1789, 5 May: Louis XVI calls Estates-General for the first time since 1614.

17 June: Conversion of Third Estate into National Assembly.

20-27 June: Tennis Court Oath to establish constitution; Louis accedes to Assembly demands.

14 July: Storming of the Bastille.

4 August: Abolition of feudal privileges.

26 August: Declaration of the Rights of Man.

5 October: Women's march on Versailles forces the return of the royal family to Paris.

1789, 13 February: Suppression of religious and monastic orders.

12 July: Civil constitution of the Clergy.

1791, 21 June: Flight to Varennes by Louis XVI.

1 October: New legislative Assembly dominated by Girondins.

1792, 20 April: France declares war on Austria and Prussia.

10 August: Attack on the Tuileries and overthrow of Louis XVI.

2-6 September: September massacres of royalists and 'counter-revolutionary' elements.

20 September: National Convention (Republican assembly); more extreme Jacobins increasingly powerful.

21 September: Abolition of the monarchy.


19 November: Declaration of assistance to all European peoples wishing to throw off their governments.

1793, 21 January: Execution of Louis XVI.

1 February: France declares war on Britain. First Allied coalition v France.

10 March: Revolutionary Tribunal in Paris.

11 March: Counter-revolution in the Vendée.

6 April: Committee of Public Safety.

2 June: Moderate Girondins overthrown.

July-Oct: 'Federalist' revolts in the provinces.

13 July: Assassination of the left-wing Marat by Charlotte Corday.

28 July: Robespierre enters the Committee of Public Safety.

5 October: New calendar established.

16 October: Execution of Marie-Antoinette.

4 December: Power centralised in the hands of the Committee of Public Safety, the Committee of General Security, and the Revolutionary Tribunal.

1794, 24 March: Execution of the Hébertistes and the Enragés.

5-6 April: Execution of Danton and Desmoulins.

8 June: Festival of the Supreme Being.

27 July: Overthrow and execution of Robespierre.

12 November: Jacobin club of Paris closed.

8 December: Girondins re-admitted to the Convention.


5 October: Attack on convention by 'reactionary' elements dispersed by Napoleon.

26 October: General amnesty for political detainees.

3 November: Directory assumes office.