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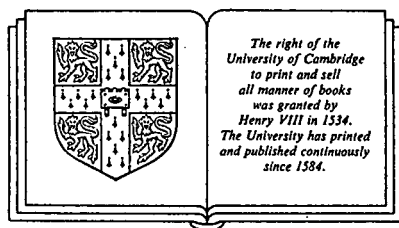
*The fall of the  
French monarchy  
1787–1792*

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MICHEL VOVELLE

*Translated by*

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## Chronology

### 1787

22 February

8 April

25 May

June

16 July

14 August

4 September

Meeting of the Assembly of Notables

Dismissal of Calonne, replaced by Loménie de Brienne

Dismissal of the Assembly of Notables

Brienne's reforming edicts

The Parlement of Paris appeals against them to the Estates General

Exile of the Parlement

Recall of the Parlement

### 1788

5 May

8 May

7 June

21 July

8 August

24–26 August

5 October

Arrest of d'Eprémésnil and Montsabert, leaders of the Parlement

Lamoignon's reform of justice

'Day of Tiles' in Grenoble

Assembly of Vizille

Estates General summoned for 1 May 1789

Dismissal and recall of Necker

Second Assembly of Notables

### 1789

24 January

March

March–May

27–28 April

5 May

6 May

Letter of summons and electoral regulations for the Estates General

Elections to the Estates General

Peasant revolts in Provence, Cambrésis and Picardy

Riots in the Faubourg Saint-Antoine against Réveillon

Formal opening of the Estates General

The third estate takes the name of 'Commons' and demands the verification of powers

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- 17 June The Commons call themselves the 'National Assembly'
- 20 June The oath of the *Jeu de Paume*
- 23 June The king visits the Assembly and refuses the demands of the deputies
- 27 June The king persuades the clergy and the nobility to join the third estate
- 9 July The National Assembly calls itself the 'Constituent Assembly'
- 11 July Dismissal of Necker
- 12 July Riots in the Palais-Royal in Paris; charge of the Royal German dragoons
- 14 July THE TAKING OF THE BASTILLE
- 16 July Recall of Necker
- 17–19 July Rising in the Normandy *bocage* begins
- 15–31 July 'Municipal revolt'
- 20 July Beginning of the Grande Peur
- 22 July Bertier de Sauvigny, *intendant* of Paris, hanged by the people
- 22–26 July Risings in Alsace and Franche-Comté begin
- 4 August NIGHT OF 4 AUGUST: privileges relinquished
- 26 August Declaration of the Rights of Man
- 28 August–
- 11 September Debates on the royal veto
- 1 October Banquet of the lifeguards and the Flanders regiment
- 5–6 October The march on Versailles; the king is taken back to Paris
- 15 October Secret correspondence between Mirabeau and the king begins
- 21 October Martial law decreed
- 2 November Secularisation of Church property
- 29 November Confederation of the national guard at Etoile near Valence
- 1790**
- January Peasant revolts in Quercy, Périgord and Brittany
- 2 February Claude Dansart founds the first Fraternal society for both sexes
- 13 February Monastic vows for life prohibited
- 19 February The Marquis de Favras, a royalist conspirator, is hanged
- April–June Trouble in the south-east (Nîmes, 6 April–13 June; Montauban, 10 May)



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17 April	<i>Assignats</i> issued
27 April	Cordelier club founded
15–22 May	Discussion of rights to declare war and make peace
31 May	Discussion of Civil Constitution of the clergy begins
10–12 June	Rising in Avignon in favour of union with France
12 July	Civil Constitution of the clergy voted
14 July	Festival of the Federation in Paris
22 July	Civil Constitution of the clergy receives the royal assent
18 August	First counter-revolutionary assembly at the Jalès camp in the Vivarais
26 August	Constituent Assembly repudiates the ‘family arrangement’ with Spain
31 August	Massacre of the Swiss guards of Châteaueux at Nancy
4 September	Dismissal of Necker, followed by the dismissal of the other ministers and the formation of a pro-La Fayette government (20 October)
28 October	Affair of the <i>princes possessionnés</i> of Alsace
27 November	Civil servants obliged to take an oath ‘to the Nation, the Law and the King’
3 December	Letter of Louis XVI to the king of Prussia to demand a Congress of the European Powers

**1791**

3 January	Civil servants obliged to take an oath to support the Civil Constitution of the clergy
February	Formation of the constitutional clergy
19 February	The king’s aunts emigrate
21 February	Debate on <i>émigrés</i> at the Assembly
28 February	‘Conspiracy’ of the ‘knights of the dagger’
2 March	‘Allarde’ law suppresses corporate bodies
11 March	Pope condemns Civil Constitution of the clergy (brief <i>Quod aliquantum</i> )
2 April	Death of Mirabeau
4 April	Body of Mirabeau taken to the Panthéon
13 April	Pope reiterates condemnation of the Civil Constitution of the clergy
18 April	King prevented from going to Saint-Cloud
7–15 May	Debate on the colonies and the rights of non-whites
22 May and 14 June	First and second ‘Le Chapelier’ laws proscribe craft unions
11 June	Voltaire’s ashes transferred to the Panthéon

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20–21 June	Flight of the royal family and their arrest at Varennes
end of June	Campaign to abolish the monarchy
13–16 July	Debate in the Assembly on the flight of the king and decrees on his reinstatement
16 July	Feuillants separate themselves from the Jacobins
17 July	Massacre of the Champ-de-Mars
end of July	Repression of the democratic movement
4 August	First battalions of volunteers raised
5 August	'Declaration of world peace' by the Constituent Assembly
27 August	Declaration of Pillnitz
3 September	Constitutional act drafted
13 September	Constitutional act approved by the king
1 October	OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
16 October	Trouble in Avignon (murder of Lécuyer, massacre of the Glacière)
31 October	Decree of the Assembly enjoining the king's brother to return to France
9 November	Decree of Assembly on <i>émigrés</i>
11 November	King vetoes last two decrees
14 November	Jérôme Pétion becomes mayor of Paris
29 November	Decree of Assembly against non-juring priests
7 December	Formation of a Feuillant administration
12 December–	
2 January	Robespierre's speeches against the war
19 December	King vetoes decree on non-juring priests
<b>1792</b>	
6 January	Electoral of Trier 'disperses' the <i>émigrés</i>
23 January	Sugar and coffee riots begin in Paris
February–March	Food riots and peasant revolt
end February–	
beginning March	Counter-revolutionary disturbances in Lozère and Dauphiné and La Rouairie's conspiracy in the west
15 March	'Jacobin' administration with Roland and Clavière
15 April	Festival of Liberty in honour of the Swiss guards of Châteaueux
20 April	WAR DECLARED ON THE 'KING OF BOHEMIA AND HUNGARY'
28–29 April	First defeats at the frontier: General Dillon lynched by his troops
5 May	New levy of national volunteers

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- 16 May* Secret talks between La Fayette and the Austrians and effective end to hostilities
- 20 May* Brissot denounces the 'Austrian committee'
- 27 May* Decree on the deportation of non-juring priests
- 8 June* Plan to levy 20,000 *fédérés*
- 11 June* King vetoes decrees on *fédérés* and non-juring priests
- 12 June* Roland's administration dismissed
- 20 June* The people of Paris invade the Tuileries and ask the king, without success, to sanction the decrees
- 27 June* La Fayette tries to intimidate the Assembly
- 27 June* Petition against the monarchy by the general council of Marseilles
- 11 July* Assembly declares 'the fatherland in danger' (decree proclaimed 21 July)
- 15 July* Cordelier club demands a 'Convention'
- 17 July* In Paris, the *fédérés* demand the suspension of the king
- 20 July* Frightened by the popular movement, the followers of Brissot make moves towards the king
- 25 July* 'Brunswick manifesto' menaces Paris with reprisals and 'total upheaval'
- 3 August* 47 out of 48 Paris sections demand the dismissal of the king
- 10 August* THE TAKING OF THE TUILERIES AND THE FALL OF THE MONARCHY

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## *Preface*

Because it is a constant source of new questions, the French Revolution has not ceased to be controversial. Fifty years ago there was a conflict – substantive and methodological – between supporters of Robespierre and of Danton. Today there is an opposition between adherents of the Jacobin tradition and the ‘republican catechism’ and those who want to ‘reread’ the Revolution without ideological blinkers.

Confrontations such as these are not without consequences. They force historians to be precise and to define their terms, and help them – even those who do not accept the current heterodoxy – to leave the beaten track of conventional wisdom.

It seems to us that a truly new approach cannot be confined to a new interpretation of old material. True innovation involves the attempt to draw on the most recent research and to emphasise new discoveries, though without trying to conceal the gaps in our knowledge and the problems which remain.

This is in fact what we are trying to do here. We might have asked ourselves whether the Revolution constantly progressed or whether it would be better to avoid the constrictions of a teleological interpretation and end on 14 July 1790, the culmination of the bourgeois Revolution and the ‘fortunate year’. However, we have chosen to begin each chapter with a report on the current state of affairs: the problems, the debates, the controversies. After this introduction, we have emphasised the aspects of the Revolution which are most relevant to our own time and on which new research has concentrated: the social history and the history of collective feelings or sentiments.