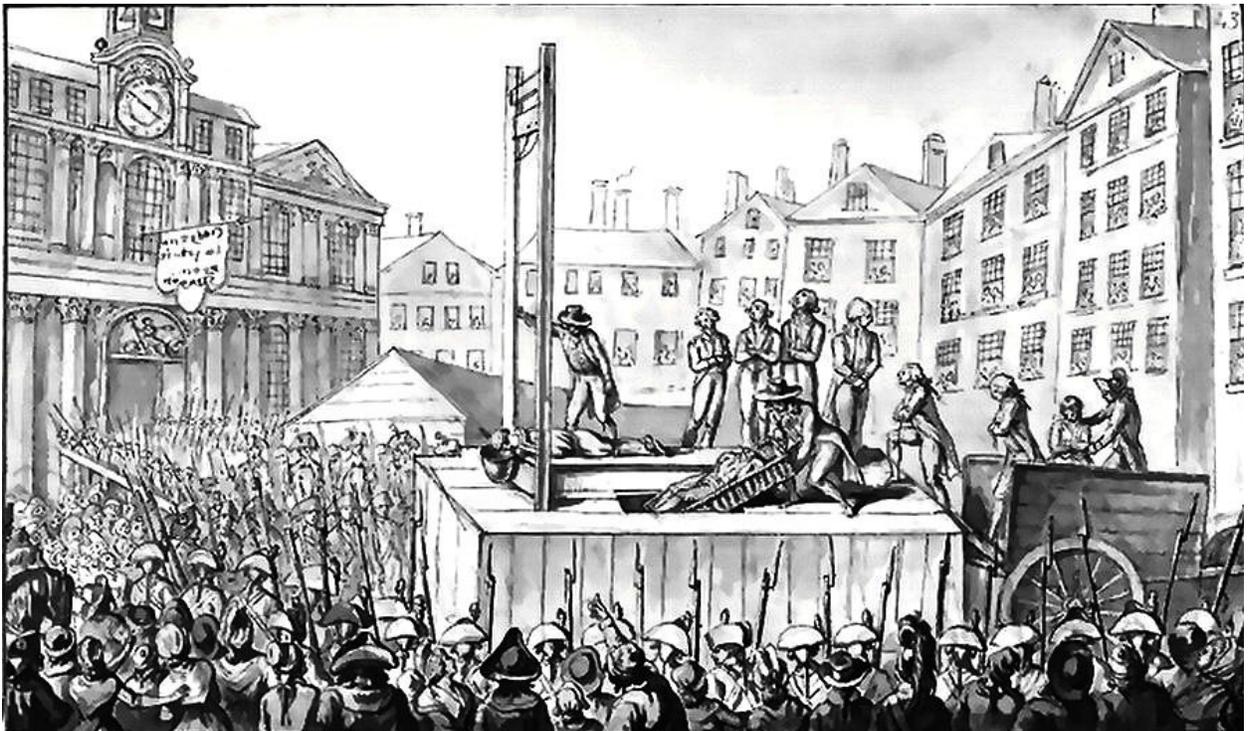


OSUMTUNT

The French Revolution: Reign of Terror



Your Crisis Director



Hello! My name is Ryan McDermott, and I will be your Crisis Director for the Reign of Terror Committee at OSUMUN 2019! I am excited because I have never worked as a CD, despite this being my third time working OSUMUN. I will be entering my fourth and final year at The Ohio State University. I am an International Studies and Spanish double major, which is not whatsoever connected to the Collegiate Council on World Affairs. I am on the executive board of CCWA as well as being the President of one of the subsidiary branches– The United Nations Association. I hope you enjoy your time with us here at Ohio State!

Historic Background

“Let Terror be the order of the day.” – Maximilien Robespierre.

Welcome to 1793! Paris has become the breeding grounds for new ideas, after the capture of King Louis XVI (In this slightly alternate timeline, he is not dead. Yet!). We begin on October 1st, 1793, when the previous months witnessed a vast quantity of bloodshed, including the infamous September Massacres when the Jacobins vanquished the Girondins.

During this time, a young Jacobin was forming a radicalized faction of Jacobins called Montagnard. These radicalized Jacobins were under the order of Maximilien Robespierre, the architect of the Reign of Terror. He coined the phrase, “Let Terror be the order of the day.” This quote and the guillotine struck fear into the French Revolution.

Most wonder why a quote is to be feared, such as a name, words are never to be feared without the significance that follows. A quote such as that attributed to Robespierre has a significance of an era that meant death to an estimated 18,500-40,000 French citizens¹.

French Culture

Pre-Revolution:

The Pre-Revolution culture in France was the traditional French system of the Ancien Régime (Ancient Regime), which split the citizens of France into three “Estates.” The First Estate is the Clergy or the Roman Catholic Church. Catholicism is the dominant religion in France. The clergy is split into the higher clergy and lower clergy. The higher clergy is comprised of members of the Second Estate. Under King Louis XVI all the bishops of France are members of the Second Estate, which is unheard of. The lower clergy is comprised of around ninety percent of the entire First Estate.

The Second Estate is the French nobility. Nobles are headed by the Kings and Queens. Lineage then follows the in descending order of peerage, starting with the Fils de France or the Dauphin, son of the king, and ending with the barons. They are the ruling class of France, and there is no way to enter the nobility except by birth or marriage².

The Third Estate is comprised of two factions– the bourgeoisie and the commoners. The bourgeoisie, or the middle-class, are doctors, lawyers, and business owners of the French population. The commoners are the poorest members of society. They are those were born with nothing and have no opportunity to move up in the social hierarchy. They live on rations in order to feed themselves and their families. The members of the Third Estate are the main instigators of the French Revolution.

¹ PBS. Accessed August 24, 2018. <http://www.pbs.org/marieantoinette/timeline/reign.html>.

² Velde, Francois. "Nobility and Titles in France." The Arms of Baroness Thatcher. Accessed August 24, 2018. <http://www.heraldica.org/topics/france/noblesse.htm>.

Revolutionary Times:

The French Revolution starts on July 14th, 1789, when revolutionaries storm the Bastille. The Bastille is the ‘impenetrable’ fortress that houses the national jail. The French Revolution is seen as a ‘great’ period; however, the culture of the French Revolution is historical. Lynn Hunt, a history professor at UCLA describes the French Revolution as a “Cultural Wastelandⁱⁱⁱ.” The French Revolution is a political revolution rather than a cultural revolution. It is not like Mao Zedong’s Cultural revolution, where Mao prioritized placing politics over culture. The French Revolution completely forgot about culture. During the French Revolution, the Estate system collapses causing turmoil in the political, social, economic, and international forums. It seems as if we have no allies left. With Storming the Bastille, many of those are who had committed inconsequential crimes are let free, but it also frees a few radicals that will drive the radicalization of the Jacobins.

The Warring Factions

The Jacobins:

The Jacobins are the dominant group during the early stages of the French Revolution. The Jacobin clubs have over 900 branches that are all associated with the main club in Paris. These clubs begin as locations for Frenchmen to debate politics and state their opinions with like-minded men.

However, the main branch of the Jacobin club becomes a place of political debate and the house of radicalized action. The main branch is the home of the radicalized members of the club, including Jean-Paul Marat and Maximilien Robespierre. Marat is eventually murdered because of his radical ideas; however, his legacy lives on amongst his brethren.

Robespierre has his own sect within the Jacobin club. They are called the Montagnard. Robespierre, along with his Montagnard, demonstrate that the radicalization of the Jacobins does not stop with Marat. Instead, Marat’s death becomes a catalyst, and he becomes a martyr, which leads to the radicalization of the majority of the club³.

The Feuillants:

The Feuillants are a sect within the Jacobin club that leave and form a new pro-monarchy organization. While they are not closely allied with the Jacobins, they also are not targeted by the Jacobins’ attacks.

The Dantonists:

The Dantonists are led by Georges-Jacques Danton, a great scholar and politician. His beliefs cause him to make him one of the leaders of a great faction of the French Revolution. He names the

³ "Template without Comments." The Future of Wind Power. Accessed August 24, 2018. https://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rschwartz/hist255/kat_anna/jacobins.html.

faction after himself. The Dantonists are fundamentally opposed to the Jacobins and are one of the factions heavily targeted during their attacks⁴.

The Girondins:

The Girondins are another party that oppose the Jacobins, but they are less prominent than the Dantonists. They are liberal in nature and believe that the monarchy needs to be abolished; however, their beliefs in the form of government that needs to be created in order to sustain a non-monarchist regime differs from that of the Jacobins.

The Hébertistes:

The Hébertistes are described as “a radical democrat leading a group of ‘angry men.’” They are on the same side of the political spectrum as the Girondins; however, the factions are not politically aligned.

The September Massacre

Fearing a Paris invasion of an advancing royalist Prussian army, members of the Jacobin club storm Bastille attacking those they believe to be possible hidden Prussian allies. The main victims of this attack are the democratic Girondins and Hébertistes. Members of the Clergy are also attacked. These dramatic massacres take place on September 3rd and 4th.

A firsthand account of the massacres stated, “A man who was not one of the killers, just one of those unthinking machines who are so common, stopped him with a pike in the stomach. The poor soul was caught by his pursuers and slaughtered. The man with the pike coldly said to us, ‘Well I didn’t know they wanted to kill him.’”

Another account stated, “The number of active killers who took part in the September massacres was only about one hundred and fifty. The rest of Paris looking on in fear or approval or stayed behind closed shutters.”⁵

Character List

Adrien Duport – One of the founders of the “Club de Feuillants,” Adrien Duport was born a member of the nobility, but he denounced his title at the start of the Revolution. Before the Revolution, Duport was a member of the Parliament of Paris, a high court of justice in France. Later, he was elected to the Estates-General in 1789. Between the rise of the Revolution and the

⁴ "Danton Versus Robespierre: The Quest for Revolutionary Power." Accessed August 25, 2018. <https://www.ucumberlands.edu/downloads/academics/history/vol6/AaronPurcell94.html>.

⁵ "The September Massacres." The Minstrel Show. Accessed August 24, 2018.

http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/392/_The_September_Massacres_witnessed_by_Restif_de_la_Bretonne.

fall of the monarchy, Duport made two major contributions to the Revolutionary times. One he became the President of France's Criminal Courts and became a secret advisor to King Louis XVI as a member of the 'triumvirate'⁶.

Alexandre de Lameth – A member of the French Nobility, Lameth fought for the American Revolutionaries during their war for independence. He was a true politician. He helped the Assembly draft "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen." He even helped introduce anti-feudalism measures that would further restrict the King. Yet, it was revealed that he was a royalist in the end. Akin to Adrien Duport, he was a member of the triumvirate of secret advisers to the King⁷.

Antoine Barnave – In alliance with Duport and de Lameth, Barnave was the last member of the triumvirate. He was the only member of the triumvirate to not be born into nobility. Instead, he was born into a well-off protestant bourgeois family. He was a prominent member of the Committee on Colonies and was prominent in his favor of increasing trade to the Indies. He was a royalist by definition, and he even had correspondence with Her Majesty, Queen Marie Antoinette⁸.

Charles de Calonne – Charles de Calonne was a statesmen and economist who oversaw the restructuring the economic system under the monarchy. This necessary restructuring is what led to the start of the French Revolution. The problem with Charles de Calonne's economic system was the plan would have required a heavier level of taxation against the First and Second Estates, which at the time was unacceptable.

Charlotte Corday – Charlotte Corday, whose most prominent feat was the murder of Marat, was a disenfranchised noble who wanted to keep her power. When this failed, she became a member of the Girondin party. She did anything to further their agenda once they were expelled after the September Massacres. She felt that the only way to do this was to eliminate the leaders of the Jacobins⁹.

Gabriel Riqueti – Gabriel Riqueti was a famed right winged politician of the era. His father was also very heavily involved, and Gabriel's ascension to the political scene can be seen as

⁶ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Adrien Duport." Encyclopædia Britannica. August 11, 2018. Accessed September 04, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Adrien-Jean-Francois-Duport>.

⁷ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Alexandre, Count De Lameth." Encyclopædia Britannica. March 11, 2018. Accessed September 04, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexandre-Theodore-Victor-comte-de-Lameth>.

⁸ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Antoine Barnave." Encyclopædia Britannica. December 09, 2016. Accessed September 04, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Antoine-Barnave>.

⁹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Charlotte Corday." Encyclopædia Britannica. July 23, 2018. Accessed September 04, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charlotte-Corday>.

ancestral. As a member of the right, he was ousted from power at the beginning of Robespierre's reign, and he had to work for the rest of his career to regain his lost prestige¹⁰.

Georges-Jacques Danton – Georges-Jacques Danton was the leader of the Dantonists who were seen as moderates. Danton was seen as the leader for Democracy. Unfortunately, he was ousted from power during the September Massacres. He was also the head of the first Committee on Public Safety.

Gouverneur Morris – Gouverneur Morris was the American ambassador to France during the Reign of Terror. He was recalled once the Reign of Terror was over, but he gives an interesting viewpoint of a representative of a nation allied to a deposed ruler. He is utterly critical of the French Revolution and gave his history of the Terror in his journal published in the 1880's¹¹.

Isaac René Guy de Chapelier – Chapelier was a controversial statesman who introduced the "Loi le Chapelier," which outlawed meetings between employees or between employers. This was mostly used against the employees who could not hide their meetings as well. He created what would become the Jacobin Club¹².

Jacques-Louis David – David was a painter who partook in the ideology of the Jacobin Club. Before the Revolution, members of the public were calling him a Messiah for his work. His network led him to the Jacobin Club, where he became a politically themed painter. After the Revolution, he was imprisoned twice and reformed himself into a great teacher for hundreds of students from all over Europe¹³.

Jacques-Pierre Brissot – The leader of the Girondins, Brissot was the antithesis in ideology to the Jacobins. His faction was the main group attacked during the September Massacres. Brissot was a warmonger who was able to convince the Legislative body that a war with Austria was a good idea. After he was expelled as the representative of Paris, Brissot was elected as the leader from a municipality and convinced the legislation to again wage war– this time on Britain and the Dutch¹⁴.

Jean-Marie Roland – Jean-Marie Roland was a leading scientist before the French Revolution and a member of the Girondist faction. He welcomed the beginning of the Revolution, which was very moderate. He was the force that drove Danton to work with Robespierre for a time due

¹⁰ Chevallier, Jean-Jacques. "Honoré-Gabriel Riqueti, Comte De Mirabeau." Encyclopædia Britannica. March 26, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Honore-Gabriel-Riqueti-comte-de-Mirabeau>.

¹¹ History.com Staff. "Gouverneur Morris." History.com. 2009. Accessed August 24, 2018.

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/gouverneur-morris>.

¹² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jean Le Chapelier." Encyclopædia Britannica. June 08, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Le-Chapelier>.

¹³ McMullen, Roy Donald. "Jacques-Louis David." Encyclopædia Britannica. August 26, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jacques-Louis-David-French-painter>.

¹⁴ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jacques-Pierre Brissot." Encyclopædia Britannica. February 12, 2015. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jacques-Pierre-Brissot>.

to their vehement dislike of Roland. Roland was appointed Minister of the Interior under Brissot, which was a cabinet filled with Girondists¹⁵.

Jeanne-Marie Roland – The wife of Jean-Marie Roland, Madam Roland manipulated her husband. She was able to control his plans and who he attacked. She was the reason that he attacked Danton, which forced him to move towards the Jacobins and away from the Girondins. At a young age, she was inspired by the writings of Rousseau and became smitten with the ideals of democracy¹⁶.

Jean-Paul Marat – A major player in the beginning of the Revolution, Marat controlled much of the media that radicalized the French Revolution. He started his professional life as a doctor and scientist, and he became a politician when he was not elected to the Academy of Science. After becoming a politician, he became a journalist. He attacked the Royals and anyone that he believed was not for the Revolution (mostly moderates). He hated the Marquis de Lafayette, the Mayor of Paris, and the Comte de Mirabeau due to their moderate ideologies. He was famously murdered by Charlotte Corday¹⁷.

King Louis XVI – The Monarch of France, King Louis XVI is a prisoner stuck on his throne—uncertain of the day that the people of France will place his head in a basket. His father was a beloved King, but Louis XVI assumed the throne after his father's death and was an ineffective ruler. He had poor tax policies that separated him from the common people, borrowed money to pay off excesses, and maintained corrupt policies. This ineptitude is what sparked the Revolution. The monarch tried to flee but was captured and tried. He was found guilty. The people decided that he should wait for his death in an empty castle void of servants and his family, until his execution date. Why has he been brought here today¹⁸?

Marie Antoinette – The wife of King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette was the daughter of the Habsburg family of Austria-Hungary. She was the penultimate child and youngest daughter of Queen Maria Theresa and Emperor Francis I of the Holy Roman Empire. During the early stages of the Revolution, the Queen was not active in politics, yet she was the more decisive of the royal couple. She begged her husband to leave with her to Metz, but he declined. Her greatest feat was to work in secret in order to free the royal family from their imprisonment, which she was almost able to accomplish¹⁹.

¹⁵ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jean-Marie Roland." Encyclopædia Britannica. February 14, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Marie-Roland>.

¹⁶ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jeanne-Marie Roland." Encyclopædia Britannica. March 10, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jeanne-Marie-Roland>.

¹⁷ Vidalenc, Jean. "Jean-Paul Marat." Encyclopædia Britannica. July 09, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Paul-Marat>.

¹⁸ Popkin, Jeremy David, and Albert Goodwin. "Louis XVI." Encyclopædia Britannica. August 19, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Louis-XVI>.

¹⁹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Marie-Antoinette." Encyclopædia Britannica. June 22, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marie-Antoinette-queen-of-France>.

Marquis de Lafayette – Marquis de Lafayette was a French Statesman who famously helped the American Revolutionaries win the war. After the war, he returned to France where he worked to improve the lives of the people. Lafayette became the leader of the ‘Liberal aristocrats,’ who were both pro-democracy and pro-monarchy. His friend, Thomas Jefferson, said that his pro-democracy tendencies would most likely win out in the end. He lost family in the Reign of Terror, and he never saw eye to eye with Robespierre²⁰.

Maximilien de Robespierre – Robespierre, a Jacobin, was the leader of the Reign of Terror, and it was his words that coined said term “Reign of Terror.” Robespierre believed that one needed to control the people in order to control the nation. He was the cause of over 300,000 French citizens being imprisoned and over 10,000 executions at the guillotine. This all occurred during his reign in the Committee of Public Safety from July of 1793-July of 1794. Robespierre was arrested, tried, and executed in 24 hours for his crimes²¹.

Pierre-Antoine, Count Daru – A favored general of Napoleon, he was very important in the military starting around 1784. He was pro-revolutionary but did not take part in much of the political debate²².

Thomas Jefferson – American Secretary of State, former United States Ambassador to France and friend of Marquis de Lafayette, Jefferson wanted to aid the people of France in their Revolution. However, President Washington had other ideas. After a heated cabinet meeting, the President decided to draft a notice of neutrality. As the Musical Hamilton goes, “And they say I’m a Francophile, at least they know I know where France is.”²³,

Jacques-René Hébert – Jacques-René Hébert was born into a bourgeois family but lived most of his young adult life in poverty. His views were so radicalized that he regularly attacked the Catholic Church. He had churches converted into “Temples of Reason.” He was one of the most radical of all the revolutionaries, and it was his mini-revolution that caused the Committee of Public Safety to consolidate its power²⁴.

Jean-Nicholas Billaud-Varenne – A follower of Hébert, Billaud Varenne was a violent man. He wanted the royal family dead. He was one of the only two members of the Hébertistes to sit

²⁰ Leepson, Marc. "Marquis De Lafayette." Encyclopædia Britannica. September 02, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marquis-de-Lafayette>.

²¹ Bouloiseau, Marc. "Maximilien Robespierre." Encyclopædia Britannica. July 24, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Maximilien-Robespierre>.

²² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Pierre-Antoine, Count Daru." Encyclopædia Britannica. September 01, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pierre-Antoine-Noel-Mattieu-Bruno-Comte-Daru>.

²³ Odom, Jr Leslie., Anthony Ramos, Daveed Diggs, Okieriete Onaodowan, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Phillipa Soo, Christopher Jackson, Renee Elise. Goldsberry, Jasmine Cephas-Jones, Thayne Jasperson, Jonathan Groff, Jon Rua, and Sydney James. Harcourt, writers. *Hamilton Original Broadway Cast Recording (CD)*. Atlantic, 2015, CD.

²⁴ "He." Introduction to the Metaphysics of Morals by Immanuel Kant. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.marxists.org/glossary/people/h/e.htm#hebert-jacques>.

on the Committee of Public Safety. He was also a survivalist, and he outlasted Hébert. He danced with Danton, and he helped cut the head of the Montagnard serpent in Robespierre²⁵.

Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Gobel – The Archbishop of Paris, Gobel was pro-revolution. He also advocated for the marriage of clergymen, which remains banned to this day. He resigned from his Episcopalian duties and became a Hébertistes. He was guillotined with Hébert in 1794²⁶

Pierre-Gaspard Chaumette – A member of the Anti-Christian cult that served the goddess, Reason among others, Chaumette ordered the closing of the Catholic churches. His toxic masculinity was so abundant that he was able to have woman banned from political participation in debates and demonstrations. He was antipathic to the Girondins, yet he was not a leader of the lower class like Hébert.

Jean-Baptiste du Val-de-Grâce, Baron de Cloots – Also known as Anacharsis Cloots, he was a major proponent of French expansionism into the rest of Europe (little did he know in about 10 years...). He was actually born in Prussia; however, he moved to France and became a member of the Jacobin Club. As one of the more radical democrats, he titled himself “The Orator of all Mankind,” and he followed the banner of Hébert.

Louis Antoine de Saint-Just – A troubled youth, his mother had him placed in a reformatory after he ran away to Paris in 1786. In 1789, he published his first poem “Organt,” which many said was akin to a less powerful “La Pucelle d’Orléans” by Voltaire. He worked with Robespierre in order to move the Revolution toward a restructured society. He was barred from the National Assembly because of his age causing him to say, “I am a slave of my adolescence²⁷!”

Marie Jean Héault de Séchelles – Born a noble, Marie Jean Héault de Séchelles was a high-ranking member of King Louis’s legal staff; however, he joined in the storming of the Bastille when the call was made. During the Revolution, he was elected to the first Committee of Public Safety in July 1793 but was not well trusted inside the club. This led to his cynicism, which led to his downfall²⁸.

Yolande de Polastron, Duchess of Polignac – A close friend of Marie Antoinette, Yolande de Polastron was made a duchess much to the dissatisfaction of the nobles. She then became the royal governess. After the fall of the monarchy, she was ridiculed along with the other members of Marie Antoinette’s close circle.

²⁵ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jean-Nicolas Billaud-Varenne." Encyclopædia Britannica. May 31, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Nicolas-Billaud-Varenne>.

²⁶ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Gobel." Encyclopædia Britannica. August 28, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-Baptiste-Joseph-Gobel>.

²⁷ Reinhard, Marcel. "Louis De Saint-Just." Encyclopædia Britannica. August 21, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Louis-de-Saint-Just>.

²⁸ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Marie-Jean Héault De Séchelles." Encyclopædia Britannica. March 29, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marie-Jean-Herauld-de-Sechelles>.

Georges Couthon – A leader of the Jacobin club, Georges Couthon was a close associate of Robespierre and Saint-Just. A member of the first Committee on Public Safety, Couthon denounced his ways as a proponent of the poor. He became a military advisor who worked to arrest all of the Girondins. Even more impressively, he made trips to the outlying provinces while being wheelchair bound²⁹.

Lazare Carnot – A member of the Committee for General Defense and the Committee of Public Safety, Carnot was a major player in both the political and military arenas. Carnot was a major antagonist to Robespierre, and he decided that he was going to worry more about militaristic policy rather than general policy³⁰.

Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès – A member of the First Estate, Sieyès became first the Vicar-General then the Chancellor of the diocese of Chartres. Unfortunately, due to his low-class birth, he was unable to progress further into the Church's hierarchy. He became disenfranchised with the Church. In the end, he turned to politics and wrote a pamphlet about the Third Estate³¹.

Napoleon Bonaparte – During the French Revolution, Napoleon was an up and coming General who was looking to take on more power than he already had consolidated for himself. As we all know, Napoleon became the first emperor of France after the end of the Revolution; however, not many know of his military escapades during the Revolution. For the first half, he was helping fight a civil war in his family's home of Corsica, but then he returned just in time to attend this meeting as the military advisor³².

²⁹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Georges Couthon." Encyclopædia Britannica. July 24, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georges-Couthon>.

³⁰ Soboul, Albert M. "Lazare Carnot." Encyclopædia Britannica. July 29, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lazare-Carnot>.

³¹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès." Encyclopædia Britannica. June 16, 2018. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Emmanuel-Joseph-Sieyes>.

³² "Napoleon Bonaparte." The Rise of Big Business | EHISTORY. Accessed September 05, 2018. <https://ehistory.osu.edu/biographies/napoleon-bonaparte>.