Sam Manocchio

Period 2, Unit 8

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**Notes Pgs. 573-577**

The Thermidorian Reaction

1. The Reign of Terror came to a close with the fall of Robespierre, which had claimed more the 25,000 people
2. **Thermidorian Reaction**: this tempering of the revolution because of its association with the events of t 9 Thermidor, consisted of the destruction of the machinery of terror and the establishment of a new constitutional regime.
3. In weeks and months after Robespierre’s execution, the Convention allowed the Girondists who has been in prion or hiding to return to their seats
   * The Paris Commune was outlawed, and its leaders and deputies on mission were executed
   * The Paris Jacobin Club was closed, and Jacobin clubs in the provinces were forbidden to correspond with each other
4. The executions of former terrorists marked the beginning of “the white terror.”
   * **White terror**: people who had been involved in the Reign of Terror were attacked and often murdered, the Convention itself approved of these trials
5. Although the Convention continued to favor the Cult of the Supreme Being, it allowed Catholic services to be held
   * One of the unanticipated results of the Thermidorian Reaction was a genuine revival of Catholic worship
6. Thermidorian Reactions also saw the repeal of legislation that had been passed in 1792 making divorce more equitable for women

Establishment of the Directory

1. The Thermidorian Reaction led to still another new constitution.

* The Convention issued the Constitution of the Year III, which reflected the Thermidorian determination to reject both constitutional monarchy and democracy
* New document provided for a legislature with only one chamber and unlimited authority
  + Members of the upper body, Council of Elders, were to be men over forty years of age who were either husbands or widowers
  + The lower Council of Five Hundred was to consist of men at least thirty who could be either married or single
  + The executive body was to be a five-person Directory whom the Elders would choose from a list the Council of Five Hundred submitted

1. What triumphed in the Constitution of the Year III was the revolution of the holders of property.

* For this reason, the French Revolution had often been considered a victory of the **bourgeoisie**, or middle class
* The largest new propertied class to emerge from the revolutionary turmoil was the peasantry, who, as a result of the destruction of aristocratic privileges, now owned their own land

Removal of the *Sans-culottes* form Political Life

1. The winter of 1794-1795 brought the worst food- shortages of the period

* October 5, 1795: 13 Vendémiarie – the sections of Paris led by royalists rose up against the Convention
* Napoleon Bonaparte: (1769-1821) a general, commanded the cannon, and with a “whiff of grapeshot,” he dispersed the crowd

1. Treaties of Basel: March and June 1795, the convention concluded peace with Prussia and Spain

* Two-Thirds Law: the Convention ruled that at least two-thirds of the new legislature must have served in the Convention itself, sought to foster continuity, quickly undermined public faith in the new constitutional order

1. Gracchus Babeuf: led the Conspiracy of Equals in the spring of 1796 in Paris, arrested, tried, and executed

* Directory: intended to resist any further social changes in France that might endanger property of political stability, came to depend on the power of the army to govern France