

EUROPEAN HISTORY SECTION II

(Suggested Writing Time-45 minutes)
Percent of Section II score-45

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-17. (Some of the documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.) Write your answer on the lined pages of the pink essay booklet.

This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the documents and the authors' point of view.

Question: Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the Terror as an instrument of the French Revolution.

Background Information:

March 1793-the Vendée region of France explodes into a huge counterrevolutionary-royalist peasant revolt.

June 1793-royalist forces hold and control the French cities of Lyon, Marseilles, Nantes and Toulon.

June 1793-the Bordeaux region, following the example of the Vendée, explodes into counterrevolutionary revolt.

June 1793-Radical Jacobin (Mountain) coup d'État against 29 moderate Girondin in the National Assembly.

July 1793-assassination while taking a bath of the Radical Jacobin, Marat, by the pro-Girondin, Charlotte Corday.

July 1793-massive foreign invasion of France by Austrian, British and Prussian armies.

August 1793-the British navy captures the French port of Toulon.

October 1793-execution by guillotine in Paris of 22 Girondin "traitors and counterrevolutionaries."

October 1793-execution by guillotine in Paris of the "Austrian bitch-whore" Marie-Antoinette.

November 1793-execution by guillotine in Paris of the Girondin leader Mdme. Roland.

November 1793-massacre of over 3500 Catholic priests by drowning in Nantes.

December 1793-massacre of over 1800 "counterrevolutionaries" in Lyon.

December 1793-massacre of over 10,000 Catholic and royalist troops in the Vendée.

January 1794-massacre of over 800 "counterrevolutionaries" in Toulon.

March 1794-execution by guillotine in Paris of the radical enragés leader Hébert, and 14 other enragés leaders.

June 1794-massacre of over 400 "counterrevolutionaries" in Bordeaux.

June 1794-execution by guillotine in Paris of Danton, the founder of the Revolutionary Tribunals, Desmoulins, once Robespierre's closest friend and strongest ally, and 5 other Moderate Jacobins.

July 27 (Thermidor) 1794-execution of the Radical Jacobin (Mountain), Robespierre.

Document 1

Victims of the Terror: (William Doyle, The Oxford History of the French Revolution, 1989)

06%-First Estate (clergy)
08%-Second Estate (nobility)
14%-upper Third Estate "bourgeoisie"
72%-rural peasants and urban workers

Document 2

Methods of Execution: (William Doyle, The Oxford History of the French Revolution, 1989)

20,000-shot or "blown apart by close cannon fire"
16,000-guillotine
10,000-die while in prison
10,000-missing
04000-"hog-tied" and drowned in the noyades in Nantes.
60,000-total victims of the Terror: 1793-1794

Document 3

"Through an exhaustive study of all the evidence we could marshal, no more than 32,644 counterrevolutionaries were silenced during the months between June of 1793 and June of 1794."

Georges Couthon,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain) and member
of the Committee of Public Safety
in a report to the Committee of Public Safety,
July 30, 1794

Document 4

"What are we to say about a people who according to our sources have put over 40,000 of their own citizens to death through the blade of the guillotine, the bayonet of a gun or the terror of the death-barges of the noyades at Nantes?"

William Pitt, British
Prime Minister, in a
speech to Parliament,
January 21, 1794

Document 5

"I am a child of Rousseau's General Will. What is best for all of society is best for us all. The General Will is always kind and good and compassionate, and civilized nations never, for any reason, engage in the execution of their citizens, no matter how horrible the crime."

Maximilian de Robespierre,
Moderate Jacobin,
in a speech to the Legislative Assembly,
February 16, 1792

Document 6

"How could anyone delude himself that what we did was unnecessary? The Vendée and Bordeaux were in arms against us; Custine had abandoned the banks of the Rhine and the Palatinate to the Austrians and Prussians; Lyons, Marseille and Toulon were under the guns of British warships. Extreme times call for extreme measures and we had to do anything to save the authority of the state and the path of the Revolution."

Louis Antoine de Saint-Just,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain) and member
of the Committee of Public Safety in a
speech to the National Convention,
February 26, 1794

Document 7

"Revolution is the war waged by liberty against its enemies; a constitution is that which crowns the edifice of freedom once victory has been won and the nation is at peace. To good citizens the revolutionary government owes the full protection of the state; to the enemies of the Revolution, it owes death."

Maximilian de Robespierre,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain), and member
of the Committee of Public Safety
in a speech to the National
Convention, December 25,
1793

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Document 8

"You want to remove all your enemies by the guillotine! Has there ever been such folly? For every single man that you execute, you create ten enemies from his family and friends. Of your enemies there remain only the cowardly and the sick. The strong and the brave are dead in the Vendée or in Lyon. The remainder who you kill do not merit your horrible wrath."

Camille Desmoulins, Journalist, Moderate Jacobin
and former ally of Robespierre,
executed along with Danton in June, 1794.
Written in an article in le Vieux Cordelier,
December 20, 1793

Document 9

"The French Republic must be one of plurality where all political factions and all political views are tolerated. Let no man silence the voice of another, for the Republic must be one of reason and dialogue."

Georges Jacques Danton,
Moderate Jacobin and founder of
the Revolutionary Tribunals in a
speech to the National Convention,
June 29, 1790

Document 10

"This conspiracy against the Revolution involves everyone and owes its strength to a criminal coalition of all the great powers: England, Prussia, Austria and any of our 25 million citizens can never be above suspicion. We must use the full weight of national authority to crush, to destroy, to decimate all factions that dare try to halt the progress of Reason and Revolution."

Maximilian de Robespierre,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain)
from his last speech (over 15,000 words) to
the National Convention,
June 17, 1794

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Document 11

"Let us closely examine the words of the Convention. Let us strike down the traitors wherever they may be!"

Jean-Paul Marat,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain), from a
speech to the Committee of Public Safety,
June 3, 1793

Document 12

"On seeing poor, hopeless peasants on the scaffold of execution people said, 'What...what have these poor wretches done?' If they had been nobles or rich people, then yes, but defenseless peasants, caught with a loaf of bread? Why?"

Report to the Government
on Public Opinion,
Compiled from the Departments of Bourges,
February 1794

Document 13

"Bitter complaints already expressed numberless times, were reported of the arrest and imprisonment of innocent citizens, upon orders of Danton's Revolutionary Tribunals."

Report to the Government
on Public Opinion,
Compiled from the Departments of Chouans,
June 1794

Document 14

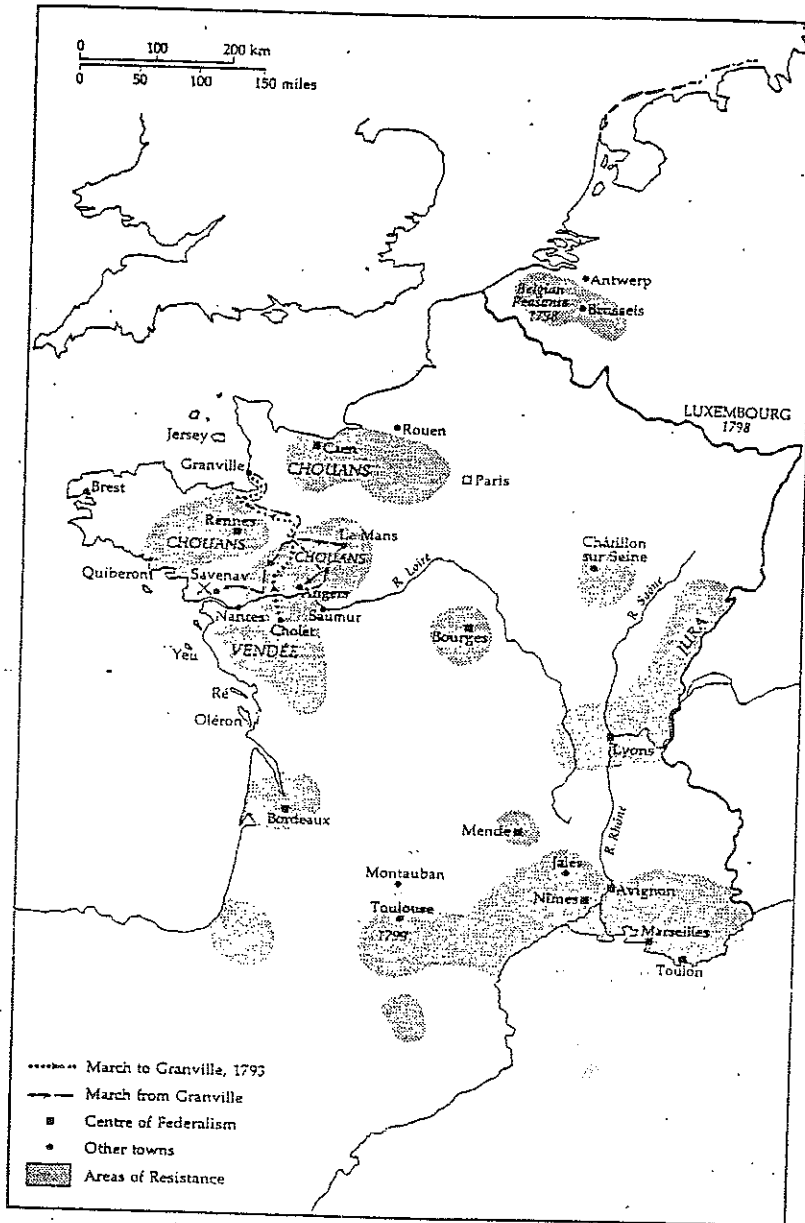
"People everywhere say, Danton's Revolutionary Tribunals are just, the laws are fair and good. The Republic must be saved!"

Report to the Government
on Public Opinion,
Compiled in the Departments of Marne,
following the trial of the émigrés, Marquis de Challion,
November 1793

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Document 15

Resistance to the Revolution: 1793-1794



Document 16

Victims of the Terror by Departments (region)

1000 executions or more between June 1793 and July 1794:

Chouans
Lyons
Marseilles
Nantes
Paris
Vendée

400-900 executions between June 1793 and July 1794:

Bordeaux
Bourges
Mt. Blanc
Nimes
Toulon
Toulouse

Lazare Carnot,
Committee of Public Safety Member,
Radical Jacobin (Mountain) and the founder of
the "levée en masse,"
in a report to the Committee of Public Safety
June 15, 1794

Document 17

Principle Indictments Leading to Executions in all of France

Part II of the Georges Couthon Report of 30 July, 1794
to the Committee of Public Safety

00032-aiding or hiding members of the refractory clergy
00104-corruption, taking bribes or making illegal profits from the war industry
00293-refractory clergy members
00457-offering military intelligence to counterrevolutionary powers
01302-spreading of counterrevolutionary opinions
20456-hostile acts against the Republic: food hoarding, "black market" sales,
sabotage, acts of violence against the Republic

32644-total indictments and executions