

Reign of Terror

Jury Report: The Results of the Trial of Maximillien Robespierre

Imagine you have been asked to say a few words about Robespierre following his trial. If you found him guilty, you will write an article for the local newspaper condemning him for his actions (and that of the Committee of Public Safety) during the Reign of Terror. If you found him not guilty, you must respectfully write a Eulogy for his memorial service following his death. In this case you should explain that the "ends justified the means." Use the information provided directly at the trial for your verdict, but your essay (2-3 pages) can contain information from your class notes, the trial, and primary sources from within your worksheets.

Paper Setup

28 July 1794

Explain events in France after Louis XVI's Death

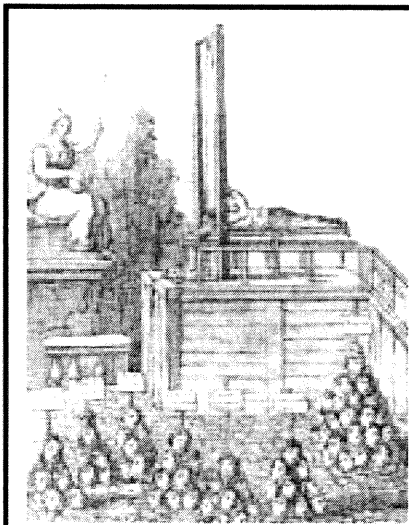
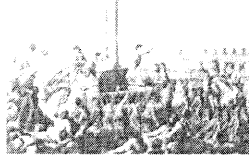
Main Purpose of Reign of Terror

Who Was killed in Terror?

Hardships Faced by France

Robespierre's Role

Verdict and Why



a cartoon attacking the Terror. 'The government of Robespierre - he is even guillotining himself!'

"Robespierre is extremely touchy and suspicious" (mayor of Paris 1791)
 "The bastard isn't satisfied with being the boss, he's got to be God as well" (a sans-culottes)
 "Robespierre was bred a butcher.." (from the London Times)
 "...dictatorship..he believed was the only way to stop the spread of evil." (Bertrand Barere 1832, he sat on the Committee with Robespierre)
 "a depraved monster of small talent." (a government enquiry)
 "..physically repulsive..humourless" (British newspaper, 1987)
 He had been the equal of emperors and kings...he was the most hateful character in history" (Lord Acton, British historian, 1890s)

Robespierre: "One's duty is to punish traitors, to help the needy, respect the weak, defend the oppressed, do good to one's neighbour and behave justly." "Terror is nothing but quick and hard justice." " I detest the death penalty." "...in a revolution the state is at war, it doesn't have to follow all the laws "