

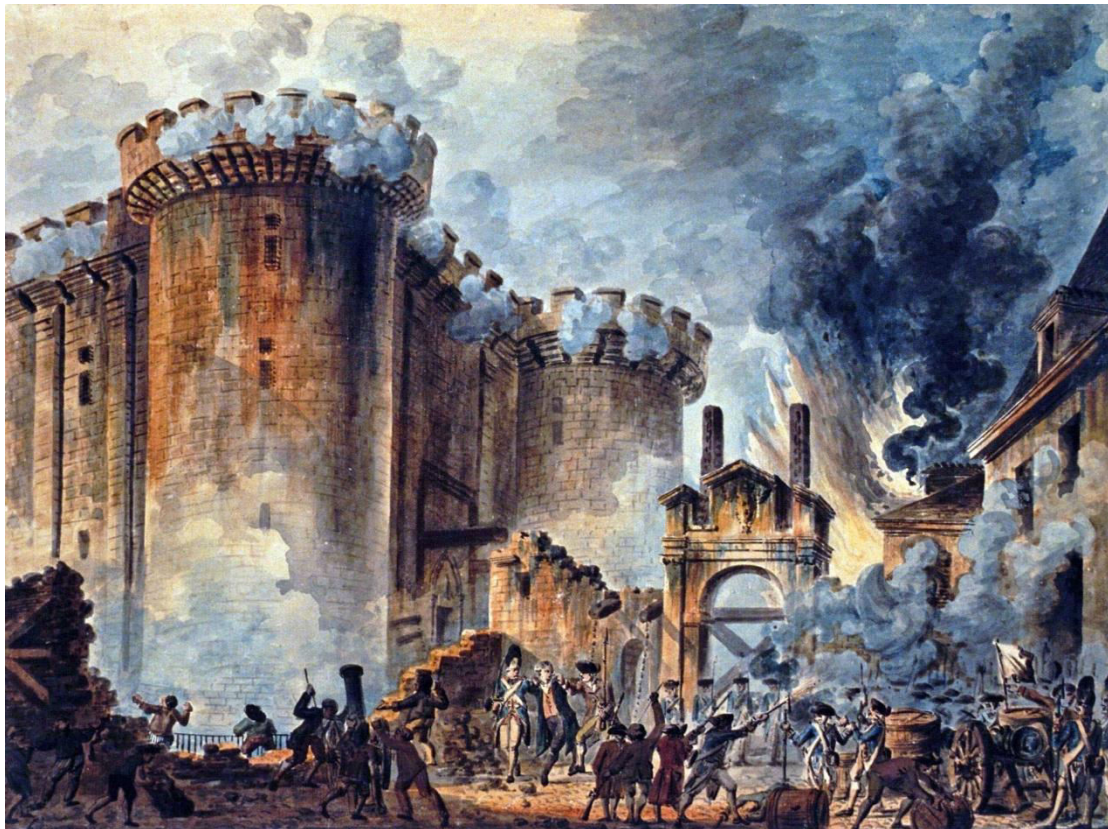
Committee: Historical Crisis Committee

Issue: Turmoil in Paris: The First French Republic is established (1792)

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Position: President/Chair

THE ATSMUN HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE



INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORICAL PERIOD COVERED BY THE HCC

Hello Delegates and welcome to the 4th edition of ATSMUN. My name is Themistocles Vasileiou and I am pleased to be chairing this year's Historical Crisis Committee alongside my co-chair Phoevos Goudas. The HCC is a truly fantastic committee that can be one of the best experiences a delegate can have in their MUN carrier. I am very excited to meet all of you and spend an unforgettable weekend together.

The French Revolution is what many would call a watershed event in modern European history. It was the revolutionary movement that shook France between 1787 and 1799. It was one of the few times in modern history where ordinary people successfully rose up against their monarch and demanded economic and political Liberty, fought for Equality and were united in Fraternity. For many, it marks the start of a new era in European Politics and the dawn of an age of Liberalism, never witnessed before during the course of history. Influenced by the groundbreaking perceptions of the Enlightenment era, the revolution overthrew the monarchy of the House of Bourbon and established the first French Republic in 1792 triggering the global decline of absolute monarchies. As such, and due to the tangible consequences it brought about thereafter, it is rightfully regarded as one of the most groundbreaking events in human history.

Prior to the revolution years, the vast majority of French lived in extreme poverty, with almost no chance of escaping their condition. There were a few reasons that led to this situation. The exorbitant expenses for the Seven Years War had started to take their toll, while at the same time the obligation to assist the Thirteen newly founded American Colonies in their strive for Independence had exhausted the French Empire. This fiscal shortage that was created forced the government into increasing taxes and implementing an even tougher interventionism policy. As a result peasants were entirely at the mercy of the nobility and were required to pay ransom for almost everything. The countryside was characterized by near universal poverty and misery. In urban regions the artisans and the laborers as well as the merchants and the small businessmen experienced similar hardships, since excessive taxation and austerity measures limited their ability to control their own work. Meanwhile the clergy and the nobility, who comprised only a tiny part of the population, lived in extreme opulence. Simultaneously, King Louis XVI was demanding even higher taxes from all the classes to meet the palace's extravagant demands. As an addition to all of this, a drought, which had decimated the harvests of 1788, led to a catastrophic famine, thus greatly diminishing the civilian population. The peasants had no choice but to take matters into their own hands.

The revolt started with an open rebellion in the summer of 1789. It would before long topple the absolute monarchy of Louis XVI, strip the nobility of their hereditary power, and completely undermine the influence of the Catholic Church in French politics. These institutions of the old regime, or as it was known in France the "**Ancien Régime**", were replaced by many different political factions, each with its own goals and ideas. This led to a

situation that many would describe as political chaos, since they witnessed the radical empowerment of the Jacobins led by Maximilien Robespierre pushing for reforms, King Louis XVI appealing for help to the Great Powers of Europe so as to maintain his status as King of France, former army generals seeking to exploit the current state of affairs in order to gain political power and generally France being in gridlock.

It is 1792, The First French Republic has been declared and the leaders of the nations of Europe have met to resolve this crisis and stabilize the region, with the traditional Powers wishing to restore the usual form of governing and not be toppled by innovative ideas that have been propagating during the last couple of years.

AIMS OF THE COMMITTEE

The start date of the committee is September the 22nd, 1792, immediately after the Declaration of the First French Republic. Therefore, the Heads of States that take part in this session of the HCC should achieve the economic and political stabilization of France within the three days that the conference will take place. It should be noted that this is indicative and not compulsory. However it is desirable that the policies implemented by the Heads of States and the actions with which they would like to proceed during the conference fall within the area of this topic. In other words, delegates are not required to do what their real-life historical figures did in this timeline but, for the sake of historical accuracy, their actions should be primarily focused on the French Revolution and, to a smaller extent, world affairs of that time in human history. Nevertheless, if a delegate manages to combine a different world affair with the events of the French Revolution in such a way that the committee does not wander off the topic but rather benefit from it, they should feel free to venture it. At the same time, it is required that delegates adhere to the traits of the historical figures they will be representing. For example, Napoleon Bonaparte will be primarily concerned with gaining political influence so as to extend France's borders and thus is expected to demonstrate his ruthless character, while King Louis XVI will be solely concerned with reinstating the monarchy. War may sound attractive to the ears of the history fans, but given that many European countries suffer from economic backlashes at the time, it is advisory to engage in battle only as a last resort and take advantage of diplomacy tactics instead.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS OF THE HCC

In the HCC delegates have certain powers as rulers of their nations.

Specifically, members of the HCC have the right to:

1. Declare Wars, make Alliances and negotiate Peace Treaties
2. Give orders to the armed forces of their country and coordinate military campaigns
3. Instruct their cabinet to adopt specific policies, pass legislation and handle the economy
4. Order the heads of their intelligence services to carry out acts of espionage
5. Bring claims against other leaders or countries before a specific Tribunal
6. Propagate a certain political, philosophical or social theory via some figures of their intellectuality, which can affect the decision-making around Europe at the early 1790s

These are all done via contacting their respective ministers.

For example: If a King wishes to increase taxation in order to boost their country's military budget, he writes the following in a note:

To: The Minister of Finance

I order you to increase taxes so as to boost the military budget.

King Louis XVI

The note is then given to the admin staff of the committee which, in turn, hands it over to the chair of the committee. The chair, in consequence, can react in two ways.

They can either

1. Accept the order and implement it.
2. Dismiss it due to specific difficulties which they think are barring this order from being put into action

In the first case the chair will reply with the following note.

To: King Louis XVI

As you wish, my lord.

Minister of Finance

In the second case, where the chair rejects the delegate's wish, they will respond with the following note.

To: King Louis XVI

My lord, unfortunately we cannot implement such measures due to intense unrest that has been going for the last two weeks in the streets of our capital.

Minister of Finance

If a leader desires to carry out an aggressive act towards a foreign nation or another leader, he can once again do that through their ministers. In this case, however, the chair has three options, all of which depend on his own will (this of course is not the case if a leader wishes to declare war on another nation in which case it will simply be announced that the two or more states are at war with each other). He can either entertain the leader's request in the form of a crisis, dismiss it due to a lack of resources and time or spread it out as a rumour around the committee.

If, for example, the King of Great Britain wishes to assassinate Maximilien Robespierre, he writes a letter to his chief of staff saying the following:

To: General Charles O' Hara

Maximilien Robespierre has been tampering with the balance in this region for too long. I would like you to get rid of him as soon as possible.

King George III

In the first case, the chair will then respond in a note saying that this action will be carried out as soon as possible and announce either the death of Robespierre to the committee shortly afterwards or the failure of the assassination attempt depending on their judgment, the ongoing situation and the equilibrium of power between nations.

In the second case, the chair will respond with a note saying that this cannot be done due to lack of funding or that the current situation does not allow such an action to take place.

In the third case, the chair will announce to the committee in the form of a crisis that an alleged leak from the British Army has revealed a plot to assassinate Maximilien Robespierre in order to challenge the work of the committee.

Keep in mind that the instructions you give to your cabinet, depending on how you execute them and the influence they have on the committee, will be announced in the form of global news or a crisis according to the importance. However when an interior measure is taken, it is feasible not to be announced out loud before the committee, if the leader wishes to.

It goes without saying that leaders can send letters to one another, on condition that they are part of the same alliance at the given time.

TRIBUNALS AND TRIALS

The committee can take the form of a Tribunal if a dispute arises between two or more members of the HCC and one feels that this dispute puts his country at such a great risk that it should be adjudicated:

There are three categories of claims that can be heard before a Tribunal:

- Claims regarding espionage
- Claims about violation of national sovereignty (mainly by interfering in domestic affairs and violation of one country's borders)
- Claims about acts of aggression
- Claims about treason by an allied country or an interior enemy

Leaders are encouraged not to overuse their right to bring forth claims. The decision on whether a dispute should be heard before an HCC Tribunal will be taken by the Chairs. Should the chairs find a leader's claims admissible for adjudication, a 3-member Tribunal will be constituted. Each of the Parties involved in the dispute can appoint one adjudicator, whilst the Chair of the HCC serves as the President of the Tribunal. Every adjudicator has 3 votes, which they can cast in favour of the appellant or against the defendant. Each side has a maximum of 10 minutes to plead its case and then an additional time of 5 minutes for questions on their speech. It should be noted that, on the grounds that it is a formal trial, evidence can be brought forward to solidify or debunk a claim. After having heard the speeches of both sides involved in the dispute, the members of the Tribunal along with the

HCC participants cast their votes on whether the claim is valid or not. If the claim is determined to be true and the defendant is found guilty, the 3 members of the Tribunal will decide upon any form of penalty.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE DELEGATES

There is no objective answer to this question. In the HCC, history is at your fingertips and you can change the outcome with your actions. In order for you to experience the HCC to its full extent you are obliged to conduct your own research in order to gain a deeper understanding of the situation in France, the country which you will be representing and the world in general at that time. You are advised to conduct research on:

1. The state of the economy of your country.
2. The state and the size of your armed forces in 1792.
3. Treaties which affect the foreign policy of your country.
4. Trade agreements which have an effect on your economy.
5. The existence and the state of the colonies which are under your control.
6. Historical alliances your country has had with other nations as well as enemies that your country has had throughout history.
7. The political situation of your country.
8. The personal traits of the character you will be representing.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Ancien régime

(meaning in French: “old order”) The political and social system of France prior to the French Revolution. Under the regime, everyone was subject to the king of France as well as a member of an estate and province. All rights and status flowed from the social institutions, divided into three orders: **Clergy**, **Nobility**, and **Others** (the Third Estate, the largest and poorest social class).

House of Bourbon

One of the most important ruling houses of Europe. Its members were descended from Louis I, duce de Bourbon, King of France from 1327 to 1342, the grandson of the French king Louis IX (ruled 1226–70). It provided reigning kings of France from 1589 to 1792.

Absolute Monarchy

The political doctrine and practice of unlimited centralized authority and absolute sovereignty, as vested especially in a monarch or dictator. The essence of an absolutist system is that the ruling power is not subject to regularized challenge or

check by any other agency, be it judicial, legislative, religious, economic, or electoral. King Louis XIV (1643–1715) of France furnished the most familiar assertion of absolutism when he said, “L’état, c’est moi” (“I am the state”).

Estates-General

(French: États-Généraux) The representative assembly of the three “estates,” or classes of the realm in pre-Revolutionary France: the Clergy and Nobility—which were privileged minorities—and the Third Estate, which represented the majority of the people.

Assembly of Notables

A group of high-ranking nobles, ecclesiastics, and state functionaries convened by the King of France on extraordinary occasions to consult on matters of state.

Revolution

In social and political science, a major, sudden, and hence typically violent alteration in government and in related associations and structures.

Liberalism

Political doctrine that takes protecting and enhancing the freedom of the individual to be the central problem of politics. Liberals typically believe that government is necessary to protect individuals from being harmed by others, but they also recognize that government itself can pose a threat to liberty.

Jacobins

Formally “The Society of the Friends of the Constitution” or “Society of the Jacobins, Friends of Liberty and Equality” was the most famous political group of the French Revolution, which became identified with extreme egalitarianism and violence and led the Revolutionary government.

Girondins

They were a casually connected political faction during the French Revolution that played a significant role in the Legislative Assembly and the National Convention.

Sans-culottes

Ordinary people from the lower classes, who greatly supported the cause of the revolution because of the harsh life conditions prior to the upheavals. The term refers to their characteristic dressing.

Social Contract

A social-philosophical idea, according to which individuals have consented to surrender some of their freedoms or withdraw a few of their demands and submit them to the authority in exchange for protection of their remaining rights.

Legislative Assembly

(French: Assemblée Législative) National parliament of France during part of the Revolutionary period and again during the Second Republic. The first was created in September 1791 and was in session from Oct. 1, 1791, to Sept. 20, 1792, when it was replaced by the National Convention, marking the formal beginning of the (First) Republic.

National Convention

(French: Convention Nationale), assembly that governed France from September 20, 1792, until October 26, 1795, during the most critical period of the French Revolution. The National Convention was elected to provide a new constitution for the country after the overthrow of the monarchy. The Convention numbered 749 deputies, including businessmen, tradesmen, and many professional men. Among its early acts were the formal abolition of the monarchy and the establishment of the First French Republic.

First French Republic

(French: Première République), officially the French Republic, was founded on 22 September 1792 during the French Revolution. It was the period from the declaration of the republic in 1792 until the declaration of the First Empire in 1804 under Napoleon, although the form of the government changed several times. This period was characterized by the fall of the monarchy, the establishment of the National Convention and the Reign of Terror.

Feudalism

(French: Féodalité) The political and economic system of organization in Europe developed in the middle ages and lasting until the late 18th century with a strong basis on the relation of the lord to his vassal. Under it all citizens are subject to a king and regional lords, who are in turn loyal to the king, someone with absolute power and the right to interfere in political and economic affairs (both private and public).

Maximilien Robespierre

Maximilien-François-Marie-Isidore de Robespierre, was a radical Jacobin leader and one of the principal figures in the French Revolution. In the latter months of 1793 he came to dominate the Committee of Public Safety, the principal organ of the Revolutionary government during the Reign of Terror.

Marquis de Lafayette

Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette was a French aristocrat who fought in the Continental Army alongside the American revolutionaries against the British in the American Revolution. During the first few years of the French Revolution he became one of the most powerful men in France after being appointed Commander of the National Guard.

King Louis XVI

Louis-Auguste, duc de Berry, was the last king of France (1774–92) in the line of Bourbon monarchs preceding the French Revolution. His monarchy was abolished on Sept. 21, 1792 and he was deposed by the revolutionaries.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Countries Involved in this Crisis

- French Republic
- Great Britain
- The Kingdom of Prussia
- The Russian Empire
- The United States of America

- The Kingdom of Spain
- The Kingdom of Portugal
- The Kingdom of Denmark-Norway
- The Kingdom of Sweden
- The Ottoman Empire
- The Holy See
- The Kingdom of Naples-Sicily
- The United Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The Republic of Venice
- The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Organizations Involved in this Crisis

- House of Bourbon
- National Convention
- Committee of Public Safety
- The Society of the Friends of the Constitution
- Roman Catholic Church
- Patriotic Society of 1789
- Society of the Friends of the Blacks
- Society of Cordeliers

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS LEADING UP TO THIS POINT

1774	<p>Louis XVI comes to the throne of France</p> <p>The American War of Independence begins</p> <p>A great famine occurs in Paris in tandem with grain riots in most parts of northern France</p>
1776 July 4	American Declaration of Independence
1778	France enters the American war of Independence putting them at war with Great Britain

1783 September 3	The Peace of Versailles is signed granting independence to the USA
1786 September 26	The Vergennes/Eden commercial free trade agreement between Britain and France is signed in Paris
1787 February 22 July-September	The first Assembly of Notables convenes Conflict between the king and the Parliament of Paris from July until September
1788 June-July November	Multiple insurrections in Southern France at the city of Grenoble with calls for profound reforms Second meeting of the Assembly of Notables
1789 January-May May 5 June 17 June 20 June 23 June 27 July 9 July 13 July 14 July 15	Preparation of <i>Cahiers de Doléances</i> (lists of grievances) and elections to the Estates General Estates General assemble at Versailles Adoption of the title 'National Assembly' by the Third Estate Members of the Third Estate (plus some reform-minded clergy and nobility), excluded from their meeting place, assemble and take the 'Tennis Court Oath', swearing not to disband until a constitution which limits the power of the monarchy and strips the nobility of their Feudal powers is established King Louis XVI rejects the demands of the Third Estate The King orders the clergy and the nobility to join the Third Estate and grants himself absolute power The National Assembly declares itself the sole Constituent Assembly Formation of National Guard The Storming of Bastille takes place Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette is appointed as Commander of the National Guard Peasant revolts against Feudalism in all of France Multiple reforms are passed by the National Assembly, including the

<p>August-November</p>	<p>abolition of feudalism, equality in taxation, the sale of offices, the nationalization of the Church's property and the approval of the Declaration of the Rights of Man</p>
<p>1790 February 13</p> <p>June 19</p>	<p>Systematic oppression of religious orders and monastic vows begins to occur in Paris</p> <p>Abolition of the nobility and its titles by the National Assembly</p>
<p>1791 March 10</p> <p>May 15</p> <p>June 20</p> <p>August 27</p> <p>September 13-14</p> <p>September 28</p>	<p>The Pope condemns the Declaration of the Rights of Man</p> <p>Black inhabitants of French colonies declare to have equal civil rights with whites</p> <p>King Louis XVI flees Versailles for fear that he might get lynched</p> <p>Austria and Prussia agree to intervene in French affairs if needed, Britain remains neutral</p> <p>King Louis XVI formally accepts the constitution</p> <p>The National Assembly abolishes slavery in all areas under French control</p>
<p>1792 January</p> <p>April 24</p> <p>September 20-21</p>	<p>Food riots in Paris</p> <p>The new national anthem of France "La Marseillaise" is composed by Rouget de Lisle replacing the previous anthem "Grand Dieu Sauve Le Roi"</p> <p>The National Convention replaces the National Assembly as the sole constituent assembly of Revolutionary France. In its first session it unanimously votes to abolish the monarchy. The First French Republic is Declared</p>

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