To ask for it were sides normally opposed, each of which had different reasons to counter Austria

### THE KING

He hoped to be able to restore absolute monarchy.

### THE DEALERS

They thought the war would be a source of income for military supplies.

### THE SANCULOTTI

Independent people's movement

# Who they were the Sanculotti?


They were called so because they wore long trousers instead of “culottes”, or short trousers to be worn with silk stockings. They were mostly artisans and traders, hostile to the king and wanted to reduce prices and taxes.




# Who was against to war?

The only one to oppose with all his might  
was Maximilien de Robespierre,  
which the army believed  
and the French economy unprepared  
to face a conflict.





**The declaration of war:  
April 20, 1792**





# A disastrous start

The beginning of the war is disastrous: taxes are raised and mass draft is required. Poverty and indignation spread both among the weaker social classes and among the bourgeois.

The Jacobins (led by Robespierre) and the Cordilleras (headed by Marat and Danton) are increasingly perplexed.



# The king and queen are taken prisoner

The angry people invade the squares of Paris. The King and Queen were captured and locked up in the clock tower on 10 August 1792. The death penalty was requested for royalty.

After having approved the "universal male suffrage", a new Parliament is formed, the National Convention, which on **21 September 1792** proclaimed the Republic.



# Meanwhile, the war continues ...

**September 1792:** Battle of Valmy (on the border with Belgium). A fairly shabby French army manages to repel the allied troops (who had to withdraw also due to food poisoning). The victory marked the end of the Monarchy and the beginning of the Republic.

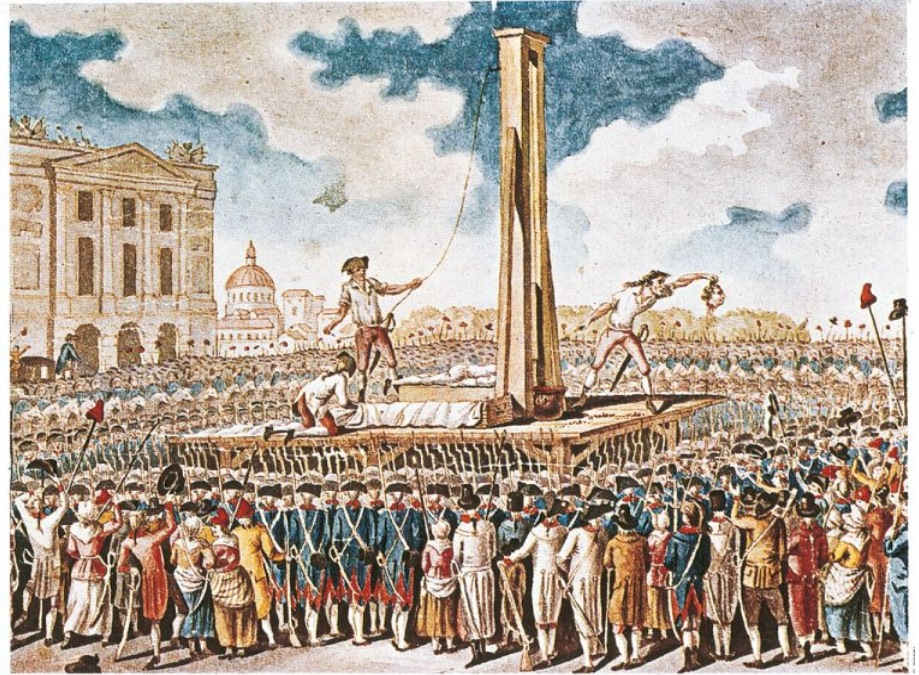


# The death sentence for Louis XVI

Accused of "high treason", the king is sentenced to death.

On 21 January 1793 he was beheaded with the guillotine.

The fact causes terror throughout Europe. The "first coalition" against the French is formed.



# The anti-French "First Coalition"

Austria, Prussia, England, Spain and Holland, also supported by the Italian states, formed a coalition to invade France, frightened by the climate that had been established.

Everyone feared that even in their own countries a similar revolt could arise and that the people would win, killing all the sovereigns.



# The internal revolt of the Vendée

In the Vendée, a deeply Catholic region, the population rebels against the "compulsory draft" of young people, imposed on peasants.

The Vendéens kill the Sansculotti in charge recruiting and clamoring the return of the absolute monarchy and the restitution of assets confiscated from the churches. A civil war had broken out.



# The "Public Health Committee" is born

Robespierre, frightened by the reaction of the Vendée, forms a "Public Health Committee", made up of a few people (5 or 6 at the most) with full powers.

He reforms the army and establishes a compulsory draft for all French citizens between 16 and 50 years old.

He instructs about eighty Sanculotti to go, as commissioners, to pick up those suspected of treason, including his own friends. One of the commissioners was Napoleon Bonaparte.

