



**THE REVOLUTION &
DIRECTOIRE/EMPIRE PERIODS** | *France,*
c.1790-1820

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION & THE DIRECTORY

In France in 1789, the high unemployment rate, a bankrupt government and overwhelming prices of goods lead the peasants and bourgeoisie to the idea of revolution against the royalty and nobility, who largely controlled all positions of authority in the French government, church and armed forces. The French people looking to reform the government were also inspired by the success of the American Revolution.

Louis XVI called for the Estates General (a representative body consisting of all social classes of French citizens) to meet for the first time in more than 150 years. This meeting was meant to resolve the financial woes of the kingdom. There was even a dress code for each of the 3 estates that was quickly abolished at the first session of the Estates General when the peasant members of the Third estate refused to comply.

This meeting produced the Declaration of the Rights of Man & the first ever written French constitution. Shortly after this and a bitter 1792 defeat on the battlefield, riots in Paris led to the overthrow of the monarchy and established the first French republic.

In 1793, King Louis XVI was tried and executed along with the queen, Marie Antoinette, beginning a time of bloody upheaval in the nation---"The Reign of Terror." The Directoire, a ruling body of 5 men, was founded as the interim government was overthrown. These men ineffectively ruled for 5 years until Napoleon Bonaparte, a war hero, and co-conspirators staged a coup, and he was soon crowned the "Emperor of the French."



Napoleon Bonaparte

WOMEN

During the Revolution women's fashion stayed relatively the same as before, but citizens were expected to wear the Revolutionary colors---red, white & blue. In fact, wearing tricolor cockades (pins or brooches w/ribbon) was mandatory after September 1793.

Neck clothes---a symbol of the peasants & working class--became popular for all women.

Directoire/Empire Fashion

- Inspired by both English dress & Ancient Greece
- Little or no sleeves
- Low, round necklines
- High-waisted dress fell straight to the floor
- Often sheer muslin or linen; worn w/chemise
- No corsets!!!



MEN

Bonnet Rouge

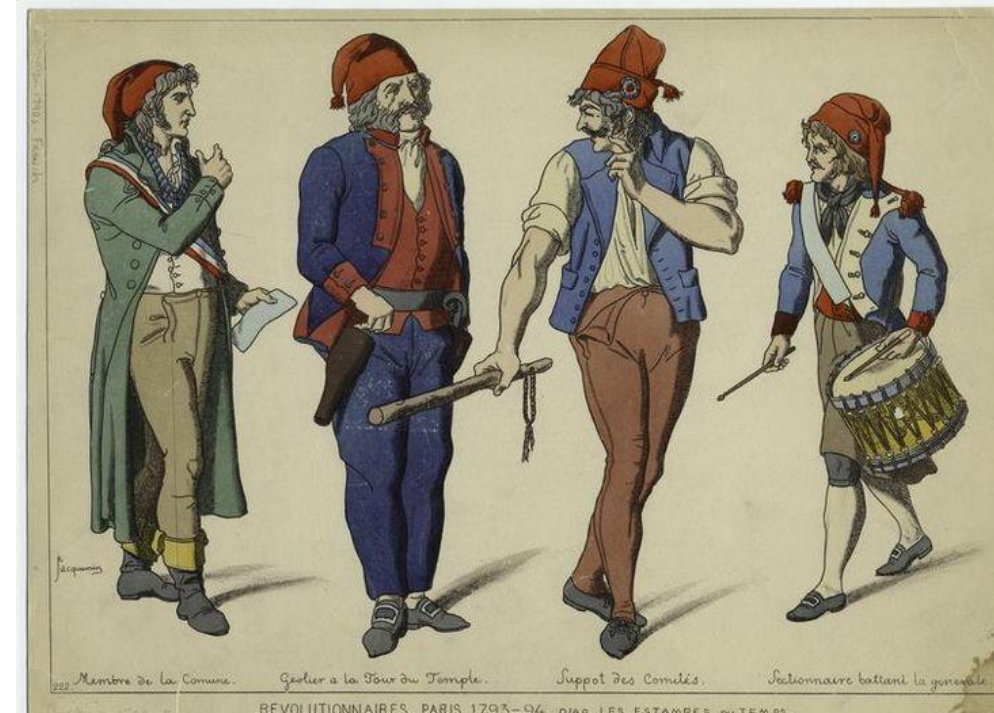
- The red cap of liberty
- One of the most visual symbols of the Revolution

Sans Culottes

- Culottes were a fashion of knee-length pants worn by the aristocracy
- Sans – meaning without
- So... “Without Knee Breeches”
- Revolutionaries from the working class refused to wear culottes and instead wore the laborers costume of full-length trousers
- Trousers were either dark in color or tricolored

Carmagnole

- Short woolen coat worn with trousers
- Dark in color



Extremists

- Merveilleuse – “*The Marvelous Ones*”
 - Directoire women who wore long flowing trains, the sheerest fabrics, very low necklines (sometimes to the waist) & huge jockey-like caps
- Incroyables – “*The Incredibles*”
 - Directoire men who wore broad-shoulder waistcoats, excessively tight breeches & overly large neckties or crevats.
- Hairstyles for extremist men & women were shaggy and unkempt.
 - Who does this remind you of in our modern culture?



DRAW THE FIGURES BELOW FOR YOUR NOTES:

Revolutionaries



Directoire/Empire Fashions

