

CHAPTER
18
SECTION 3

Section Summary

RADICAL DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION

READING CHECK

Who was Robespierre?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What do you think *radical* means in the underlined sentence?

Notice that the word *more* appears before *radical*. Use the word *more* and your prior knowledge to help you figure out what *radical* means.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence What occurred after the radicals took control of the Assembly in 1792?

In 1793, the revolution entered a frightening and bloody phase. The war with Austria was not going well for France. Some felt the king was in league with France's enemies. Others wanted to restore the king's power. On August 10, 1792, a mob stormed the royal palace. Radicals then took control of the Assembly and called for the election of a new legislative body called the National Convention.

Suffrage was to be extended to all male citizens, not just to those who owned property. The Convention that met in September 1792 was a more radical body than earlier assemblies. It voted to abolish the monarchy and establish the French Republic. Louis XVI and his queen were executed.

War with other European nations and internal rebellions concerned the government. The Convention created the Committee of Public Safety to deal with these issues. It had almost absolute power. Jacobin Maximilien **Robespierre** led the Committee. He was one of the chief architects of the **Reign of Terror**, which lasted from September 1793 to July 1794. During that time, courts conducted hasty trials for those suspected of resisting the revolution. Many people were the victims of false accusations. About 17,000 were executed by **guillotine**.

In reaction to the Terror, the revolution entered a third stage, dominated by the bourgeoisie. It moved away from the excesses of the Convention, and moderates created the Constitution of 1795. This set up a five-man Directory to rule, and a two-house legislature. However, discontent grew because of corrupt leaders. Also, war continued with Austria and Britain. Politicians planned to use **Napoleon** Bonaparte, a popular military hero, to advance their goals.

By 1799, the French Revolution had dramatically changed France. It had dislodged the old social order, overthrown the monarchy, and brought the Church under state control. **Nationalism** spread throughout France. From the city of **Marseilles**, troops marched to a rousing new song that would become the French national anthem. Revolutionaries also made social reforms. They set up systems to help the poor and abolished slavery in France's Caribbean colonies.

Review Questions

1. What type of government did the National Convention establish in September 1792?

2. Identify three changes that the French Revolution brought to France.
