

Reign of Terror:

When: 1793-1794

Where: France

Who: Robespierre, Committee of Public Safety, National Convention, Danton, Hebert

What: The Reign of Terror was a period in which the Committee of Public Safety's in-pocket courts would try people as enemies of the state for political crimes alongside rebels. More often than not, the judges were harsh and disregarded the traditional procedures, even ones outlined in the Declaration of the Rights of Man. For the most part, this terror showed little interest in class differences, imprisoning and/or executing by guillotine whoever it deemed threatening to the new government. This terror caused many people to feel as though the ideals of 1789 had been disregarded. It was not ended until the death of Robespierre, long after the execution of Jacques Hebert and Danton, who had spoken out against him. The Thermidorian Reaction arose as a complete response to this devastating period.

Why: The Reign of Terror's intense suppression of rebels brought about a unification of France, helped reinforce the price controls installed by the Committee of Public Safety, and also turned the Revolution even more radical.

(Page 708 & 711)

Sans-Culottes:

When: 1789-1795

Where: Paris, France

Who: lower-class laborers and traders

What: Those "without breeches" were the sans-culottes. They sought for economic relief from inflation, unemployment, and food shortages. The common people had "stormed the Bastille, marched on Versailles, [and] driven the king from the Tuileries", all important events in the French Revolution, and by 1793, at the time of the September Massacres, they turned their attention to the political arena. Although at first their cries were ignored, the Mountain and Robespierre began to sympathize with them as it was a convenient leverage over the Girondists.

Why: The sans-culottes represented the idea that the lower-class Third Estate was influencing the revolution (a "bottom-up" revolution) and that the people were the ones leading the French Revolution.

(Pages 707 & 708)