

## American Minute with Bill Federer Bastille Day, Reign of Terror & French Revolution "liberté, égalité, fraternité"

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In 1781, the monarchs of France, **27-year-old King Louis XVI** and **26-year-old Queen Marie Antoinette**, sent the French navy and army to help **America gain independence from Britain.**

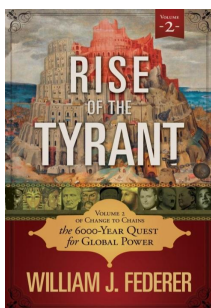


In return, **France** gained very little, except an **enormous amount of debt.**

On the **verge of financial collapse**, France then experienced a **terrible famine** in 1788.

The people **blamed the King and Queen ...** [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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Anti-monarchists referred to **Queen Marie Antoinette** as Madame Déficit.

According to **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**, when she was told the people did not have bread, her naive reply was:

"Let them eat cake."

On July 14, 1789, an anarchist mob went through the streets of Paris and stormed the the **Bastille Fortress** which had been used as the police prison.

The **king**, endeavoring to be an **enlightened monarch**, allowed rioters space to blow off steam, and withheld police from responding with force.

Sadly, the more benevolence he showed, the **more the unruly rioters became embolden to commit increased violence.**

On October 5, 1789, a peaceful protest began -- a **Women's March demanding bread**, but it escalated into a **violent mob** which surrounded the King's **Palace at Versailles.**

The **Marquis de Lafayette** attempted to convince the crowd to show moderation, but they ignored him.

Disgruntled soldiers sympathetic to the demonstrators, failed to defend the palace.

Finding an unguarded door, **rioters barged in.**

Two guards were killed, with one's head placed on a pike. The Queen fled through a secret passage to the King's chamber.

With the **mob** now numbering 60,000, the **King and Queen** were escorted back to Paris, where they became **captives** in the Royal residence called the **Tuileries.**

On June 20, 1791, the **Royal family tried escaping** by carriage at night.

They almost made it out of France, but someone **recognized the king's face** from having seen it on French currency.

Once again, the royal family were captives in the **Tuileries**.

**Left-wing "Jacobin Club" agitators**, most notably **Maximilien Robespierre**, whipped the city into an anti-king frenzy.

The **Jacobin Club** drew its name from meeting on a street in Paris named "Jacob" - *Rue Saint Jacques*.

**The Tuileries were stormed** August 10, 1792.

The naive King ordered his loyal Swiss guards, who had sworn to defend him, to stand down.

Instead of showing restraint, the mob slaughtered hundreds of the Swiss guards.

The slain Swiss guards are memorialized at the **Löwendenkmal (Lion Monument)** in Lucerne, Switzerland.

Following the example of England's **regicide** in 1649, with the **beheading of its regent King Charles I**, **France committed regicide on January 21, 1793**, with the **beheading its regent, King, Louis XVI**.

The **French Revolution** quickly turned into a bloodbath, called the **Reign of Terror**.

The **motto** of the **French Revolution** sounded noble, "**liberté, égalité, fraternité**," which stood for **liberty, equality and fraternity** -- "**fraternity**" being another

word for **socialism**.

At issue was the **mutually exclusive** nature of these words: "**liberty**" being experienced **individually**, but "**fraternity**" being **the collective, the mob, the social contract state**.

**Rousseau**, considered as the **Father of the French Revolution**, wrote in *The Social Contract*, 1762:

"When (a citizen is told) ... '**It is expedient for the state that you should die, he ought to die** ... because **his life** is no longer a mere bounty of nature, but a **gift** made conditionally **by the state**."

**Hegel**, a professor at the University of Berlin, later described the socialist state:

"All the **worth** which the **human being possesses** ... **he possesses only through the state** ...

**The state is god** walking on earth ... We must worship the state."

In France, **individuals** did not have **Creator-given rights**, and the **fraternity inevitably demanded individuals surrender their liberty** to the "general will of the people."

"**General will of the people**" sounds good until one asks, who actually decides what it is?

The answer is, the politicians, who cannot resist deciding that the "**general will**" includes **them staying in power** - - as the saying goes, "**whoever holds the purse strings has the power**."

In spite of the **equity rhetoric**, it unavoidably resulted in a **power-hungry, deep-state ruling class** which acted no different than the royal class it had promised to

eradicate.

Also at issue was the two different ways to understand **"equality."**

In **America, "equality" was equal treatment before the law**, based on Deuteronomy 1:17, "Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God." (NIV)

In **France, "equality" was "equity" -- was everyone having an equal amount of stuff -- material possessions.**

When the **second definition** is used, the **fraternité, the socialist deep-state, can forcibly take possessions away** from those it thinks have **too much**.

**It accuses them of being selfish and redistributes** their possessions, killing anyone who resists.

**Maximilien Robespierre** led the "Committee of Public Safety," France's version of Department of Homeland Security.

He gave a speech to the National Assembly, February 5, 1794, titled **"The Terror Justified,"** where he **justified** the new secular government **orchestrating terrorist attacks upon French citizens to get them to submit:**

"Lead ... the enemies of the people by **terror** ...

Basis of popular government during a revolution is **terror** ...

**Terror** is nothing else than **swift, severe, indomitable justice."**

Author Don Feder wrote in the article **"Observations and Fulminations-The French Revolution and**

## Jacobins in Our Streets" (July 13, 2018):

**"The Reign of Terror** wasn't an episode of the **French Revolution**, it was the Revolution.

In '**Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution**,' historian **Simon Schama** writes,

'The **terror** ... was not just an unfortunate side effect ... it **was the Revolution's source of collective energy** ...

From the very beginning, **violence** was the **motor of the revolution.**"

**Robespierre** began accusing, arresting, and beheading:

- first all the royalty;
- then the wealthy;
- then the farmers and businessmen;
- then those hoarding food;
- then the religious clergy;
- then the former revolutionaries.

Over **40,000 French citizens** who held to **old values**, were **falsely accused** by the **new intolerant government** of being domestic terrorists.

These **citizens** were **arrested, interrogated, imprisoned** and **beheaded** in Paris.

So many were being beheaded, a more efficient machine was invented to do it -- **the guillotine**.

**Don Feder** continued:



"Slaughter in the name of the 'people,' atheism, thought police, the ruthless suppression of dissent, mass murder for ideological purity, – all started in the orgy of murder and nihilism unleashed by the furies of **Jacobinism**.

... They started by killing **aristocrats** and **royalists**, then **moderates** (like the **Girondists**), then **dissidents**, then **any who had doubts**, until, finally, **an emperor** (Napoleon) with a genius for conquest **took the place of a relatively benign monarch.**"

**The French Revolution** initiated an intentional campaign to **separate French society from its Judeo-Christian past** and replace it with a civic religion of state worship.

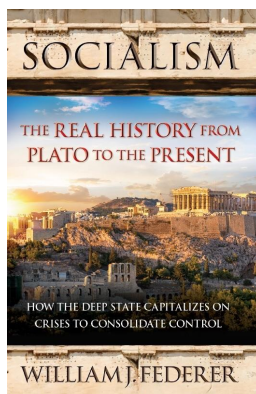
Not wanting a constitution that was "Done in the year of the Lord," as the U.S. Constitution was, **the French made 1792 the new "Year One."**

They did not want a **seven day week** with a **Sabbath day rest**, as this was derived from the Bible, so they devised a **ten day "decade" week**, and **ten month year**.

"French Revolutionary Time" divided the day into **10 decimal hours**, with each hour consisting of **100 decimal minutes**, and each minute made up of **100 decimal seconds**.

Every measurement was to be divisible by ten, as **ten** was considered the **number of man**, counting on ten fingers.

This was called **"the metric system."**



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The new secular government proceeded to:

- **Forbid crosses as being offensive;**
- **Religious monuments were destroyed;**
- **Statues were torn down, including that of Good King Henry IV;**
- **Christian graves were desecrated**, including that of Ste. Genevieve, the patron saint of Paris who called the city to pray when Attila the Hun was attacking in 451 AD;
- **Public and private worship and education outlawed;**
- **Priests and ministers, along with those who harbored them, were executed on sight;**
- **Churches were closed** or used for "immoral," "lurid," "licentious," "scandalous" "depravities."

**Robespierre** put a prostitute in Notre Dame Cathedral, covered her with a sheet, and called her "the goddess of reason" to be worshiped.

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Strasbourg was turned into a **Temple of Reason**.

In America, **Yale President Timothy Dwight** gave an address on July 4, 1798, tracing the origin of the **radical, left-wing Jacobin organizers**, who agitated a violent overthrow of France's government:

"About the year 1728, **Voltaire**, so celebrated for his wit and brilliancy and not less distinguished for **his hatred of Christianity** and his abandonment of principle, formed a systematical design to **destroy Christianity** and to introduce in its stead a general diffusion of **irreligion and**



## atheism ...

... With great art and **insidiousness** the doctrines of ... Christian theology were rendered **absurd and ridiculous**; and the mind of the reader was insensibly steeled against conviction and duty ...

The **overthrow of the religious orders** in Catholic countries, a step essentially necessary to the **destruction of the religion** professed in those countries ..."

**Dwight** describe further Voltaire's plan:

"... The appropriation to themselves, and their disciples, of the **places and honors of members of the French Academy** ... In this way they designed to hold out themselves ... to **dictate all literary opinions** to the nation ...

The **fabrication of books** of all kinds against Christianity, especially such as excite **doubt** and generate **contempt and derision** ...

... The **being of God** was **denied and ridiculed** ...

The **possession of property** was pronounced **robbery**.

**Chastity** and natural affection were declared to be nothing more than **groundless prejudices**.

**Adultery, assassination, poisoning**, and other crimes of the like **infernal nature**, were taught as lawful ... **provided the end was good** ...

... The **good ends** proposed ... are the **overthrow of religion, government**, and human society, civil and domestic.

These they pronounce to be **so good** that **murder**,

**butchery, and war**, however extended and dreadful, are declared by them to be **completely justifiable.**"

The **anti-christian French government** sent its army to a rural, very religious Catholic area of western France called the **Vendée**.

Hundreds of thousands of religious citizens **who refused to embrace secularism** were **killed** in a what is considered **the first modern genocide**.

French General Francois Joseph Westermann wrote to the Committee of Public Safety stating:

"There is no more Vendée ...

... According to the orders that you gave me, I **crushed the children** under the feet of the horses, **massacred the women** who, at least for these, will not give birth to any more brigands.

I do not have a prisoner to reproach me. **I have exterminated all.**"

A young French officer, named **Napoleon**, pleaded poor health in order to avoid participating in the slaughter.

In 1798, John Robison documented the ambitious plans of **anarchist Jacobin organizers** in his book, ***Proofs of a Conspiracy Against all the Religions and Governments of Europe, Carried on in the Secret Meetings of Free Masons, Illuminati, and Reading Societies, Collected From Good Authorities*** (NY: George Forman, 1798).

George W. Snyder of Fredericktown, Maryland, wrote of this book to **President George Washington**, August 22, 1798:

"To His Excellency George Washington.

Sir,—You will, I hope, not think it a presumption in a stranger, whose name, perhaps never reached your ears, to address himself to you, the Commanding General of a great Nation ...

Our present time pregnant with **the most shocking events** and calamities, **threatens ruin to our liberty** and government.

**The most secret plans are in agitation;** plans calculated to ensnare the unwary, to attract the gay irreligious, and to entice even the well-disposed to combine in the general machine for **overturning all government and all religion.**

It was some time since that a book fell into my hands, entitled '***Proofs of a Conspiracy, &c. by John Robison,***' which gives a full account of a Society of Free Masons, that distinguishes itself by the name of 'Illuminati,'

whose plan is to **overthrow all government and all religion,** even natural; and who endeavor to **eradicate every idea of a Supreme Being,** and distinguish man from beast by his shape only.

A thought suggested itself to me, that some of the Lodges in the United States might have caught the infection, and might co-operate with the Illuminati or the **Jacobin Club in France ...**

I send you the '***Proof of a Conspiracy,***' &c. which I doubt not, will ... afford you matter for a train of ideas, that may operate to our national felicity."

**President George Washington** replied from Mount Vernon to George W. Snyder, September 25, 1798:

"Sir, Many apologies are due to you, for my not

acknowledging the receipt of your obliging favor of the 22d. Ulto, and for not thanking you, at an earlier period, for the book you had the goodness to send me. (*John Robinson's Proof of a Conspiracy against All the Religions and Governments of Europe.*)

I have heard much of the **nefarious, and dangerous plan**, and doctrines of the Illuminati, but never saw the book until you were please to send it to me.

The same causes which have prevented my acknowledging the receipt of you letter have prevented my reading the book, hitherto; namely, the multiplicity of matters which pressed upon me before, and the debilitated state in which I was left after, a severe fever had been removed.

And which allows me to add little more now, than thanks for your kind wishes and favorable sentiments, except to correct an error you have run into, of my presiding over the English Lodges in this country.

The fact is, **I preside over none**, nor have I been in one more than once or twice, within the last thirty years.

I believe notwithstanding, that none of the Lodges in this Country are contaminated with the principles ascribed to the Society of the Illuminati.

With respect, I am & c.”

(Washington, George, 1732-1799. *The Writings of George Washington from the original manuscript sources* Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library)

**Washington** wrote again to George W. Snyder, October 24, 1798:

“Revd Sir ... It was not my intention to doubt that, the

doctrines of the Illuminati, and principles of **Jacobinism** had not spread in the United States.

On the contrary, no one is more truly satisfied of this fact than I am.

The idea that I meant to convey, was, that I did not believe that the Lodges of Free Masons in this Country had, as Societies, endeavored to propagate the **diabolical tenets** of the first, or pernicious principles of the latter (if they are susceptible of separation.)

**That individual of them may have done it**, or that the founder, or instrument employed to found, the Democratic Societies in the United States, may have had these objects; and actually had a separation of the people from their government in view, **is too evident to be questioned ...**

With respect, etc.”

In 1799, **Alexander Hamilton** condemned the **French Revolution's** attempt to **overthrow Christianity**:

"... (depriving) mankind of its best consolations and most animating hopes, and to make a gloomy desert of the universe ...

The praise of a **civilized world** is justly due to **Christianity**; - war, by the influence of the humane principles of that religion, has been stripped of half its horrors.

**The French renounce Christianity, and they relapse into barbarism; - war resumes the same hideous and savage form which it wore in the ages of Gothic and Roman violence."**

**Hamilton** wrote further:

"Opinions ... have been gradually gaining ground, which **threaten the foundations of religion, morality, and society.**

**An attack was first made upon the Christian revelation,** for which natural religion was offered as the substitute.

The **Gospel was to be discarded** as a gross imposture, but the being and attributes of god, the obligations of piety, even the doctrine of a future state of rewards and punishments, were to be retained and cherished."

(Lodge, Henry Cabot, *The Works of Alexander Hamilton*, vol. 8, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1904, pg 425-426.)

During this time, **French privateers** ignored treaties and by 1798, had **seized nearly 300 American ships** bound for British ports.

**Talleyrand**, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, demanded **millions of dollars in bribes** to leave America's ships alone.

**Talleyrand** was a master of deceitful political speech called "**obfuscation**" -- **intentionally being obscure**, speaking out of both sides of his mouth to as convince both sides he supported them.

**Talleyrand** state:

"We were given speech to hide our thoughts."

Known as the **XYZ Affair**, the American commission of **Charles Pinckney, John Marshall** and **Elbridge Gerry** refused to pay bribes.

The cry went across America, "**Millions for defense, not a cent for tribute.**"



American college campuses were being infiltrated by "**decadent, ungodly and immoral Francophiles**" -- the term used to describe those fascinated with **culture, infidelity and irreligion** which was being **exported from France**.

As America and France came perilously close to war, second **President John Adams** asked **George Washington**, now retired at Mount Vernon, to again be **Commander-in-Chief of the Army**.

**Washington** agreed, writing the year before he died, July 13, 1798:

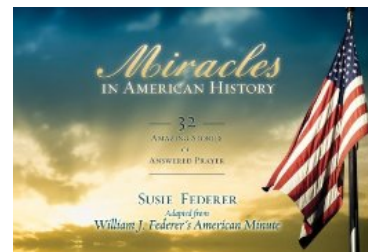
"Satisfied ... you have ... exhausted, to the last drop, the cup of reconciliation, we can, with pure hearts, **appeal to Heaven** for the **justice of our cause**;

and may confidently trust the final result to that kind **Providence** who has, heretofore, and so often, signally **favored the people of these United States** ...

Feeling how incumbent it is upon **every person ... to contribute** at all times to his **country's welfare**, and especially in a moment like the present, when **everything we hold dear and sacred is so seriously threatened**,

I have finally determined to accept the commission of **Commander-in-Chief**."

### [Miracles in American History](#)



**President Adams** declared a **Day of Fasting**, March 23, 1798, and again, March 6, 1799:

"The people of the United States are still held in jeopardy by ... **insidious acts of a foreign nation,**

as well as by the **dissemination** among them of those **principles subversive to the foundations of all religious, moral, and social obligations ...**

I hereby recommend ... a **Day of Solemn Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer;**

... That the citizens ... call to mind our numerous offenses against the **Most High God**, confess them before **Him** with the sincerest penitence, **implore His pardoning mercy**, through the **Great Mediator and Redeemer**, for our past transgressions,

and that through the grace of **His Holy Spirit**, we may be disposed and enabled to yield a more suitable obedience to **His righteous requisitions ...**

That **He** would interpose to arrest the progress of that impiety and licentiousness in principle and practice so offensive to **Himself** and so ruinous to mankind ...

**'Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.'**"

In retrospect, it was seen that **France's abandonment of sexual restraints** was followed by an **abandonment of societal and physical restraints**, leading to **open violence.**

**France's godless Revolution**, instigated by **Jacobin agitators**, became the blueprint for **subsequent socialist and communist revolutions;**

that a **bloody tearing down and killing off of the old order** was **justified** as a necessary **transition** to usher in **the promised utopian paradise**, which inevitably resulted in **totalitarian dictatorships.**

Best-selling author **Os Guinness** stated in an interview with Dr. Albert Mohler, (*Thinking in Public*, June 5, 2017):

**"The culture war** now at its deepest roots is actually a clash between 1776, what was the **American Revolution**, and 1789 and heirs of the **French Revolution.**"

British Statesman **Lord Acton** wrote:

"What the **French** took from the **Americans** was their theory of **revolution**, not their theory of **government** – **their cutting, not their sewing.**"

**Charles Dickens**, in the beginning of *The Tale of Two Cities*, 1859, contrasted London, England, with **Paris**, **during the French Revolution:**

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way."

**President John Adams'** leadership and **call to prayer** successfully led the young nation of the United States to **avert war with France.**

Where secular France pulled away from God, America experienced a religious revival called the **Second Great Awakening** which spread across country.

In contrast to the **irreligious French Revolution**, in America, religious enthusiasm spread from frontier camp meetings to college campuses.

**A foreign missions movement** began, impacting the world, reaching as far away as the Caribbean, Burma, China and Hawaii.

**The Second Great Awakening Revival** gave birth to **organizations** which promoted **Biblical values**, including:

- hospitals,
- prison reform,
- care for the handicapped and mentally ill,
- American Bible Society,
- Society for the Promotion of Temperance,
- Y.M.C.A. chapters,
- Salvation Army outreaches, and the
- **abolitionist movement to end slavery.**

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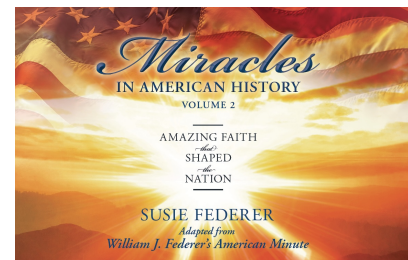
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