

War and Republic

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By the Autumn of 1791, most thought the French Revolution was over. The new constitution had been proclaimed, Louis had pledged an oath of loyalty to that constitution and had become a constitutional monarch. However, in reality, France's problems were far from over...

PROBLEMS WITH AUSTRIA.

Austria was situated just over the border with France and was ruled by an absolute monarch. The emperor of Austria was Marie-Antoinette's brother and had been protecting nobles who had fled revolutionary France. The emperor and the French nobles were plotting against the revolution.

In April 1792, the French government declared war on Austria. Remember that France was no longer ruled by Louis, he had become a **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH**. The war was to have dramatic effects for him, but not everyone in France supported the war.

Source 1: a decree of November 1792.
"The National Convention declares in the name of the French nation that it will help all peoples who wish to recover their freedom...and protect those citizens who have been oppressed."

Source 2: written by Louis, December 1791.
"A war in Europe would greatly improve my situation."

Source 4: from a speech by Robespierre, a JACOBI N.
"France is in no state for war. Put your own house in order before you try to take liberty to others elsewhere."

Should France go to war?

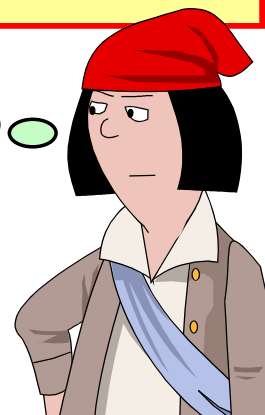
Source 3: from a letter to the emperor of Austria, from Marie-Antoinette, 1791.
"our only hope of help lies with foreign powers. It is for you to put an end to the disturbances of the French Revolution."



??? Tasks! ???

- 1) Which of sources 1 - 4 are for war? Which are against?
- 2) What are the reasons why people wanted war?
- 3) Why was Robespierre (source 4) against war?
- 4) How would war benefit a) The King? and b) the Revolution?

Sacre Bleu! More New Words!
A **CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCH** is a king or queen who has to obey the constitution.
JACOBI NS were supporters of the revolution and saw war as a threat to it.
A **REPUBLIC** is a country without a king or a queen.



THE WAR GOES BADLY FOR FRANCE

The war started badly for France. Many former officers had been nobles before the revolution, so had fled the country after the chateaus burning of 1792. The new volunteer soldiers were enthusiastic, but had no experience of war. As the war went badly for France, the economic situation grew worse. There was a loss in confidence in the new paper money, the assignat, so prices rose. Many young men had been taken to fight, so not all the harvest had been gathered. This also led to rising food prices in France, and hunger among the population. These economic hardships led to discontent and unrest in France, with many people blaming Louis and his ministers for the situation. They suspected that Louis wanted France to lose the war, so that the monarchy might be restored.

THE KING IS OVERTHROWN

By the summer of 1792, unrest had grown in France. It came to a climax on August 10th, when National Guards from all over France joined the Paris mob and stormed the King's palace, the Tuilleries. The French people called Louis 'Louis the Last'. They did not want a king anymore. The King was then taken prisoner and on September 21st 1792, France was declared a REPUBLIC. It was following this decree that the Revolution entered its most violent phase...

Revolution entered its most violent phase...

The King does not care about the people of France. He wants us to lose the war.



I want to fight for France, but our soldiers are led by inexperienced officers.



The angry mob began looking for other 'traitors' – clergy and nobles who had supported the king, and those who had criticised the Revolution. By August, they had been imprisoned. Some were simply hacked to death. By September, those left were dragged from jail, put on 'trial', and executed. Between 1100 and 1400 prisoners were killed and these massacres horrified Europe. The reign of 'Terror' would shortly follow in revolutionary France.

What effect did the war have on France?

- **The Economic crisis** ⇒ The poor progress of the war led to a drop in confidence in the French economy. As food prices rose, more and more French people went hungry.
- **Greater power for ordinary people** ⇒ The poor progress of the war meant that more men were needed to fight for the revolution. Ordinary folk were recruited, and on their return, were given the vote.
- **Suspicion of Louis** ⇒ The poor progress of the war meant that many people did not trust Louis. He does not support the revolutionary war effort, and so the King is overthrown.
- **Increased tension** ⇒ The poor progress of the war resulted in large-scale death, increased suspicion and the September massacres.

BONUS Q!! - What should be done with Louis? Explain your choice of punishment in this extended answer, and give reasons.



??TASKS!??

- 1) In what ways did the war go badly for France?
- 2) Read the attitudes of the soldier and the revolutionary. Why might many French people have felt that Louis was not on their side? (THINK! clue: relatives, position, behaviour)
- 3) Explain in a paragraph, using your own words the events of the summer of 1792.
- 4) What effect did the poor progress of the war have on France?
- 5) Were any of the effects of war positive? Explain your answer in full.
- 6) Copy out the keywords for this piece of work.