

International Terrorism  
Second Grade Students  
International Relations  
Department

Lecture 3

History of Terrorism from 1789

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Key words:

1-despotism of freedom

2-stormed

3-executed

4-conflict

5-moderate republicans

6-radical republicans

7-apogee

8-accused

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in human experience. Violence has been used throughout human history by those who chose to be oppose states, kings, and princes.

Terrorism, however, is characterized by the use of violence against civilians, with the expressed desire of causing terror or panic in the population.

Terrorism is the most violent form of psychological warfare, and its psychological impact is commonly understood to be far greater than its physical effects.

Terror means “to make tremble” in Latin.

Historians of terrorism point out that the word “terror” applies to the state terror of the French Revolution.

The French Revolution marked a turning point in the history of terrorism.

1- It gave birth to the term “terror”—or what might equally be called

“state terrorism” The term “terrorism,” of course, derives from the experience of the French revolutionary Terror that appeared in 1793 and 1794.



2- The Terror in revolutionary France (September 1793–July 1794) did invest something new. It marks the first time a government attempted to institute a “despotism of freedom,” to base a regime of terror on the universal values of liberty and equality.

The French Revolution lasted 10 years from 1789 to 1799. It began on July 14, 1789 when revolutionaries stormed a prison called the Bastille. A Jacobin was a member of the Jacobin Club, a revolutionary political movement that was the most famous political club during the French Revolution (1789–1799).

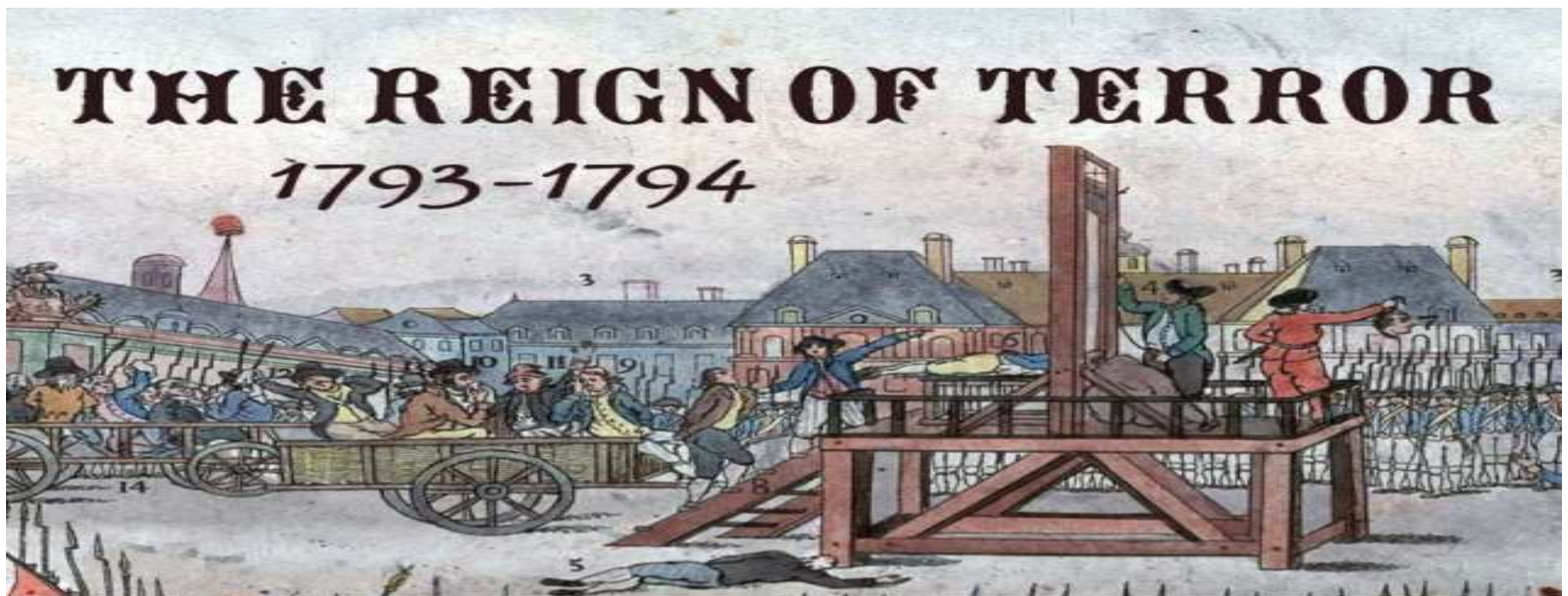


The revolution came to an end 1799 when a general named Napoleon overthrew the revolutionary government and established the French Consulate (with Napoleon as leader).

During the Reign of Terror (1793–1794), about 40,000 people were executed or murdered.



The Reign of Terror : was a period of violence during the French Revolution incited by conflict between two rival political factions, the Gironde's (moderate republicans) and the Jacobins (radical republicans), and marked by mass executions of the enemies of revolution.



The Most Appearances of Terror had existed in the following actions:

1- The Committee of Public Safety used the most famous words of Niccolò Machiavelli:

The ends justified the means, including extreme violence.

2- The Law of 22 Prairial marked the apogee of the Great Terror: it allowed anyone to be accused of being an enemy of the revolution; and it abolished all the legal guarantees that had survived to that point.

3- The policy of terror reached its high point when the government began applying its strategy of stamping out “enemies of the people” treating counterrevolutionaries as the nationals of a foreign enemy state.

In the period of French revolution the Terrorism had two shape:

1- terror from up to bottom ( which conducted of using violence by the government against the French citizens) The Terror was purportedly directed against counter-revolutionary conspiracy.

The practitioners of 1793-94 imposed what is now called 'state terror' calls it 'top-down' or 'enforcement' terror)against the country's own citizens.

2- The collective revolutionary violence began with the murderous retribution inflicted on authority figures in July 1789, through the horrifying blood-letting of the September Massacres in 1792, to such acts of violence as the decapitation of the deputy Jean-Bertrand Féraud during the Prairial uprising of May 1795. Mayer calls this violence 'bottom-up'.

On the geopolitical level, the nineteenth century was marked by the gradual collapse of the order based on the Peace of Westphalia and the balance of powers. It was also the era of rising nationalism. Lying at the divide between two declining empires—the Austrian and the Ottoman—the Balkans became an extremely precarious region.

Many of the independence movements that arose there in the late 1870s, when the Ottoman empire lost most of its European territory.

## The Russian in the 1800

The new violent political practice was soon institutionalized with the emergence of organized terrorist groups. First came Narodnaya Volya (The People's Will), a group of Russian social revolutionaries and self-proclaimed terrorists, who in 1881 succeeded in assassinating Tsar Alexander II with a dynamite bomb.

## **The Features of Terrorism in the 20s century**

- 1- The 20th century witnessed great changes in the use and practice of terror. It became the symbol of a number of political movements.
- 2- Since the 20th century, ideology and political motivation run the most movements of national liberation.
- 3- Technological advances, such as automatic weapons and compact, electrically detonated explosives, gave terrorists a new mobility and lethality, and the growth of air travel provided new methods and opportunities



4- Terrorism was virtually an official policy in totalitarian states such as those of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and the Soviet Union under Stalin. In these states arrest, imprisonment, torture, and execution were carried out without legal guidance or restraints to create a climate of fear and to encourage adherence to the national ideology and the declared economic, social, and political goals of the state

5- it was no longer religious; in the context of terrorism, religion did not reassert itself until the second half of the twentieth century. In fact, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century terrorism essentially had no religious dimension

## **The most important event happened in the 20s century:**

1- It was in this political context that the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 transcended the regional framework, becoming the spark that ignited World War I.

2- World war II

3- disputes between different national groups over possession of a contested homeland (e.g., that between Palestinians and Israelis)

4- conflicts between different religious denominations (e.g., that between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland)

5- Terror has been used by one or both sides in anticolonial conflicts (e.g., those between Ireland and the United Kingdom, between Algeria and France, and between Vietnam and France and the United States.

Ireland offered another terrorist model, which was taken up by numerous nationalist movements throughout the world. By confronting British democracy in the midst of World War I, the IRA won independence for the Irish Free State (Éire) in the war's aftermath. The Irish were the first to understand the complex mechanisms defining the disproportion between extremely weak strategic potential and potentially enormous political gain. The IRA and its strategist, Michael Collins, managed to destabilize British rule with very limited means but first-class organization. Their experiment brought hope to myriad independence movements in Europe and beyond.

6- internal conflicts between revolutionary forces and established governments (e.g., those within the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Peru).

**In the late 20th and early 21st centuries**  
some of the most extreme and destructive  
organizations that engaged in terrorism  
possessed a fundamentalist religious ideology  
(e.g., Hamas and al-Qaeda)

## **weapons and tactics**

These have included hijackings, hostage takings, kidnappings, mass shootings, car bombings, and, frequently, suicide bombings. Although apparently random, the victims and locations of terrorist attacks often are carefully selected for their shock value.