

# Discuss:

**Did they need to kill the king?**

**Yes:**

***“Louis must die in order for the revolution to live”***

**- Maximilien Robespierre**

**No:**

***“They went way too far.”***

# Maximillian Robespierre



## Background:

- Mother died when he was 6
- Father abandoned him
- Eldest son; supported family
- As a lawyer, defended the poor
- Gained reputation for public speaking
- A spokesman for the urban workers
- Believed rights should be extended to all men, including slaves in the colonies
- Slept with a copy of Rousseau's *The Social Contract* by his side!

# Jacobin Reforms

1. The adoption of a new **Republican Calendar**:
  - abolished Sundays & religious holidays.
  - months named after seasonal features.
  - 7-day weeks replaced by 10-day decades.
  - the yearly calendar was dated from the creation of the Republic [Sept. 22, 1792]

# A New Republican Calendar

I	1792 - 1793
II	1793 - 1794
III	1794 - 1795
IV	1795 - 1796
V	1796 - 1797
VI	1797 - 1798
VII	1798 - 1799
VIII	1799 - 1800
IX	1800 - 1801
X	1801 - 1802
XI	1802 - 1803
XII	1803 - 1804
XIII	1804 - 1805
XIV	1805

The Gregorian System returned in 1806.

# Find Your Birthday!

<u>New Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
Vendemaire	Vintage	September 22 - October 21
Brumaire	Fog	October 22 - November 20
Frimaire	Frost	November 21 - December 20
Nivose	Snow	December 21 - January 19
Pluviose	Rain	January 20 - February 18
Ventose	Wind	February 19 - March 20
Germinal	Budding	March 21 - April 19
Floreale	Flowers	April 20 - May 19
Prairial	Meadow	May 20 - June 18
Messidor	Harvest	June 19 - July 18
Thermidor	Heat	July 19 - August 17
Fructidor	Fruit	August 18 - September 21

# Jacobin Reforms (cont.)

2. The public exercise of religion was banned.
3. The Paris Commune supported the:
  - destruction of religious & royal statues.
  - ban on clerical dress.
  - encouragement of the clergy to give up their vocations.
4. The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris was turned into the "Temple of Reason."

# The “Temple of Reason”



*Come, holy Liberty, inhabit this temple,  
Become the goddess of the French people.*

# The Festival of Supreme Being



A new secular holiday



# Reactions to the Jacobins

- In certain regions, people armed themselves to overthrow the republic and restore the monarchy. Some counter-revolutionaries were peasants, sharecroppers, or textile workers.
- Some were upset about the Jacobins' De-Christianization program.

# Committee for Public Safety

- 💣 Revolutionary tribunals (courts)
- 💣 Arrests of "suspected persons...those who, either by their conduct or their relationships, by their remarks or by their writing, are shown to be... enemies of liberty"
- 💣 "if material or moral proof exists, independently of the evidence of witnesses, the latter will not be heard, unless this formality should appear necessary..."

***"Softness to traitors will destroy us all."***

**- Robespierre**



# The Reign of Terror



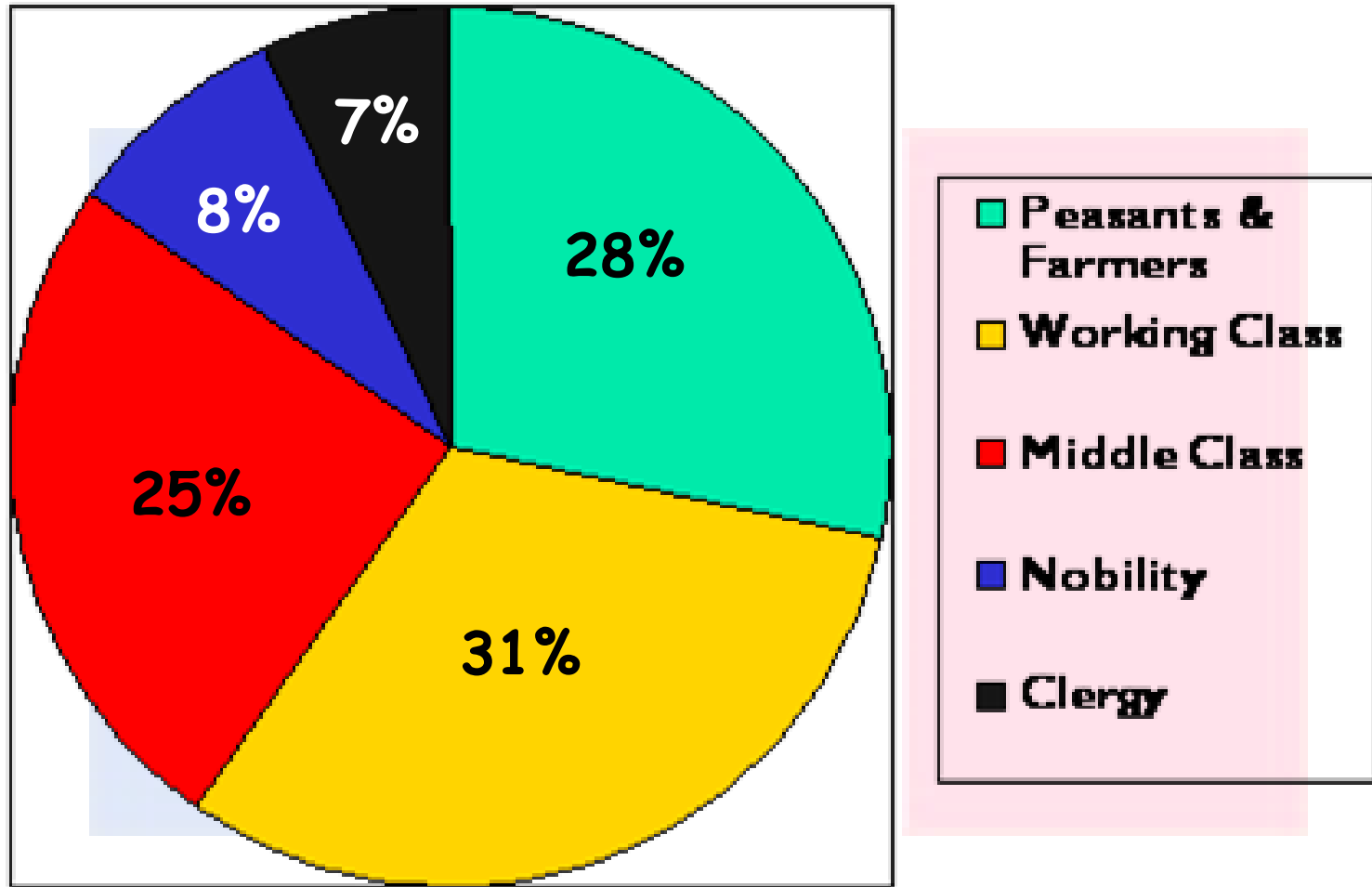
*Terror is nothing other than justice, prompt, severe, inflexible.* -- Robespierre

*Let terror be the order of the day!*

- ❖ The Revolutionary Tribunal of Paris alone executed 2,639 victims in 15 months.
- ❖ The total number of victims nationwide was over 20,000!



# Different Social Classes Executed



# Victims of the Reign of Terror

- **Francis Bertrand**

Aged thirty-seven, convicted of producing “sour wine injurious to the health of citizens,” guillotined.

- **Jean-Baptiste Henry**

A journeyman tailor, aged 18, was convicted of sawing down a tree of liberty. Executed Sept. 6, 1793.

- **A description of The Terror at Bordeaux.**

“A woman was charged with the crime of having wept at her husband’s execution...she was condemned to sit for hours under the blade which shed upon her, drop by drop the blood of her dead husband...before she was released by death...”

# **A Quote by Robespierre**

**Q1) Vocab? Q2) Main idea**

***“The first maxim of our politics ought to be to lead the people by means of reason and the enemies of the people by terror. If the basis of popular government in time of peace is virtue, **the basis of popular government in time of revolution is both virtue and terror: virtue without which terror is murderous, terror without which virtue is powerless.** Terror is nothing else than swift, severe, indomitable justice; it flows, then, from virtue.”***

# Discuss:

**Q: Do you accept Robespierre's justification of Terror?**

**Yes:**

***“Makes sense to me...”***

**No:**

***“He's just making excuses...”***

# Robespierre “Haters”

- ***“...a bloodthirsty charlatan (fraud), without talent and courage, called Robespierre, made all the citizens tremble under his tyranny.”***
- ***“Robespierre is extremely touchy and suspicious” (mayor of Paris, 1791)***
- ***“The bastard isn’t satisfied with being the boss, he’s got to be God as well.” (an urban worker)***



# A Quote by a Friend of Robespierre

*“I would have given my life to save Robespierre, whom I loved like a brother. No one knows better than I do how sincere, disinterested, and absolute his devotion to the Republic was. He has become the scapegoat of all the revolutionists; but he was the best man of them all.”*

# Maximillian Robespierre



## More facts:

- Actually opposed the De-Christianization campaign
- Never used his position for private gain – nicknamed “The Incorruptible”
- Lived in a small room
- Walked everywhere, never taking a carriage
- Went after deputies who were abusing their power during the Terror

# Debate Topic:

**Robespierre was a defender of the republic!**

**VS.**

**Robespierre was a bloodthirsty charlatan!**

# **Debate Prep Questions:**

- 1. Was Robespierre a “bloodthirsty charlatan (fraud)” or “defender of the Republic?”**
- 2. Can violence really be used to “perfect” humanity?**
- 3. Is a government ever justified in using violence against those it identifies as a hostile threat to the State? Who gets to decide?**