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0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberieux

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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# The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871–1914

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JEAN-MARIE MAYEUR

and

MADELEINE REBERIOUX

Translated by

J. R. FOSTER



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Frontmatter  
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## Contents

A note on the translation	<i>page</i> x
Chronology	xi
<b>PART I THE ORIGINS OF THE THIRD REPUBLIC, 1871–1898</b>	<b>1</b>
BY JEAN-MARIE MAYEUR	
<b>Preface to Part I</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 The end of the notables, 1871–1879</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>The Republic of M. Thiers: from the suppression of the Commune to 24 May 1873</i>	5
After the disaster. The political forces. Thiers and his work. The fall of Thiers.	
<i>Moral Order and the restoration that fell through</i>	18
<i>Reasons for the republican victory</i>	36
<b>2 Economy and society</b>	<b>42</b>
<i>Demography</i>	42
<i>Slowness of growth</i>	46
<i>The working class</i>	50
<i>Rural France</i>	55
<i>Bourgeois France</i>	65
<b>3 The period of Jules Ferry, 1879–1885</b>	<b>72</b>
<i>The political forces</i>	72
The extreme left. The governing republicans. The right.	
<i>The opportunist ministries, 1879–1885</i>	79
<i>The achievements of the opportunists</i>	81
Democratic liberties. The work of laicization and educational policy. Economic and financial policy. Colonial expansion.	
	v

Cambridge University Press

0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberioux

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Beliefs and cultures</b>	<i>page</i> 101
	<i>Beliefs and unbelief</i>	101
	<i>Education and teaching</i>	109
	<i>The culture of the people, and the culture of the educated classes</i>	116
<b>5</b>	<b>The Republic confronted by nationalism and socialism</b>	123
	<i>The elections of 1885</i>	123
	<i>The Boulangist crisis and its consequences</i>	125
	<i>Socialism and the workers' movement</i>	137
<b>6</b>	<b>The moderate Republic, 1889–1898</b>	147
	<i>The social question: Christian democracy and the Ralliement</i>	147
	<i>Protectionism and Panama. The elections of 1893</i>	155
	<i>The time of the progressivists</i>	161
	<i>The evolution of the political forces</i>	165
	<i>Foreign ambitions</i>	169
	<b>Summary of the period 1871–1898</b>	174
PART II A RADICAL REPUBLIC? 1898–1914		
BY MADELEINE REBERIOUX		
<b>7</b>	<b>The Dreyfus affair</b>	179
	<i>The affair before the Affair, 1894–1897</i>	179
	The arrest of Dreyfus, 15 October 1894. His conviction, 22 December 1894. The 'admirable brother'.	
	<i>The affair becomes the Affair</i>	182
	The intervention of the printed word. Minority and marginal figures. Marginal figures in the intelligentsia, too, at the start. The story of two years.	
	<i>The State apparatus</i>	186
	Government and Parliament. The army and the judges. Repressive function.	
	<i>The two Frances</i>	191
	Demonstrations and organizations. Two modes of discourse. Ideology and society. A third France?	
	<i>The ideologies revealed by the Affair</i>	198
	From spy fever to occultism and clericalism. Anti-semitism. Nationalism. Why?	

<i>Contents</i>	vii
<i>The results</i>	<i>page</i> 204
Apparent victory. Real victory.	
<b>8 The France of the left-wing Bloc and the rise of radicalism</b>	209
<i>The common stock</i>	209
Freemasonry. The League for the Rights of Man. Free thought. Lay organizations. The people's universities.	
<i>The organization of the republican parties</i>	214
Radicalism pulls itself together. Birth of the Radical and Radical-Socialist Party. The Democratic Republican Alliance. The socialist parties.	
<i>The victory of the Bloc</i>	220
The parliamentary elections, 27 April – 11 May 1902. The conditions of the Bloc's victory. Regional radicalism. The Combes ministry and the organization of the Bloc.	
<i>The work of the Bloc</i>	227
From the law on associations (1 July 1901) to the separation of Church and State (9 December 1905). Republicanizing France. Modernizing France. Social prospects and achievements: from Millerand to Trouillot.	
<b>9 Crisis and death of the Bloc, 1904–1907</b>	241
<i>The agitation of Catholic France</i>	241
Why? The various stages.	
<i>Workers' strikes and trade unionism</i>	244
The workers on strike. Workers' trade unionism. 1 May 1906.	
<i>New strata of the population in conflict</i>	249
The peasant proletariat. 1907: the revolt of the Midi. Civil servants and the <i>CGT</i> .	
<i>The world is on the move</i>	256
The national consensus. The Russian Revolution. From Tangier to Stuttgart.	
<i>The disintegration of the Bloc</i>	258
The political crisis opens on the right. The creation of the <i>SFIO</i> , April 1905. The electoral victory of the radicals: May 1906. The Clemenceau government.	
<b>10 The days of imperialism</b>	267
<i>The formation and investment of capital</i>	267
Industrial capital and financial capital. Banking capital and investments.	

Cambridge University Press

0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberieux

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
	<i>The colonial empire</i>	page 272
	The colonies and the national economy. Colonial affairs.	
	<i>The debasement of political life</i>	278
	The disintegration of the parties. 'Briandism' and proportional representation.	
	<i>The movement for social peace</i>	283
	Briand's attempt at social participation, 1909–1910. The Christian movements for social peace.	
	<i>Cultural depression?</i>	286
	Traditions maintained. Progress of the culture of the notables. Urban changes. The upsurge of mystical spirituality.	
	<i>Towards the Great War</i>	289
	Nationalism. The policy of Delcassé, 28 June 1898 – 6 June 1905.	
<b>11</b>	<b>The avant-garde movements</b>	296
	<i>Political and social avant-garde movements</i>	296
	A new extreme right: Action Française. Against a background of Christian democracy: the Sillon. The socialist avant-garde: the <i>SFIO</i> . The <i>CGT</i> . From the <i>CGT</i> to the <i>SFIO</i> .	
	<i>Avant-garde culture</i>	309
	From the scientific approach to the scientific renewal: Modernism. Renewal in the humanities. Renewal in the physical sciences. The aesthetic avant-garde. From one avant-garde to another.	
<b>12</b>	<b>France in 1914</b>	320
	<i>France is republican</i>	320
	A constantly challenged régime. A régime that grew more and more stable. A poor yield.	
	<i>Progress and prosperity</i>	324
	National prosperity. A more comfortable life and more modern manners. A more socialized existence.	
	<i>A subject of admitted disquiet: the demographic situation</i>	330
	<i>Old and new tensions</i>	333
	Rural areas and towns. Regions and regionalism. A society of citizens. 'This drama whose heroes are the classes.'	
	<i>1914</i>	345
	The nationalists. The left gets a grip on itself.	
	<i>The weaknesses of the 'rassemblement à gauche'</i>	348
	A fine summer.	



Cambridge University Press  
0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-  
Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberieux  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*Contents*

ix

<b>Conclusion to Part II</b>	<i>page</i> 352
Notes	354
Bibliography	369
Index	383

Cambridge University Press

0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberieux

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## A note on the translation\*

The main problem in translating from French a book about French life and institutions lies in deciding what to leave untranslated. On the whole, I have translated names of institutions when the result made sense, and left them in French when it did not. A good example of the latter case is *bourse du travail*. It is no good translating this by 'labour exchange', as most dictionaries do, because a *bourse du travail* was a kind of trade union institution, not simply a job centre.

The terms *interpellation* and *rapporteur* also require a word of explanation. *Interpellation* is the formal term describing the right of members of parliament to interrupt the order of the day by asking from a minister an explanation of some matter involving his department. This right existed through the Third and Fourth Republics until 1958, when *interpellations* were forbidden: now votes of confidence or censure are employed as the means of attacking government ministers. A *rapporteur* is a member of parliament who writes the conclusions of parliamentary commissions which discuss legislative bills.

J.R.F

\*The publisher wishes to record that the translator J. R. Foster died soon after proofs of this book became available, and that their correction was supervised by Dr Andrew Palmer.

## Chronology

### 1871

16 April  
 15 April – 11 July  
 10 May  
 21–8 May  
 29 June  
 2 July  
 5 July  
 29 August  
 31 August  
 23 December

Municipal law  
 Laws on the press  
 Treaty of Frankfurt  
 The Bloody Week  
 Longchamp review  
 By-elections to the National Assembly  
 Manifesto of the comte de Chambord  
 Failure of the merger  
 Law on the general councils  
 The *loi Rivet* defining the powers of Thiers  
 Formation of the Catholic Workers' Circles  
 E. Renan, *La Réforme intellectuelle et morale*

### 1872

14 March  
 30 March – 25 April  
 29 June  
 July  
 27 July  
 26 September  
 6 October

Law against the International  
 Addresses of the general councils to Thiers  
 Agreement fixing the evacuation of the  
 occupied departments  
 Protective tariffs  
 Military law (five years' service)  
 Gambetta's speech at Grenoble  
 National pilgrimage to Lourdes  
 Jules Verne, *Round the World in Eighty Days*

### 1873

7 January  
 15 March  
 28 April  
 24 May  
 24 July

Death of Napoleon III  
 Agreement on evacuation of French territory  
 Election of Barodet in Paris  
 Resignation of Thiers. Appointment of  
 MacMahon as President of the Republic, and  
 Broglie as Vice-president of the Conseil (i.e.,  
 deputy premier)  
 Law declaring the public utility of the erection  
 of a sanctuary at Montmartre

Cambridge University Press  
 0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberioux  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

xii *Chronology*

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>16 September</i>        | Liberation of French territory  |
| <i>September–October</i>   | Attempt at restoration  |
| <i>19 November</i>         | Septennial law  |
|                            | Rimbaud, <i>Une saison en enfer</i>                                       |
| <b>1874</b>                |   |
| <i>16 May</i>              | Broglie overthrown by coalition of extremes                               |
| <i>22 May</i>              | Cissey as vice-president of the Conseil                                   |
|                            | Monet, <i>Impression, soleil levant</i> ; César Franck, <i>Rédemption</i> |
| <b>1875</b>                |   |
| <i>30 January</i>          | Wallon amendment  |
| <i>24 February</i>         | Law on the Senate   |
| <i>25 February</i>         | Law on the organization of the government ( <i>pouvoirs publics</i> )     |
| <i>10 March</i>            | Buffet as Vice-president of the Conseil                                   |
| <i>12 July</i>             | Law relating to the freedom of higher education                           |
| <i>16 July</i>             | Law on <i>les rapports des pouvoirs publics</i>                           |
| <b>1876</b>                |   |
| <i>30 January</i>          | Senate elections  |
| <i>20 February–5 March</i> | Parliamentary elections   |
| <i>9 March</i>             | Dufaure as Prime Minister   |
| <i>2–10 October</i>        | First Workers' Congress in Paris  |
| <i>12 December</i>         | Ministry of Jules Simon   |
|                            | Mallarmé, <i>L'Après-midi d'un faune</i>                                  |
| <b>1877</b>                |   |
| <i>4 May</i>               | Gambetta's speech against clericalism                                     |
| <i>16 May</i>              | Dismissal of Jules Simon  |
| <i>17 May</i>              | Broglie government  |
| <i>18 May</i>              | Manifesto of the 363  |
| <i>25 June</i>             | Dissolution of the Chamber  |
| <i>14–28 October</i>       | Parliamentary elections   |
| <i>23–4 November</i>       | Rochebouët ministry   |
| <i>13 December</i>         | Second Dufaure ministry   |
| <b>1878</b>                |   |
| <i>6 January</i>           | Renewal of the municipal councils   |
| <i>12 April</i>            | Amnesty for offences of a political nature in the period of 16 May        |
| <i>May</i>                 | Opening of the Universal Exhibition                                       |
| <i>May</i>                 | Start of the Freycinet plan   |
| <b>1879</b>                |   |
| <i>5 January</i>           | Senate elections  |
| <i>30 January</i>          | Resignation of MacMahon   |

## Chronology

xiii

4 February	Grévy elected President
21 June	Waddington ministry
	Revision of the constitution
	Return of Parliament to Paris
	Death of the Prince Imperial
9 August	Paul Bert law on teacher-training colleges
20 October	Socialist Workers' Congress at Marseille
28 December	Freycinet ministry
<b>1880</b>	
27 February	Law on the Higher Council for Public Education
9 March	Rejection of Article 7 by the Senate
18 March	Law on the granting of degrees and the freedom of higher education
29 March	Decrees against unauthorized religious orders
June	Execution of the decrees
July	Amnesty for the communards
12 July	Law abolishing the obligation to rest on Sunday
14 July	Official celebration of the national festival
25 September	Ferry ministry
21 December	Law on the secondary education of girls
	Rodin, <i>Le Penseur</i>
<b>1881</b>	
12 May	Protectorate over Tunisia
16 June	Law on free primary education
30 June	Law on public meetings
29 July	Law on the press
21 August–4 September	Parliamentary elections
14 November 1881 – 26 January 1882	Gambetta ministry
<b>1882</b>	
19 January	Crash of the Union Générale
30 January	Freycinet ministry
28 March	Law on compulsory education and secular character of education
29 July	Fall of the government in connection with the intervention in Egypt
7 August	Duclerc ministry
September	Congress of Saint-Etienne
	The Guesdists part from the possibilists
31 December	Death of Gambetta
<b>1883</b>	
29 January	Fallières ministry
21 February	Ferry's second ministry
July	Ratification by the Chamber of the agreements with the railway companies
25 August	Protectorate over Annam
24 August	Death of the comte de Chambord

xiv *Chronology*

**1884**

21 March	Law on professional trade unions
5 April	Municipal law
27 July	Law on divorce
14 August	Revision of the constitution Opening of the Salon des Indépendants

**1885**

28 March	Protective duties on corn
30 March	Fall of Ferry
6 April	Brisson ministry
9 June	Treaty of Tientsin. China gives up Annam
4-18 October	Parliamentary elections with voting for lists of candidates  Zola, <i>Germinal</i> Pasteur injects the first vaccine against rabies

**1886**

7 January	Freycinet's third ministry
January	Boulangier is Minister for War
January	Strike at Decazeville
13 March	<i>Interpellation</i> on the strike at Decazeville
29 March	Formation of Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Française (ACJS)
22 June	Law forbidding heads of families who had reigned in France to stay in France
11-16 October	First congress of the Federation of Trade Unions in Lyon
30 October	Law on the laicization of teaching staff in state schools
11 December	Goblet ministry  Drumont, <i>La France juive</i> ; Rimbaud, <i>Les Illuminations</i>

**1887**

20-30 April	Schnaebelé affair
30 May	Rouvier ministry. Boulangier leaves the government
2 December	Resignation of Grévy after the honours scandal
3 December	Election of Sadi Carnot
12 December	First Tirard ministry  Antoine founds the <i>Théâtre libre</i>

**1888**

14 March	Boulangier put on the retired list
3 April	Floquet ministry
15 April	Boulangier deputy for Nord
December	First Russian loan raised on French market

## Chronology

xv

**1889**

27 January	Boulangier elected in Paris
13 February	Reintroduction of voting by <i>arrondissement</i>
22 February	Second ministry of Tirard
1 April	Flight of Boulangier to Brussels
15 July	Three-year military law
22 September – 6 October	Parliamentary elections
	Universal Exhibition – the Eiffel Tower

**1890**

17 March	Fourth Freycinet ministry
October	Congress of Châtellerault
	Allemanist split
12 November	Cardinal Lavigier's 'Algiers toast'

**1891**

1 May	Incidents at Fourmies
15 May	Encyclical <i>Rerum novarum</i>
23 July	Visit by the French fleet to Kronstadt

**1892**

11 January	Customs tariff
20 January	Declaration by the French cardinals
7–8 February	Constituent congress of the <i>Fédération des Bourses du Travail</i> at Saint-Etienne
20 February	Encyclical <i>Au milieu des sollicitudes</i>
27 February	Loubet ministry
July	Franco-Russian military agreement
19 November	Delahaye's <i>interpellation</i> on the Panama affair
6 December	Ribot ministry

**1893**

March	Creation of the republican right
4 April	Ministry of Charles Dupuy
20 August and 3 September	Parliamentary elections
3 December	Ministry of Casimir-Périer

**1894**

30 May	Second ministry of Charles Dupuy
24 June	Assassination of President Carnot
27 June	Election of Casimir-Périer to the presidency of the Republic
17 and 27 July	'Wicked' laws against the anarchists
17–22 September	The Corporative Congress of Nantes adopts the principle of the general strike
December	Conviction of Dreyfus

**1895**

17 January	Election of Félix Faure to the presidency of the Republic
26 January	Ribot ministry

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 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

xvi *Chronology*

23–8 September

Constituent congress of the Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) at Limoges  
 French protectorate over Madagascar  
 Léon Bourgeois ministry

1 October

1 November

**1896**

29 April

24 May

30 May

10 July

Méline ministry  
 Congress of Christian Workers at Reims  
 Millerand's speech at Saint-Mandé  
 Law relating to the constitution of the universities  
 Ecclesiastical Congress of Reims

24 August

**1897**

December

Christian Democratic Congress at Lyon  
 Barrès, *Les Déracinés*

**1898**

13 January

18–25 January

9 April

8 and 22 May

4 June

28 June

10 July

31 August

13 October

1 November

4 November

Emile Zola, 'J'accuse'  
 Violent demonstrations and anti-semitic pogroms in Algiers  
 Law on accidents at work  
 Parliamentary elections  
 League of the Rights of Man  
 Delcassé becomes Minister for Foreign Affairs  
 Marchand at Fashoda  
 Suicide of Colonel Henry  
 Failure of the railwaymen's general strike  
 Dupuy ministry  
 Evacuation of Fashoda  
 Francis Jammes, *De l'Angélus de l'aube à l'Angélus du soir*  
 Pierre and Marie Curie discover radium

**1899**

14 January

15 January

18 February

23 February

21 March

11 June

22 June

5 August

7 August – 9 September

9 August

September

10 October

19 November

The Indo-Chinese loan is over-subscribed 36 times  
 Formation of the Comité d'Entente Socialiste  
 Loubet elected President of the Republic  
 Attempt at a *coup d'état* by Déroulède  
 Franco-British agreement on Africa  
 Republican demonstration at Longchamp  
 Waldeck-Rousseau ministry  
 Arthur Fontaine becomes Director of Labour  
 Trial of Dreyfus at Rennes  
 Secret diplomatic convention with Russia  
 General Assembly of the Grand Orient eliminates anti-semitic lodges  
 First manifesto of the Sillon  
 Republican festival for the inauguration of the *Triomphe de la République* by Dalou



## Chronology

xvii

3–8 December

First General Congress of the socialist organizations

René Bazin, *La Terre qui meurt*Eugène Le Roy, *Jacquou le croquant*Georges Méliès, *Le Miroir de Cagliostro*Foundation of the newspaper *Ouest-France***1900**

February

Jaurès: first instalments of *L'Histoire socialiste de la Révolution française*

14 April

Opening of the Universal Exhibition

6 May

Municipal elections

2 June

Strike and repression at Chalon-sur-Saône

19 July

First section of the métro opened

28–30 September

Socialist congress at Wagram

30 September

Millerand–Colliard law

1 December

The bar is opened to women

December

Secret agreements with Italy

Edmond Rostand, *L'Aiglon*

The Schola Cantorum becomes the Ecole Supérieure de Musique Nationale

**1901**

27 April

Insurrection at Margueritte in Algeria

6 May

End of the strike at Monceau-le-Mines

May

Foundation of the Alliance Démocratique

21–3 June

First congress of the Radical and Radical-Socialist Party

1 July

Law on associations

July

Foundation of the Action Libérale Populaire

December

Ratification of the new military Franco-Russian protocols

Creation of the Banque Française pour le Commerce et l'Industrie (Rouvier)

Paul Bourget, *L'Étape*Anatole France, *Crainquebille* and *M. Bergeret à Paris***1902**

27 February

*Pelléas et Mélisande*

24 March

Formation of the French Socialist Party (*PSF*)

27 April – 11 May

Parliamentary elections

8 May

Martinique: eruption of Mount Pelée

6 June

Combes ministry

10 July

Secret diplomatic agreements with Italy

22–7 September

Montpellier congress of the *CGT*

26–8 September

Creation of the Socialist Party of France (*PS de F*)

November

Italian loan quoted on stock exchange

André Gide, *L'Immoraliste*

Cambridge University Press

0521358574 - The Third Republic from its Origins to the Great War, 1871-1914 - Jean-Marie Mayeur and Madeleine Reberioux

Frontmatter

[More information](#)xviii *Chronology*

- Alfred Loisy, *L'Évangile et l'Église*  
Romain Rolland, first volume of *Jean-Christophe*
- 1903**  
10–20 February  
1 June  
3 July  
July  
28 July  
October
- Parliamentary debate on the 'home distillers'  
Bombardment of Figuié  
Gas, state-owned, in Paris  
First *Tour de France*  
Turkish loan for the Baghdad Railway quoted on stock exchange  
Workers' campaign against the employment bureaux
- Ernest Lavisse, first volume of the *Histoire de France: Tableau de la géographie de la France*  
Romain Rolland, *Le Théâtre du Peuple*
- 1904**  
January
- Foundation of the Fédération Nationale des Jeunes de France  
Strikes by agricultural workers in Hérault and Aude
- 8 April  
18 April  
12 June  
7 July  
30 July  
15 November  
20 December
- Entente Cordiale with Great Britain  
First number of *L'Humanité*  
Paribas enters the Moroccan market  
Law forbidding all members of religious orders, whether authorized or not, to teach  
Rupture of diplomatic relations with the Vatican  
Resignation of André, Minister for War  
First congress of Christian trade unions
- Creation of the Banque de l'Union Parisienne  
Léon Frapié, *La Maternelle*  
E. Guillaumin, *La Vie d'un simple*
- 1905**  
24 January  
March  
31 March  
23–6 April  
6 June  
29 June  
13 July  
July  
November  
9 December
- Rouvier government  
Military service reduced to two years  
Wilhelm II at Tangier  
Globe Congress: foundation of the Section Française de l'Internationale Ouvrière (SFIO)  
Fall of Delcassé  
8-hour working day in the mines  
Law on compulsory assistance  
First federation of Teachers' Trade Unions  
Edouard Herriot becomes mayor of Lyon  
Law on the separation of Church and State  
Cézanne finishes *Les Grandes Baigneuses*
- 1906**  
17 January
- Fallières elected President of the Republic

## Chronology

xix

- 11 February  
 10 March  
 14 March  
 7 April  
 13 July  
 August  
 8–14 October  
 25 October  
 December
- Encyclical *Vehementer nos*  
 Courrières disaster  
 Sarrien ministry  
 Algeciras Act  
 Obligatory weekly rest of 24 hours  
 Encyclical *Gravissimo officii*  
 Congress of the CGT at Amiens  
 Clemenceau ministry  
 Purchase of the Western Railway  
 Creation of *La Guerre sociale*  
 Henri Bergson, *L'Evolution créatrice*
- 1907**
- 8 March  
 April–May  
 10–21 June  
 3 July  
 11–14 August  
 11–14 October  
 8 December
- First strike by Parisian electricians  
 Conflict between the government and civil servants belonging to trade unions  
 The 'beggars' revolt' culminates in Languedoc  
 Law on the protection of women's wages  
 SFIO congress at Nancy  
 Radical party congress at Nancy  
 Encyclical *Pascendi*  
 François Simiand, *Le Salaire des ouvriers des mines de charbon*  
 Picasso, *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*
- 1908**
- 3–10 May  
 2 June – 30 July  
 1 August  
 15–18 October
- Municipal elections  
 Serious incidents at Draveil and later at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges  
 Arrest of the secretaries of the CGT  
 Unanimity at the SFIO congress in Toulouse  
 Jules Romains, *La Vie unanime*
- 1909**
- 9 February  
 March  
 12 July  
 24 July  
 25 July  
 October  
 10 October  
 end of October
- Franco-German agreement on Morocco  
 Strike of the postal workers  
 Jouhaux becomes secretary-general of the CGT  
 Briand ministry  
 Blériot flies the Channel  
 Foundation of *La Vie ouvrière*  
 Briand's speech at Périgueux  
 The Chamber rejects P.R.  
 League for the restoration of Vietnam  
 Maurice Barrès, *Colette Baudoche*  
 Diaghilev and the Russian ballet at the Châtelet theatre  
 Max Linder, beginning of the *Max* series  
 Matisse, *La Danse*

xx *Chronology*

**1910**

- 5 April Law on workers' and peasants' pensions  
 24 April – 5 May Parliamentary elections  
 25 August Pius X condemns the Sillon  
 10–17 October General strike by the railwaymen  
 3 November Second Briand ministry  
 14 November Jaurès tables in the Chamber his plan for a 'New Army'  
 16 November *Excelsior*: full page photos

**1911**

- 2 March Monis government  
 April Ngoko-Sangha scandal  
 Demonstrations by the wine-growers of Aube  
 27 June Caillaux ministry  
 1 July German gunboat *Panther* at Agadir  
 28 July Joffre becomes Chief of the General Staff  
 4 November Franco-German convention (Morocco, Congo)

**1912**

- 14 January Poincaré ministry  
 13 March Arrest of the leaders of the 'Young Tunisians'  
 30 March Treaty making Morocco a protectorate  
 5–12 May Municipal elections  
 22 May Paul Deschanel president  
 Paul Claudel, *l'Annonce faite à Marie*  
 Charles Péguy, *Les Tapisseries*  
 Louis Pergaud, *La Guerre des boutons*

**1913**

- 17 January Poincaré elected President of the Republic  
 21 January Third Briand ministry  
 22 March Barthou ministry  
 29 May *Le Sacre du printemps* at the Champs-Élysées theatre  
 The three-year law  
 7 August State of siege in Tunisia  
 9 September Congress of the Radical and Radical-Socialist party at Pau  
 16–19 October Doumergue government  
 9 December  
 Alain-Fournier, *Le Grand Meaulnes*  
 Guillaume Apollinaire, *Alcools*  
 Maurice Barrès, *La Colline inspirée*  
 Blaise Cendrars and Sophie Delaunay, *Prose du transsibérien, premier livre simultané*  
 Maxime Leroy, *La Coutume ouvrière*  
 Ernest Psichari, *Le Voyage du centurion*  
 Marcel Proust, *Du côté de chez Swann*  
 Maurice Ravel, *Ma Mère l'Oye*  
 Gaston Leroux, *Le Mystère de la chambre jaune*

*Chronology*

xxi

**1914**

<i>13 January</i>	Creation of the <i>Fédération des Gauches</i>
<i>February</i>	New Russian loan
<i>16 March</i>	Mme Caillaux kills the editor of <i>Le Figaro</i>
<i>19 March</i>	Big Turkish loan
<i>26 April – 10 May</i>	Parliamentary elections
<i>9 June</i>	Ribot government
<i>13 June</i>	Viviani government
<i>20 June</i>	Loan for national defence and Morocco
<i>28 June</i>	Sarajevo assassination
<i>14–16 June</i>	Special congress of the <i>SFIO</i>
<i>15 July</i>	Departure of Poincaré and Viviani for Russia
	Law introducing income tax passed
<i>23 July</i>	Austrian ultimatum to Serbia
<i>27 July</i>	Trade union demonstrations against war
<i>28 July</i>	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
<i>29 July</i>	Poincaré and Viviani return to Paris
<i>30 July</i>	Russian mobilization. <i>SFIO</i> and <i>CGT</i> meet
<i>31 July</i>	German ultimatum to Russia and France
	Assassination of Jaurès
<i>1 August</i>	General mobilization in France
<i>2 August</i>	Invasion of Belgium
<i>3 August</i>	Germany declares war on France
	Louis Feuillade, <i>Fantomas</i>
	André Gide, <i>Les Caves du Vatican</i>