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The Cambridge History of Modern France

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The Republican Experiment, 1848–1852

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Chronology

A short chronological summary of the political regimes in France from 1789–1848

1789: beginning of the Revolution. Establishment of a *Constitutional Monarchy*

1792: (10 August to 21 September) New Revolution. Establishment of the *Republic*.
 Three periods may be distinguished:

1. the 'Revolutionary Government' by the Convention, 1792–5
2. government by the Constitution of Year II, known as the Directory, 1795–9
3. the dictatorship of Napoleon Bonaparte, known as the Consulate, 1799–1804.

1804: establishment of the *Empire*: Emperor Napoleon I.

Abdicates in 1814, seizes power again during the '100 Days' of 1815, then abdicates definitively.

1814–15: *Restoration* of the monarchy. Openly counter-revolutionary. Symbolised by the white flag.

Louis XVIII (1814–24)

Charles X (1824–1830)

1830: (end of July) Revolution which topples the Restoration and establishes a new constitutional monarchy (following the principles of 1789). Symbolised by the tricolour flag, known as the *July Monarchy*: Louis-Philippe I (1830–48).

The following list naturally contains more dates than we have cited in the chapters of this book. Perhaps they will suggest other lines of research that our own synthesis has not emphasised. With a few exceptions, it contains only dates in the national and (which often comes to the same thing) Parisian chronology. The inclusion of episodes in the various departments (which would inevitably have been incomplete anyhow) would have made it much too long. The calendar given below is only intended as one of general reference for those who, whether as general readers or as scholars, might wish to study the history of particular regions or localities in greater depth.

1848

2 January

Michelet's course of lectures is suspended.

14 January

The banquet in the 12^e *arrondissement* is banned.

21 February

It is banned again. The banquet is cancelled.

22 February

Street demonstrations in Paris.

The Bourse closes.

23 February

The National Guard goes over to the opposition.

The king dismisses the ministry.

Shooting in the boulevard des Capucines.

24 February

Street fighting. Abdication and departure of the king. Formation of the provisional government which declares itself in favour of the Republic.

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- 25 February The sacking of the chateaux of Neuilly and Suresnes. Lamartine is successful in retaining the tricolour rather than adopting the red flag.
Cavaignac governor of Algeria.
Proclamation of the right to work (the principle underlying the national workshops and aid for the associations).
- 26 February Abolition of the death penalty for political offences.
Creation of the mobile National Guard.
- 28 February Demonstration demanding a Ministry of Work.
Creation of the Luxembourg Commission.
- 29 February Principle of the abolition of the *octrois* and of the salt tax.
2 March Abolition of 'sweated labour' (through sub-contractors).
Limitation of the working day to 10 hours (Paris) and 11 hours (provinces).
Principle of universal suffrage.
- 4 March Lamartine's circular to diplomatic agents.
Total liberty for the press and for meetings.
Principle of the abolition of slavery.
- 5 March Decree organising methods to be followed in elections and fixing 9 April as the date for the elections.
- 6 March Michelet reinstated at the Collège de France. Organisation of the national workshops in the Seine.
- 7 March Reopening of the Paris Bourse.
Creation of discount banks.
- 8 March The National Guard opened to all citizens.
Creation of a school of administration.
- 14 March Dissolution of the elite companies of the National Guard.
- 15 March Increased circulation of Banque de France banknotes, creation of paper money of small denominations.
- 16 March Demonstration by the so-called '*bonnets-à-poil*'.
Decree creating the '45 centimes' tax.
- 17 March Popular counter-demonstration. Elections postponed from 9 to 23 April.
- 19 March Abolition of imprisonment for debt.
24-25 March Restrictive regulations on work in prisons and asylums.
30 March Defeat of the Belgian Legion at Risquons-tout.
31 March Reform of the tax on alcohol.
Publication of the Taschereau document.
- 3 April Failure of the Voraces' aid to Savoy.
4 April Sequestration of two railway companies.
8 April Ledru-Rollin's circular on the elections.
16 April Popular demonstration and counter-demonstration in favour of the government.
Reform of regulations relating to the *octroi* and the salt tax.
- April Election of the Constituent Assembly.
23 April Bloody disturbances in Rouen.
26-28 April Definitive decree on the abolition of slavery.
27 April First meeting of the Constituent Assembly.
4 May Official proclamation of the Republic.
- 9-10 May Election of the Executive Commission, followed by the formation of the ministry (on 17 May Cavaignac becomes Minister of War).

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- 15 May* Popular demonstration. Invasion of the Assembly. Repression and counter-revolutionary scenes of violence.
- 17 May* Lacordaire resigns from National Assembly. Duclerc proposes the nationalisation of the railways.
- 20 May and days following* The Assembly begins to call into question the fate of the national workshops. Militant workers arrested.
- 4 June* By-elections to the Constituent Assembly (Thiers, Proudhon, Victor Hugo, L.-N. Bonaparte).
- 5-10 June* Popular unrest in Paris, seditious cries, arrests.
- 6 June* Sénard president of the Assembly.
- 13 June* Debate in the Assembly on the admission of L.-N. Bonaparte. He is admitted but resigns. Decree on the national workshops. Reimposition of the tax on alcohol.
- 21 June* Workers' demonstrations in Paris.
- 22 June* Beginning of the workers' insurrection in Paris.
- 23 June* Riots in Marseilles.
- 22-3 June* State of siege in Paris. Resignation of the Executive Commission.
- 24 June* Offensive by the forces of order. Death of Mgr Affre.
- 25 June* End of the insurrection.
- 26 June* Cavaignac is appointed President of the Council and forms a new ministry.
- 28 June* National workshops abolished. Retraction of the proposal to buy back the railways.
- 5 July* Carnot loses the Ministry of Public Instruction.
- 28 July* Decree on the clubs.
- 31 July* Debate in the Assembly on Proudhon's proposition. Municipal elections. Decrees on the press.
- 9-11 August* Decree on the postal system.
- 24 August* Cantonal elections.
- 27 August-3 September* Under threat from the Commission of Enquiry for the Assembly, Louis Blanc and Causidière go into exile. Debate on the working day which is eventually (9 September) fixed at 12 hours (instead of 10). Beginning of the discussion on the Constitution.
- End of August* By-elections. Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte re-elected. Anniversary of the First Republic (1792). Democratic banquets. Ministry reshuffle. The party of order gains a foothold.
- 4 September* Second reading for the constitutional debate.
- 17 September* Assembly votes on the Constitution.
- 21 September* Ledru-Rollin founds Republican Solidarity. Solemn promulgation of the Constitution. Election of the President of the Republic. Proclamation of the result. Swearing in of the president. Formation of the Barrot-Falloux ministry.
- 15 October* Changarnier appointed commander of the army in Paris.
- 31 October*
- 4 November*
- 21 November*
- 10 December*
- 20 December*
- 26 December*

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- 27 December* The Assembly reimposes the salt tax.
End of December The Assembly sets up a programme of organic laws.
29 December The Rateau proposition which leads to the early dissolution of the Constituent Assembly.
- 1849**
- 29 January* Military preparations on the part of the government to bring pressure upon the Assembly.
 Vote on the Rateau proposition.
March Trial of the affair of 15 May.
16 April Decision on the Rome expedition, sent to effect mediation. Lesseps' mission.
30 April Oudinot's first attack against republican Rome.
7 May The Constituent Assembly protests against the attack.
13 May Election of the Legislative Assembly.
16 May The tax on alcohol abolished once again (in the last sitting of the Constituent Assembly).
28 May The Legislative Assembly meets. Dupin is elected as its president.
1 June Lesseps' mission to Rome recalled.
3 June Oudinot's second attack against Rome.
11 June The Assembly rejects Ledru-Rollin's demand for a vote of no confidence in the ministers.
13 June Demonstration on the boulevards by representatives of the left.
15 June Street fighting in Lyons.
 The first and sixth military regions declared to be in a state of siege.
19 June New law on the clubs.
30 June–3 July Rome is taken.
27 July New law on the press.
18 August President's letter to Edgar Ney.
7 September Publication of the letter.
October High court trial of the affair of 13 June.
 Difficulties between the president and the ministers.
31 October President's message to the Assembly.
 The Hautpoul ministry.
20 December The tax on alcohol reimposed once again.
- 1850**
- 11 January* Vote on the Parieu law on primary school teaching.
10 March By-elections for the Legislative Assembly.
15 March Vote on the Falloux law.
28 April By-elections for the Legislative Assembly in Paris.
May Commission for the revision of electoral law.
 Democratic petitions throughout the country.
31 May Law restricting universal suffrage.
8 June New law on the press.
16 July Prorogation of the law on the clubs.
July The president's tour of the provinces of the north-east and east.

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- August* The general councils in session. Hopes for revision of the Constitution are expressed.
- 26 August* Death of Louis-Philippe. The problem of dynastic fusion is posed.
- September* The president's tour of Normandy.
- 20 September* Circular by the comte de Chambord (failure for fusion).
- 10 October* Review of troops at Sabory.
Neumayer dismissed.
- 24 October* Gent arrested. 'The south-eastern plot'.
- 2 November* Changarnier's order of the day.
- 1851**
- 3 January* Changarnier dismissed.
Ministerial crisis.
- 24 January* New ministry known as 'the little ministry'.
- February* The Assembly rejects the president's claim for entertainment expenses, amnesty for the republicans, Creton proposal (on the exile of the princes).
- Spring* Unofficial popular petitions in favour of revision.
Republican counter-petitions against the law of 31 May.
Saint-Arnaud's expedition to Kabylia.
- 10 April* Ministerial reshuffle.
- 28 May* Beginning of the legal period of time for discussing revision.
- 19 July* The Assembly rejects constitutional revision.
- 4 October* The president declares himself in favour of abrogating the law of 31 May.
- 27 October* Ministerial crisis (Léon Faucher resigns).
- 4 November* President's message to the Assembly, proposing the abolition of the law of 31 May.
The Assembly temporises.
Saint-Arnaud's circular on passive resistance.
- Beginning of November* The *Proposition des questeurs*.
- 6 November* The Assembly rejects the presidential proposal to abrogate the law of 31 May.
- 13 November* The Assembly rejects the *Proposition des questeurs*.
- 17 November* *Coup d'Etat*.
- 2 December* Attempt at resistance on the part of the Assembly.
- 3 December* Beginning of popular resistance in Paris.
- 4 December* Resistance in Paris is crushed.
Resistance begins in the provinces.
- 5-10 December* The development and failure of resistance in the provinces.
- December* Expulsion of representatives.
Arrests.
- 21 December* Plebiscite.
- 1852**
- 5 January* The State cedes the Paris-Lyons line.
- 14 January* Promulgation of the Constitution.
- January* More decrees expelling representatives hostile to the *coup d'Etat*.

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<i>23 January</i>	Nationalisation of the property of the Orléans family.
<i>2 February</i>	Decree on the elections.
<i>3 February</i>	Decree setting up the mixed commissions.
<i>17 February</i>	Decree on the press.
<i>19 February</i>	Prolongation of the concession of the <i>Compagnie de chemins de fer du Nord</i> .
<i>29 February</i>	Elections for the Legislative Body.
<i>26 March</i>	Decree on mutual aid societies.
<i>28 March</i>	Suppression of the state of siege.
<i>29 March</i>	First meeting of the Legislative Body.
<i>June</i>	The fusion of the Lyons–Marseilles railways.
<i>September</i>	Foundation of the <i>Crédit mobilier</i> .
<i>September–October</i>	The prince-president's tour of central France and the south (26 September: Marseilles; 9 October: Bordeaux).
<i>7 November</i>	<i>Senatus-consultum</i> revising the Constitution.
<i>21 November</i>	Second plebiscite.
<i>2 December</i>	Beginning of the Second Empire.