

1798 Elections

- Royalists stayed away
- Jacobins did well 1/3
- Law of Floreal (May 98)
- Persuaded to annul election of 127 deputies (86 Jacobins)
- Directors chose most of Deputies to replace expelled members.
- Directory showed contempt for electorate.

1799 Elections

- only 66 of 187 Gov Candidates were elected.
- 50 Jacobins
 - Moderates became disillusioned with Gov + news of war defeats.
 - June 99 - new levee en masse was passed - 20-25 men called up immediately.

News of the turn in the war - no more Plunder.

- A forced loan on the Rich was declared.
- Intended to raise 100

Jourdan's Law

Concerns over the size of the French Army.

Jourdan's law proposed a reintroduction of Conscription.

- Councils approved this Sep 98.
- Provoked widespread resistance.

Fall of the Directory

million livres - the rich would be forced to give up 3/4 of their income.

Law of Hostages

1799 - Anyone who didn't pay would be forced to be imprisoned + property confiscated.

* This appeared to be a return to arbitrary arrests + harassment of the terror.

- By Nov 99 only 10 million collected.
- only 1/2 of conscripts had joined.

1799 - Virtual Collapse of Gov administration in the Provinces.

- Directory could not persuade locals to accept office or enforce decrees.
- Royalists dominant in some localities.
- National Guard not strong enough to keep order.
- Gov Commissioners were killed as quickly as replaced.
- Led to elements of Civil War.

Coup d'etat of Brumaire

- Military Situation improved in late Summer 1799
- The Russians had been driven out of Switzerland.

* Sieyes - wanted to strengthen the Executive and felt time was right to stage a Coup. - it would have to be done unconstitutionally as Five Hundred would not accept this.

* The Coup needed the support of the Army.

Bonaparte - was recommended
- He was back from Egypt and very popular in Paris - A very successful general.

- On his return he had made a decision to play a leading role in the politics of France.

* He agreed to join Sieyès' coup on one condition - A provisional Gov of 3 consuls - who would draft a new constitution.

* Sieyès wanted to move the Councils to Saint-Cloud - Royal Palace in suburbs of Paris. - Away from Jacobin influence in central Paris. - Creating the fear of a Jacobin plot the Ancients and 500 moved.

One there (19 Brumaire) Now they realised the only plot was one organised by Sieyès.

The Council of 500 were furious so Bonaparte agreed to address both Councils.

The appearance of Napoleon in the 500 with armed soldiers were greeted with with outcry.

He was physically attacked by Jacobin deputies + had to be rescued by his officers.

- Napoleon's brother Lucien President of 500 came to his rescue + told officers that some deputies were trying to kill him.
- At this the troops cleared the room.

→ A few hours later a small group of councillors sympathetic to the coup passed a decree to

Rise and Fall of the Directory

abolish the directory.

It was replaced with a provisional executive committee of 3 members Sieyès - Ducos - Napoleon.

Constitution of Year VIII

Paris remained calm. - more about apathy than approval.
- News spread met with surprise and mild opposition.

- When Napoleon presented the new constitution of Year VIII on Dec 15 1799 - He said it was based on the principles of the

Revolution. 'It is finished!'
- Few people realised that Brumaire spelled the end of Republic phase and start of Napoleonic Empire.

Achievements of Directory

- Largest lasting regime of the Revolution.

- Financial reforms + reorganisation of the tax system - started economic recovery.

- Helped stimulate industrial and agricultural expansion.

- Changes in admin within departments.

* Much of these achievements developed under Napoleon but began during the Directory.

1. Problems with Constitution YR III

- annual elections
- No way to solve disputes
- No way to change Constitution
- * Could Not provide Stable Gov.

2. Election Interference

- To avoid Jacobin / Royalist majority directors got involved in elections.
- During Fructidor and Floreal Coups they purged the Councils
- * lost respect for Constitution.

3. Over Reliance on Army

- Started with Prairial + Vendemiaire + the Fructidor uprisings / Coup.
- * made an army takeover likely.
- Although Brumaire was organised by politicians they thought the Army would support - they underestimated Role of Napoleon.

4. Alienation of Core Supporters

- Economic policies affected the people who would have supported the Directory. - wealthy notables.
- few were prepared to defend it.

5. Lack of Enthusiasm for war

- war had dragged on.
- most people wanted Peace.
- The Directory needed war to keep anxious generals out of France.
- Renewal of war after 1797 led to a flurry of Jacobin activity that worried the people.

* These things discredited the Directory + produced

politicians who were not as committed to

Failure of the Directory

the Republic as the Convention had been.

- 1799 - only 12% elected to the Councils had been members of the Convention.
- only 5% were Regicides
- over half deputies elected in 1799 were elected for the first time.

* These were easy to convince that a new Constitution was necessary.

Deputies who opposed the Directory helped run the Consulate.

77% had been deputies in the Directory.

- They wanted stability and were prepared to accept an authoritarian regime to get it.

- Directory claimed to favour democracy but used the Army to crush opposition.