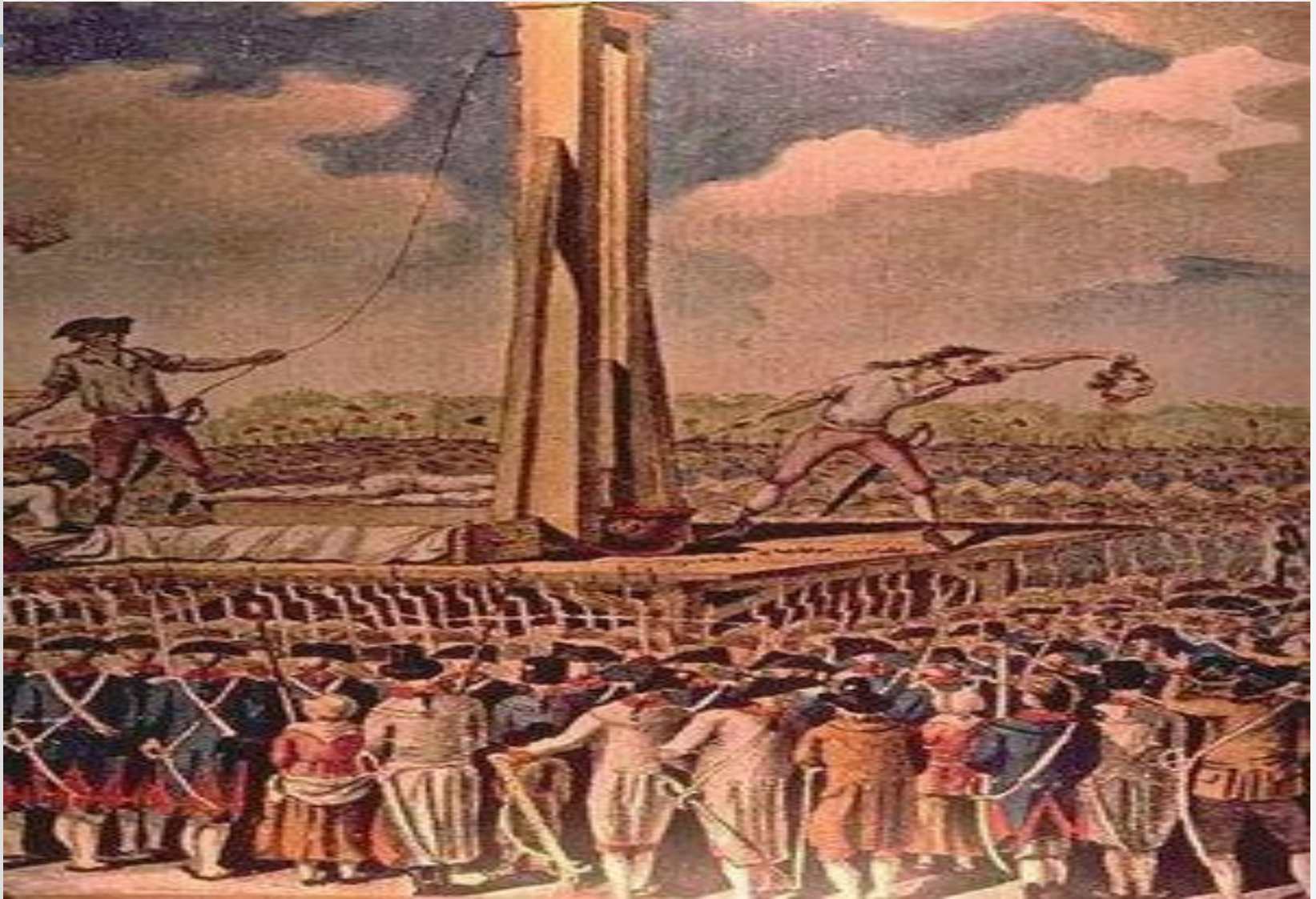


Lesson 2

Revolution Brings Reform and Terror



Radical Days of the Revolution



Setting the Stage

Peasants were not the only members of French society to feel the Great Fear. Nobles and officers of the Church were equally afraid. Throughout France, bands of angry peasants struck out against members of the upper classes, attacking and destroying many manor houses. In the summer of 1789, a few months before the women's march to Versailles, some nobles and members of clergy in the National Assembly responded to the uprisings in an emotional late-night meeting.

The National Assembly Reforms France

- Peasant uprisings and the storming of the Bastille forced the **National Assembly** into action.
- On August 4th, in an intense and all night meeting, nobles voted to end their own privileges:
 - no manorial dues
 - no exclusive hunting rights
 - no special legal status
 - no longer **exempt** from taxes.
- The National Assembly turned the reforms of August 4th into law, meeting a key **Enlightenment** goal – the equality of all male citizens before the law.

Declaration of the Rights of Man

- The Assembly's first step towards writing a constitution was the issuing of the:
Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.
- The document was modeled in part on the American Declaration of Independence, written 13 years earlier.
- All men, the French declaration announced, were:
 - born and remain free and equal in rights.
 - rights to liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
 - all male citizens were equal before the law.
 - every Frenchmen had a right to hold public office.
 - freedom of religion.
 - taxes would be levied according to ability to pay.

Olympe de Gouges

- Women were not granted equal citizenship.
- **Olympe de Gouges**, a journalist, demanded equal rights in her **Declaration of the Rights of Women and the Female Citizen**.
- “Women is born free and her rights are the same as those of man.” –Gouges
- Many women who protested for their rights were imprisoned and executed.
- **Olympe de Gouges was executed for her beliefs!**



#3 DBA Assessment –

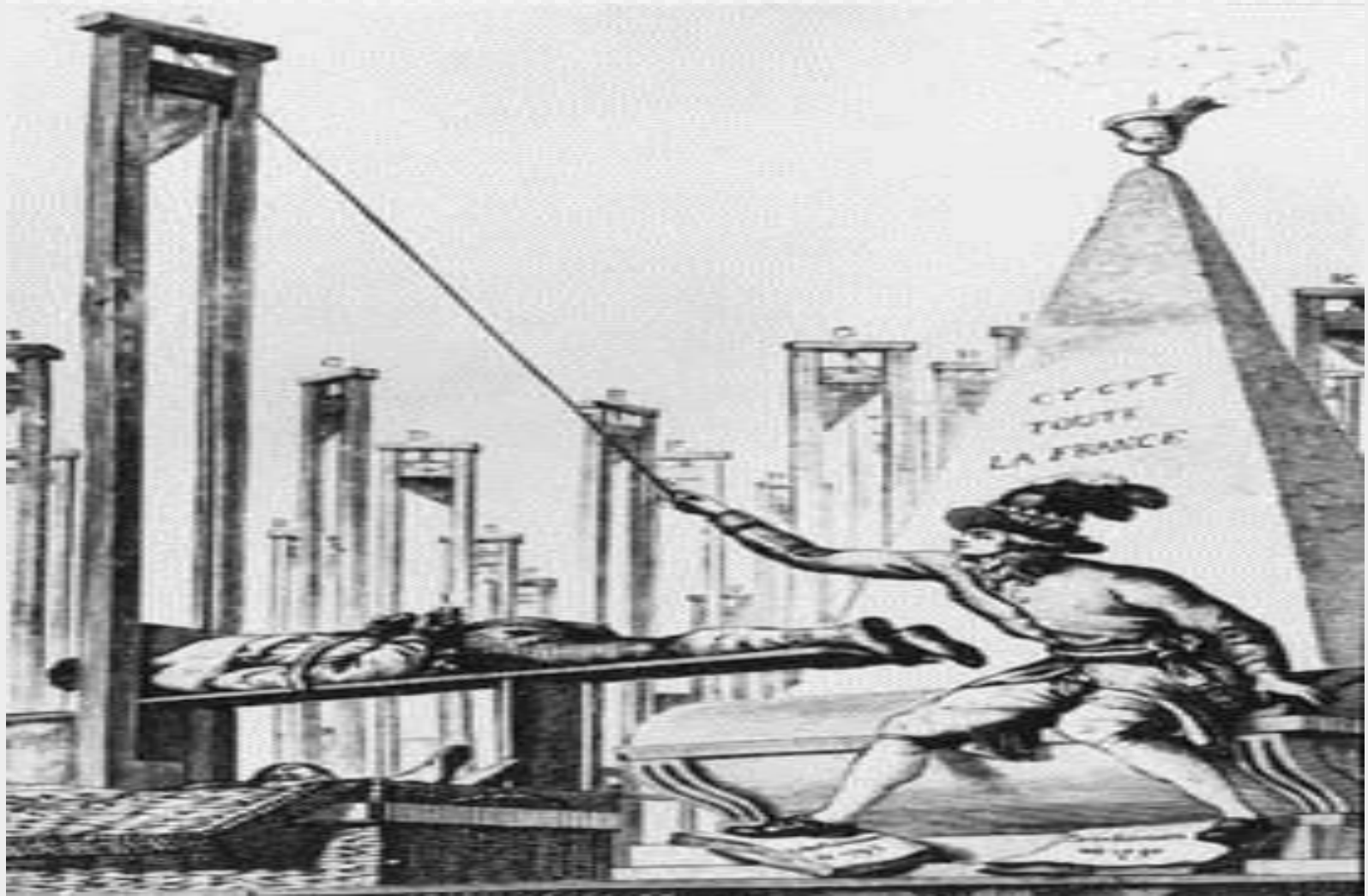
Declaration of the Rights of Woman, 1791

1. **Preamble:** To whom is this text addressed? Why is this significant?
2. **Preamble:** What does De Gouges argue are the causes of government problems?
3. **Article 1:** How does she argue men and women are equal?
4. **Article 2:** What are defined as “natural rights”?
5. **Article 6:** Who should make the law?
6. **Article 6:** What government positions should be open to women and men? How should these positions be filled? Why was her proposal radical?
7. **Article 7:** How did she propose women and men are equal under the law?
8. **Article 13:** How did De Gouges define both men and women’s responsibilities as citizens?

Louis Tries to Escape The Monarchy is Abolished

- **Revolutionaries thought the king was in league with the enemies of Prussia, Austria and Britain.**
 - August 10, 1792 a crowd of Parisians stormed the royal palace of **Tuileries**.
 - The royal family fled, while the mob killed the king's guards.
 - a month later 1,200 nobles and priests were killed in prison. This became known as the "**September Massacres.**"
- **Radicals take control and execute the king.**
 - Radicals took control of the Assembly and called for the election of a new legislative body: the **National Convention**.
 - **Suffrage**, the right to vote, was extended to all male citizens.
 - it voted to abolish the monarchy and establish a French Republic
 - The **Jacobins**, who controlled the convention set out to erase all traces of the old order.
- **Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were put on trial, found guilty by one single vote and executed by the guillotine!**

***The Guillotine Defines
the Reign of Terror*** – Read Pg. 199



Terror Grips France

- To deal with the threats of France, the Convention created the **Committee of Public Safety**
 - the 12-member committee had absolute power as it battled to save the revolution.
 - it prepared France for all out war by issuing a ***levee en masse***, or mass tax that required all citizens to contribute to the war effort.
 - they were in charge of trials and executions.
 - “freedom fever” caused European monarchs to quiver as young French soldiers fought to end tyranny throughout Europe.

Robespierre “the Incorruptible”

- **Back home in France, the government battled counterrevolutionaries under the guiding hand of Maximilien Robespierre.**
 - a shrewd lawyer and politician.
 - his selfless dedication to the revolution earned him the nickname, “the incorruptible.”
 - his enemies called him a tyrant.
 - he believed France could achieve a “**republic of virtue**” only through the use of terror.
 - “Liberty cannot be secured, unless criminals lose their heads.”

End of the Terror

- **The Constitution of 1795** – the third constitution since 1789
 - set up a five-man Directory.
 - a two-house legislature elected by male citizens.
 - the middle class and professional people of the **bourgeoisie** were the dominant force.
- **The Directory held power from 1795 to 1799.**
 - faced growing discontent, weak but dictatorial.
 - peace was made with Prussia and Spain.
 - war with Austria and Great Britain continued.
 - rising bread prices cause sans-culottes to riot, but were quickly suppressed by the Directory.
 - revival of the royalist, return of emigres, and devout Catholics caused supporters of a constitutional monarchy to win the majority of seats in the legislature in 1797.

#4 *Time line Assessment*

August 1789 – National Assembly adopts Declaration of the Rights of the Man

1. What are some rights this document guarantees French citizens?

1790 – National Assembly reforms status of church

2. What caused the peasants to oppose many of these reforms?

September 1791 – National Assembly hands power to Legislative Assembly

3. What political factions made up the National Assembly?

April 1792 - Legislative Assembly declares war on Austria.

August - Parisians invade Tuileries and imprison royal family.

September - Parisian mobs massacre more than 1,000 prisoners.

4. What did European monarchs fear from France?

January 1793 - Ex-king Louis XVI is executed.

July - Robespierre leads Committee of Public Safety; Reign of Terror begins.

5. What effects did the September massacres have on the government?

July 1794 - Robespierre is executed; Reign of Terror ends.

6. What was the stated aim of Robespierre and his supporters?

1795 – National Convention adopts new constitution

7. What were some consequences of the Reign of Terror?