

## How did the revolution continue?

The revolutionaries wanted to spread the idea of freedom but inside France civil war broke out because some people still supported the King. A wave of violence overtook France and terror was introduced as a principle of government. A group of twelve men, called the 'Committee of Public Safety', led by Maximilien Robespierre, controlled the nation.

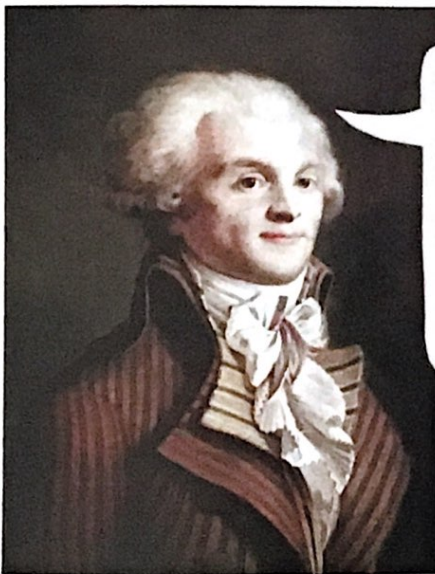
In the **Reign of Terror** (1793/94) France was in a state of emergency and 'enemies' had to be killed. **Spies denounced** everyone who criticized the revolution; the prisons were crowded with people. So called **traitors** were executed, many of them with the help of the guillotine. With the end of the rule of the 'Committee' in 1794, the French Revolution came to an end.

**1** Analyze the caricature on the right. The vocabulary 'how to talk about pictures' in the inner cover will help you.



George Cruikshank: 'The Radical's Arms' (1793/94), English caricature. Inscription: 'No God! No religion! No King! No constitution!'

Republican banner: republikanische Fahne | to depict: darstellen | liberty cap: Jakobiner-mütze (symbol of democracy and the republic, used as symbol of the reign of terror by opponents) | bloody: blutig | globe: Globus | axe: Beil | to step on s.th.: auf etw. stehen | to raise the glass: das Glas erheben



Maximilien Robespierre, painting by unknown artist, about 1793

The goal of the constitutional government is to conserve the Republic; the aim of the revolutionary government is to found it... The revolutionary government owes to the good citizen all the protection of the nation; it owes nothing to the Enemies of the People but death... (December 25<sup>th</sup> 1793)

goal: Ziel | to conserve: bewahren | to owe s.th. to s.b.: jmdm. etw. schuldig sein

### KEY TERMS

**Reign of Terror**  
Schreckensherrschaft

**spy**  
Spion

**to denounce s.b.**  
jmdn. denunzieren

**traitor**  
Verräter

**to exclude**  
ausschließen

**2** Explain what the quote reveals about Robespierre's way of governing France.

**3** Search the internet for further information on the Reign of Terror and Maximilien Robespierre. Collect your information with the help of a mind map.

**4** Discuss with a partner whether striving for liberty and equality necessarily **excludes** the use of terror and violence. Give reasons for your opinion.

**5** Finish the time bar in your history folder.

### 3 The Rise and Fall of Napoleon Bonaparte

By 1794, the major stages of the French Revolution had come to an end. France was at war and for the next decade and more, French armies were on the march through Europe. By 1810 they had gained control of much of continental Europe. The French Revolution had helped a man called Napoleon Bonaparte to become an important figure for France and Europe, dominating French and European politics. The fate of France was soon in his hands. On the next pages, you will find out more about Napoleon and how this young officer in the French army, born in Corsica, became Emperor of France in 1804, and about the circumstances of his fall.

**1** Collect what you already know about Napoleon Bonaparte and write it down. Discuss your results in class.

**2** Write down what you would like to know about Napoleon. Make a questions poster.

**3** Study the painting. Draw conclusions about what the painter wants to tell us about Napoleon. Give reasons for your opinion. The words in the toolbox will help you.

#### TOOLBOX: Describing somebody's character

- conceited  
eitel
- kind  
freundlich
- melancholy  
melancholisch
- ambitious  
zeistrebzig, ehrgeizig
- friendly/unfriendly  
[un]freundlich
- content  
zufrieden
- proud  
stolz
- selfish  
selbstsüchtig
- likable  
nett, sympathisch
- determined  
entschlossen



'Napoleon on his Imperial Throne', painting by Jean August Dominique Ingres, 1806 (Musée de l'Armée).

imperial: kaiserlich | coronation robe: Krönungsrobe | laurel: Lorbeer | mink coat: Nerzmantel | medal: Orden | tassel: Quaste | sceptre: Zepher | velvet: Samt

## How did Napoleon rise to power?

The story of Napoleon's rise is very amazing. The son of poor lawyer, he was born during the time of Absolutism. The only way he could climb the social ladder was to join the army. During the French Revolution he took the opportunity of climbing higher and higher. In 1812 he was the most powerful man in Europe.

### KEY TERMS

**to gain control of s.th.**

Kontrolle über etw. erlangen

**to bid for power**

nach der Macht greifen

**military academy**

Militärakademie

**lieutenant**

Leutnant (Offiziersrang)

### Paragraph A

General Bonaparte wanted all power in his hands, and in 1804, the French people voted to make him Emperor of France on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1804.

### Paragraph B

By 1810 the French army under Napoleon **gained control** of most of Europe, except for Russia and Great Britain.

### Paragraph C

By February 1800 he was established as First Consul, a practical dictatorship with a constitution wrapped around him. He was popular – helped by his mastery of propaganda and by great national support.

### Paragraph D

Young Napoleon won battle after battle, which made him popular. So, in November 1799, Napoleon made his **bid for power**, and overthrew the government and abolished the constitution: From then on he was known as the First Consul.

### Paragraph E

On March 9<sup>th</sup> 1796 Napoleon married Joséphine de Beauharnais. Because she was a noblewoman she was able to help him to become more accepted. When he became Emperor he also crowned his wife as Empress.

**1** Read the paragraphs A to J which inform you about how Napoleon rose to power. The time references will help you to put them in a logical order. Copy the texts into your history folder.

### Paragraph F

At the age of nine, Napoleon was sent to a **military academy** by his parents, which he left at the age of sixteen as a **lieutenant**. He then joined the French army.

### Paragraph G

In 1798, Napoleon conquered the Ottoman-ruled Egypt but his fleet was defeated by the British at the Battle of the Nile. He returned to Paris where the government was in a crisis.

### Paragraph H

After leading a riot against a French army in Corsica, Napoleon was able to persuade military authorities in Paris to promote him to captain in July 1792.

### Paragraph I

Napoleon, the son of a poor nobleman, was born on the French island of Corsica in 1769.

### Paragraph J

He spent the early years of the French Revolution, which broke out in 1789, in Corsica, fighting in a struggle between royalists, revolutionaries, and Corsican nationalists.