

American Historian G.V. Taylor:
"It was not the revolutionaries who made the Revolution but the Revolution that made the revolutionaries".

- Most Cahiers were moderate and showed no indication of a desire to abolish the monarchy.
- Revolutionaries became more confident and ambitious as time passed.

MONARCHY DESTROYED

Abolished 10 Aug 1792

Restored on 6 April 1814

However: the new monarchy had its power limited by an elected assembly.

* An elected legislature was one of the permanent changes brought about by Revolution.

The Church

- Suffered enormously.
- lost land, wealth, income + financial privilege - never recovered.

The Constituent Assembly

- Their reforms proved to be the most radical + most lasting of Revolution.
- Dismantled the Ancien Regime and reconstructed according to new principles
 - abolished Estates
 - Noble / clergy privileges ended

Impact of the Revolution

* END OF ANCIEN REGIME

* Largely achieved in 2 years - A remarkable Achievement.

- later monopoly on education was ended with control of poor relief and hospitals.

- The Clergy became - in effect - civil servants - paid by state.

- Some were better off with this salary.

- Nobility abolished 1790 (but brought back under Napoleon)
- old 13 Parlements ended
- Financial structure of Ancien Regime abandoned.
- Church was transformed
- Sale of Biens Nationaux changed land ownership.

Replaced by:

- New departments, districts and Communes.
- New Courts of Law.
- A Centralised treasury
- Standardisation of weights + measures.
- meritocracy.

* 3 Estates were also significantly affected by the Revolution - the extent to which they won + lost is debated.

- Civil Constitution of the Clergy

- deeply divided the Church.
- Those who did not accept were persecuted.
- 200 killed in Sept massacres
- 900 victims of the Terror
- 250,000 left or deported
- many districts were left without a priest + in YRII most churches closed.

- where clergy took the oath there were a lowering of esteem for religion that lasted into 19th.
- Church was separated from state and remained so until 1802 when Napoleon signed a Concordat with the Pope.
- Healed divisions - somewhat but effects were long term.

The Nobility

- Traditionally viewed as the biggest losers of the Revolution.
- Among leaders of Revolt until 1792.
 - lost their Feudal dues - up to 60% of their income.
 - Lost financial privileges - Paid more tax - 5% of their income before Revolt - 16% after land tax.
 - lost positions in Church, Army + State - lost ability to leave land to oldest son - had to be divided equally.
- 1790 - Nobility abolished + titles forbidden.
- 16500 left the country - 8% of Nobles
- 1200 were executed during the terror
- many imprisoned for months.

* Recent historiography has revised this view.

- Now generally accepted that nobles who stayed in France were not extensively persecuted. Majority retained their lands + did not lose dominant economic position.

- Napoleon's tax list show that nobles were still among wealthiest people in France.

- under Napoleon many emigre Nobles returned to buy back lands

Impact of Revolution

Destruction of the Ancien Regime.

- Statistics limited but would seem that nobles recovered 1/4 land lost.
- Political elites in France before and after Revolution were land owners - Nobles (titles) Bourgeoisie who came to be called notables.
- Ruled France up to 1880.
- Some elements of the Ancien Regime remained long into 19th Century.

The Bourgeoisie

- Marxist view (Lefebvre + Soboul) that this was a bourgeoisie revolt.
- Class struggle between Bourgeoisie who were frustrated at rigid position and declining aristocracy.
- Monarchy was bankrupt so needed finances of the growing middle class.
- led to dominance of businessmen.
- British + American historians have challenged this view.
 - Bourgeoisie invested in land not industry
 - few represented in elected assemblies (Trade + Industry)
 - 88 of 648 Constituent Assembly
 - 83 of 749 in Convention
- Laws were passed that benefited them...
- * Abolition of internal Customs barriers, Guilds and Price Controls

- Prohibition of workers Associations
- Uniform measure of weights and measurements.

* But transport was poor so development of a national market was difficult.

→ merchants and Manufacturers were worse off in 1799 than 1789.

BENEFITS

- Over the course of Revolution the Bourgeoisie were main beneficiaries + provided all leaders after 1791.

- Most reforms were supposed to benefit all French citizens but only bourgeoisie could take full advantage.

* Workers and peasants could gain little.

- By 1799 they owned 30-40% of French land.

- Voting system benefitted the Bourgeoisie

- limited to property owners
- nearly all members were Bourgeoisie

- Lawyers were most prominent beneficiaries - could access new opportunities. From 700 to 6000 admin jobs - new roles

Some did not benefit
→ devaluation of currency
- Renters / merchants at the Atlantic ports, manufacturers of luxury goods.

* on balance most bourgeoisie did well out of the Revolution

Impact of Revolution

- Destruction of the Ancien Regime

PEASANTRY

- A mixed peasantry in France. They experienced both losses and gains.

losses

- Rent rose as much as a 1/4
- Conscription to military - lost labour
- Dechristianisation - people attached to the Church.
- Affected by maximum

on grain prices and grain requisitions.

* led to widespread resistance movement (vendée) Brittany etc

- They did not want a return to Ancien Regime but were caught up in Counter-Revolution.

- Resistance was anti-Revolutionary rather than Counter-Revolutionary.

- They wanted stability - their old way of life + removal of 'foreigners' (officials from Paris).

- Resistance led to repression and executions - 60% of victims of the terror were peasants.

Gains

- abolition of tax burden
- Abolition of feudal dues and the tithe.
- Able to buy land - Biens - mainly richer peasants.
- Gained from inflation - were able to pay off debts.
- Legal system was reformed - much fairer.

- Right to self government - esp at municipal level. Peasants filled local councils.
- over 1 million people took part in councils in 1790 + many more later.
- Self-Governing Communes + Justices of the peace survived into 19th century.

WAGES

- Poor peasants, day labourers + sharecroppers among greatest losers.
- Did not benefit from abolition of feudal dues + hard hit by inflation. 1792-1797 - wages did not rise as fast as prices.
- They relied on cottage industry for survival + often destitute.
- They did benefit from abolition of indirect taxes + gained from deflation 1797-99.
- * Peasants were affected in different ways but for most gains outweighed losses (esp land owners)

URBAN WORKERS

- Sans Culottes welcomed the Revolution + helped it succeed.
- disappointed by 1st stage of the Revolution.
- abolition of Guilds + workers unions stopped their defense of rights.
- They benefited from maximum but hated free market. They suffered from poor harvests and limited grain supplies.

Impact of the Revolution - Destruction of the Ancien Regime

THE POOR

- The Poor suffered the most during revolt.
- in normal times 1/4 relied on poor relief in large cities.
- As unemployment increased the source of poor relief - the Church - disappeared, as did hospitals.
- led to death + starvation in poor harvest 1794-5.

They suffered from inflation but benefited from deflation.

- In Rouen the mortality rate doubled in 1795-6. Trebled the year after.
- Responded with direct action + fought against revolution in white terror.

ECONOMY

- Marxist Perspective - the Revolution moved France from feudalism to Capitalism.
- Not all historians agree. Alfred Cobban = Claims the opposite "the revolution was not for but against Capitalism."
- The revolution restricted rather than promoted capitalism.
- * Foreign Trade declined 1789 - foreign trade = 25% of GDP. By 1796 it was down to 9%.
- due to slave revolts + war with Britain.

The war had a varying effect on the French economy. Some industries benefited - some lost.

Benefits

- Iron and coal expanded due to war.
- Textiles expanded to make uniforms
- Cotton industry gained most.
- War allowed limitation of English goods in French territories.
 - short term gain by 1815 - British competition was back.
- Rhine benefited as blockaded Atlantic Ports shifted industry + Trade to Rhine

Losses

- supplies of raw materials were interrupted by war.
- foreign markets were lost due to blockade.
- linen industry dropped by 1/3.

* By 1799 - industrial production had fallen to 2/3.

* when currency was withdrawn there was a shortage of cash, interest rates were high + agricultural prices collapsed.

Agriculture stagnated during the revolution.

Subsistence farming was still common and old methods (Coxen + Sickles) still used.

* Revolution held up development of the French economy which grew slowly until 1840's.

Per Capita agricultural production fell +

Impact of the Revolution
The Economy

Collapsed in 1792-95.

The industrial gap between Britain +

France widened. The death of 1.5 - 2 million people affected the size of domestic market.

- Not until 1830's + development of the railway did industry really take off + ended

the economic Ancien Regime - The Revolution did not end this.

Military Impact

Expansion and organisation of the Army.

1789 - Army unrepresentative of the Country.

90% of officers = Nobles
1/4 = Peasants - the rest were urban workers.
1/2 were under 25.

During Revolution = Army became less supportive of monarchy.

- National Guard emerged symbolised the Revolution.

- In 1793 - the two forces merged

= Revolutionary enthusiasm and professional military standards created a very powerful + effective force.

- Volunteers exceeded expectations.

1792 = 450,000 men

1794 = 750,000 men

- An impressive + intimidating force.

Army and Society

- Nature of Army Changed
- Came to symbolise the Revolution
 - defended the Revolution
 - influential role in Society
- Adopted meritocracy for roles.
- Rapid and well rewarded positions was an attractive opportunity.
- Class nor age was a barrier to promotion. - Generals were often in their 30's.
- Many Generals were from lower ranks = Napoleon.
- Recruits were often politically active and willing to die for the fatherland.
- Defended the nation well and was popular with the people.

Military tactics

- Moved away from old infantry line technique to mobile column formation - led to shock + mobility.
- Horse artillery was introduced in 1791-2

- used of light infantry was developed.
- Small units of 14-16 men (ordinaires) - lived and fought together - self motivated and self-reliant.
- effective due to good discipline.

Impact of the Revolution Military + Territory

Territorial impact

- French revolutionary war changed the map of Europe.
- They annexed a lot of land but all was lost in 1815.
- Permanent changes
 - Austria lost Belgium
 - Holy Roman Empire was abolished.
 - Germany became more amalgamated - step to unification

- Britain was able to consolidate their Empire.
- They took land from Allies of France eg. Netherlands - their biggest rival.
 - Ceylon
 - Cape (SA)
- Retained until the end of the Empire

Ideological impact

- Revolution had an impact on Europe ideologically.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANISM

- arguably - most impact.
- Several British thinkers were inspired and wrote about impact (Paine - wordsworth - Price)
- As French Army went around Europe they set up republics, ended feudalism, seized church land + abolished privilege.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICANISM

They were usually overturned when French left but ideas could not be eradicated.

- Sovereignty of the people
- equality before the law
- Freedom from arbitrary arrest
- Freedom of speech
- meritocracy.

CONSERVATISM

- The revolution did turn many in France and Europe against Democratic Republicanism.
- The idea of Conservatism evolved.
- Edmund Burke - first serious promoter.
in his 'Reflections on Revolution in France' - he defended tradition, religious faith & slow change.
- He argued that revolutions led to chaos and tyranny.
- These ideas ~~are~~ inspired many -

Austrian leader - Metternich - influential in Europe after 1815.

- Regarded revolution as dangerous + conservative reaction lasted into 19th C.
- In reaction to this other ideas developed.

* Several revolutions (1830/48) in Europe

Impact of the Revolution - Ideological Impact

LIBERALISM

- Many principles of the Revolution and DRM were redefined as Liberalism.
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of action
- Freedom of union

Although these were often ignored in France they created a revolutionary myth - which influenced others.

- Liberalism prominent in the 19th Century.
- Revolution influenced others especially in Russia.

Jacobinism / Marxism / Socialism

Jacobins defended the Revolution and the rights of ordinary citizens.

- This would influence future generations of left-wing idealists.
- Babeuf - promoted core values of later Socialism
 - universal suffrage
 - equality for all
 - Remove oppression

Jacobinism also promoted the idea of Direct Action.

1848 - Karl Marx published the Communist Manifesto -
Owed much to the Jacobins + what is possible when committed individuals challenge the status quo.
For Marxists this ended Feudalism in Europe.

Nationalism

- The Revolutionary leaders had aspired to create a unified nation
- Sovereignty lies in the nation (Dem)
- Symbols such as the tricolore, Marseillaise + Celebrations - fete de la Federation - used to rouse patriotic feeling.
- Army life helped promote loyalty to the Nation.
- Important shift in France but... by 1871 - many peasants in South + West still had local rather than national loyalties.
- This aroused national feeling in Italy and Germany who would unify by 1900.

Impact of the Revolutionary Ideological impact

