

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

To introduce myself, my name is Helen Cui, I am your chair and I am a sophomore at Noble and Greenough School. I started my involvement with MUN, and historical crisis specifically, last year. I know it is a very niche type of committee, but I absolutely fell in love with the format and intrigue that I feel is only possible here. In my mind you are changing history, even if it is just for a day. In addition, I am a proud member of JV Field Hockey, I run the Drawing Club, participate in the painting department of technical theatre, and I am honestly covered in paint for most of the year. If you are into any sort of art and want to show me you will likely receive brownie points. Of course, anybody who would like to perpetuate my weird interest in cute pictures of frogs or mushrooms are welcome as well.

The French Revolution is an incredibly influential event in history, your role on this committee is to sway its path into something you will gain favor from. Modern day ideas of freedom, resistance, and tyranny have all been in some way impacted by what happened in France. Our view of history here in America may be somewhat eurocentric, however it is unquestionable that the French Revolution created ripples globally. How would your figure handle it, what would you have done differently, consider these questions when planning your crisis arc. The real world revolution held bloody consequences, it is up to you to decide whether you would like to mitigate such outcomes.

I urge you to investigate this topic in depth, there is a reason it shows up in curriculums across the world. This background guide should establish your framework, but it is nowhere near comprehensive enough to capture the scope of the entirety of the French Revolution. I want to see the incorporation of institutions in crisis notes, cooperation to pass directives, and camaraderie during debate. I am hopeful that this committee will be able to achieve all of those goals. Despite less than ideal circumstances, I am sure we can have fun and achieve a truly entertaining, fulfilling, experience for everybody involved. On that note, decapitation is a trademark of this event, however I would encourage more creative approaches to your crisis arc and what motives are important to you and your character.

Sincerely,

Helen Cui  
Chair, The French Revolution

## **DEFINE IMPORTANT TERMS**

### **Committee Overview:**

This committee will represent an emergency meeting of the French National Constituent Assembly, its members and allies, on the day of June 22nd, 1971. Primarily for the purpose of addressing King Louis XVI's attempted escape from France the days before as well as drafting the first formal constitution for the government. Positions are based upon real people or at the very least people who could have existed during this specific event, nevertheless the ensuing actions do not need to follow actual historical content. Directives, crisis notes, and crisis updates during this committee will and should change the course of French and international history.

### **Procedure:**

This committee will follow the standard model of parliamentary procedure for MUN. The crisis committee will operate in a perpetual moderated caucus once debate is opened. This means that delegates must move for a moderated or unmoderated caucus, otherwise procedure will be reverted to a moderated caucus.

### **Legislation:**

#### *Directives:*

Directives are the most common piece of legislation and must be sponsored by one or more delegates. They are vested with the whole powers of the committee to solve existing issues within the crisis or to respond to crisis updates, or both. Thus they must be voted upon by the whole committee, a simple majority is necessary to pass. The exact number of signatories, sponsors, and what a simple majority would pertain will be decided by the dais at the beginning of each session.

In addition, a directive must contain a title, structurally they should also be written in clauses, but often exclude the operative clauses used in the General Assembly. By nature, they are likely to be shorter than resolutions.

Actions taken in a directive will appear in crisis updates.

#### *Communiqués:*

Communiqués are a way for delegates to address institutions or entities not present in the committee. They can request special information, individual meetings with bodies outside of the committee room, or certain resources. These must be within the realm of a delegate's portfolio powers and written as a formal letter. Write them with as much specificity as possible, otherwise the backroom will make up any detail that is not included.

#### *Press Releases:*

Press releases allow the committee to express sentiments or inform the public, they are similar in procedure to directives. Keep in mind that they are not very impactful in the flow of committee.

### **Crisis notes:**

Crisis notes are also commonly referred to as 'personal directives,' this is due to their effect on crisis updates and reliance upon the powers of the portfolio powers of the individual(s) submitting the crisis note. They should be written in the perspective of your character addressing an outside power in order to achieve some sort of action to benefit yourself by changing the flow of the committee. Crisis notes do not need to be written in clause form but should include the

‘how’ and ‘why’ in order to be deemed a good crisis note. Notably, crisis notes are the most personally powerful and dangerous pieces of legislation. Joint crisis notes are also possible through the collaboration of two or more delegates, this would allow the action to take advantage of the portfolio powers of all involved.

## **HISTORY OF TOPIC**

### **Existing Factors behind the French Revolution:**

In 1660 Prince Louis of the French Empire married Marie-Antoinette, daughter of King Philip IV in the Spanish Empire. Together they would inherit the throne and thus the entirety of the French Empire. This included the vast amounts of debts the empire owed due to their consistent conflict with England.

At his father's death, Prince Louis the XVI became King Louis the XVI in 1774. At his young age and perceived lack of incompetence to rule, King Louis the XVI sought to secure his reputation by getting revenge on the English. King Louis hoped to finance the American colonies' fight for independence and in turn weaken the English. Although this venture was successful in reducing the size of the British Empire, it was a double-edged sword; the French struggled to reclaim its investment into the colonies; forcing more debts onto the already fragile economy. Additionally, forcing the French government to levy more taxes onto the already impoverished citizens.

The solution of taxation brought upon the people helped divide the country between the nobility and the commoners. Members of the First Estate, Clergy, and the Second Estate, Nobility, were rarely taxed. Meanwhile, the commoners were receiving abusive taxation, their yearly harvest was also surrendered to the government; to make a plight out of the already precarious situation, mother nature impaired numerous crop yields via natural disasters. Additionally, they were also required to work, with our financial compensation, for their regional Lords: Labor Tax. The government was known to have used the people's tax-francs to not ensure a better livelihood for their citizens but to enrich their own pockets. As living conditions of the majority working class and peasantry amassed, they began to question the hierarchical ways of life. Sparking a revolutionary new way of thinking: The Age of Enlightenment.

### **Historical Events:**

#### ***The first meeting of the Three Estates (1789)***

##### *Economic Failure and the Estate General*

The ongoing fiscal crisis within the French Empire quickly grew to a head when the new financial minister, Charles-Alexandre de Calonne, uncovered the true severity of the situation. He projected that the interest on the debt itself in 1787 would absorb 50% of taxes collected and 50% of the anticipated tax revenue that had been spent already.<sup>1</sup> Yet, the proposals he sponsored included a far-reaching plan of reform that would go on to tax the privileged nobles and clerical orders, and were thus unlikely to be passed by the Parlements, or high courts of justice at the time. Recognizing this he would instead approach a special Assembly of Notables, composed of nobles, clergy, and magistrates, in order to pass his proposal. However, Calonne's revelation of the annual deficit of more than 100,000,000 livres and a failure to reform, due to opposition from

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<sup>1</sup> Paul R. Hanson, "Estates-General," Gale In Context: World History, accessed December 27, 2020, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3446900284/WHIC?u=mlyn\\_m\\_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=322f0cf8](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3446900284/WHIC?u=mlyn_m_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=322f0cf8).

higher clergy and magistrates, ensured the summons of the Estates General for the first time since 1614.<sup>2</sup>

The Estates General is made up of the First Estate, the clergy, the Second Estate, the aristocracy, and Third Estate, the commoners. This body serves only as an advisory to the King, the ultimate authority within France. Each would be granted one vote despite the Third Estate representing roughly 95% of the French population. Although Louis XVI did order the ‘doubling of the Third’ in the number of delegates they were allowed to send, their one vote would remain unchanged.<sup>3</sup>

### *The Tennis Court Oath*

In preparation for the meeting on May 5, 1789, the delegates from the Third Estate would compile ‘grievance lists’ or *cahiers de doléances* drawn from the concerns of voters across the country. As a result, the meeting became increasingly politicized since citizens all over the country watched expectantly for the response of the King and Estates General. While talks over procedure stalled, the Third Estate grew frustrated with the meeting and soon rallied for the other two Estates to join it in writing a constitution. A number of parish priests and liberal aristocrats would join the Third Estate, or the newly ‘National Assembly,’ in this cause.

On June 20, 1789, Louis XVI would lock the meeting hall for the Third Estate as a response, leading to outrage and what we know today as the Tennis Court Oath. In essence, the delegates vowed to work together until they could advance a new constitution for France. The name was given since they had taken the oath in a tennis court.<sup>4</sup>

### *Upheaval and Reform*

#### *Storming of the Bastille and the August Decrees*

While reform continued, riots erupted within Paris on July 14, 1789, Parisians were frustrated with what they felt was a resistance to the National Assembly by the King. They directed their ire towards the Bastille, a prison that had long symbolized royal tyranny.<sup>5</sup> In preparation, Bernard René Jordan de Launay, the military governor of the Bastille, transferred 250 barrels of gunpowder into the fortress. Despite these preemptive provisions, Launay was unable to hold the mob back and soon raised a white flag of surrender over the fort.<sup>6</sup> This fall to the rebels

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<sup>2</sup> "Charles-Alexandre de Calonne," Britannica, last modified October 25, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Alexandre-de-Calonne>.

<sup>3</sup> Alexander Mikaberidze, "Lead-Up to the French Revolution," In *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*, ABC-CLIO, 2020, accessed December 28, 2020, <https://worldatwar-abc-clio-com.ezproxy.nobles.edu/Search/Display/1569646>.

<sup>4</sup> "French Revolution," HISTORY, last modified November 26, 2020, <https://www.history.com/topics/france/french-revolution>.

<sup>5</sup> "French Revolution," Gale In Context: World History, accessed December 28, 2020, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/DXIAZB580099279/WHIC?u=mlln\\_m\\_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=5d77d167](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/DXIAZB580099279/WHIC?u=mlln_m_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=5d77d167).

<sup>6</sup> "French revolutionaries storm the Bastille," HISTORY, last modified November 24, 2009, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/french-revolutionaries-storm-bastille>.

represented the end of the *ancien regime*, also known as the French monarchy, and motivated the forthcoming changes.

In addition, the violent actions taken at the Bastille by the populace caused nobles to flee France en masse, inviting foreign powers to take interest in the uprisings in France.<sup>7</sup> Popular insurrection in the capitol also motivated ‘the Great Fear,’ wherein the rural peasantry raided manor houses to destroy documents that granted feudal privileges.<sup>8</sup> In an attempt to calm the unrest, the National Assembly released the ‘August Decrees’ pronouncing the formal abolishment of the ‘feudal regime,’ although this was more effective in agitating the remaining nobility.<sup>9</sup>

### *The Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen*

The landmark document, ‘the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen,’ was released on August 26, 1789, serving as a preamble to the Constitution of 1791. It reaffirmed much of the political ideology already echoed in the beginnings of the French Revolution, primarily the protection of the rights of men, declared the termination of feudal society, and that the government derived its authority from the citizens not God.<sup>10</sup> Notably, the declaration took influence from the French Enlightenment and foreign manifestos like that of the Dutch Patriot movement. Furthermore, the document’s explicit demand for equality before the law was a direct attack on many practices of the old regime.<sup>11</sup> Keep in mind that the king and queen were still technically the heads of the French government at this point, although more as figureheads.

### *The Women’s March on Versailles*

Anger grew at the seemingly obstructionist King Louis XVI who still maintained veto power over the assembly. He had already shown resistance to the passage of the Declaration of Rights of Man and had only approved a portion of the August decrees. His location in Versailles also meant that the Constituents Assembly had to be located nearby. Ongoing political change had never seemed so far removed from the people it promised to represent. Reformists felt uncomfortable by the quiet Versailles which stood stark against the lively Paris with its revolutionary fervor. Suspicions of the King’s anti-revolutionary sentiments were hardly hidden either as the presence of royal troops only seemed to grow.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> "Storming of the Bastille," Wikipedia, last modified December 18, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storming\\_of\\_the\\_Bastille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storming_of_the_Bastille).

<sup>8</sup> Georges Lefebvre and Joan White, *The Great Fear of 1789: Rural Panic in Revolutionary France*, (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1973) doi:10.2307/j.ctt7zvdbh.

<sup>9</sup> "Decrees of 4 August, 1789," In *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity: Exploring the French Revolution*, ed. Jack R. Censer and Lynn Hunt, (American Social History Productions, 2001) <http://www.columbia.edu/~iw6/docs/aout1789.html>.

<sup>10</sup> The National Assembly of France, "Declaration of the Rights of Man - 1789," The Avalon Project, last modified August 26, 1789, [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/rightsof.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp).

<sup>11</sup> "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen," Britannica, last modified May 8, 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Declaration-of-the-Rights-of-Man-and-of-the-Citizen>.

<sup>12</sup> Petr Alekseevich Kropotkin and N. F. Dryhurst. *The Great French Revolution, 1789-1793*. (New York: Vanguard Press, 1909), 146-150.

Yet, the prolonged wait for an actual Constitution by the assembly neglected economic difficulties felt by Parisians, specifically Parisian women. After all, revolutionary fervor did not feed hungry mouths and bread was scarce. But many revolutionaries saw this brewing displeasure as an opportunity, if they could point the finger at the King the position of the National Assembly would become more assured. So, some did just that, the Marquis of Saint Huruge, Georges Danton, Jean Paul Marat, and Elysee Loustalot, among many, were a few who did just that. On the morning of October 5, 1789, a crowd of women rallied at a market place in the eastern section of Paris, and marched to Versailles. Along the way more and more women, and even men, would join the crowds.

Shockingly, the crowd would enter the palace and threaten the lives of the royal couple. In fact, they even took the head of a guardsmen and raised it on a pike. Despite this expressed animosity, the Marquis de Lafayette ensured the safety of the royals in a public demonstration wherein Marie Antoinette, a hated figure, held her children standing above the crowd that called for her death. The public warmed to her courage and even raised the cheer 'Viva la Reine.' Most consequently, Maximilien Robespierre and Stanislas Marie Maillard returned to Paris as heroes.<sup>13</sup>

#### *The Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790)*

The intimate relationship between the state and church within France was touchy, on one hand it represented the *ancien regime* and the clergy voted with the nobility during the meeting with the Estate General. On the other hand, the Catholic Church held considerable influence and was a formidable opponent to the Constituent Assembly.

In consideration of the future backlash from the Pope, papal delegates tried in vain to convince their peers against the passage of such controversial legislation. They hoped the King would veto the law, but he was already in hot water and did not want to further endanger himself. The actual contents of the bill reorganized the Roman Catholic Church in France on a national basis, thus causing a schism within the French Catholic Church and earning the condemnation of the Pope. As a result, many devout Catholics are not pleased with the Revolution and in western France the clergy was supported over the assembly.<sup>14</sup>

## **PRESENT SITUATION**

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<sup>13</sup> "Women's March on Versailles," Wikipedia, last modified December 5, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s\\_March\\_on\\_Versailles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women%27s_March_on_Versailles).

<sup>14</sup> A. Latreille, "Civil Constitution of the Clergy," Gale In Context: World History, accessed December 28, 2020, [https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3407702463/WHIC?u=mlln\\_m\\_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=2563d379](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3407702463/WHIC?u=mlln_m_noble&sid=WHIC&xid=2563d379).

## ***Recent Issues***

### *Religious Turmoil*

The Civil Constitution of the Clergy was incredibly divisive. France had long been considered akin to the Church's eldest daughter with its deep ties to Catholicism as a state religion. While the Enlightenment preached ideas of secularism and the rights of man, these ideas were voiced chiefly by educated elites. Rural peasantry relied on the Church for community and were oftentimes incredibly close with their local parishes and clergy. The changes made by the Civil Constitution of the Clergy felt antithetical to Catholics as the new assembly stood for the freedom of worship yet seemed to oppress traditional Catholic practices.<sup>15</sup>

Unrest brewed within the rural cantons of France, in Sainte-Anne-d'Auray, Brittany, on February 5, 1791, the people from six of those rural cantons petitioned against the law. They were concerned in preserving the fiscal, social, and religious autonomy long observed in the countryside of France. While France had been previously united, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy emphasized the gap between urban and agrarian interests and how out of touch the assembly was. The move felt like a jab at the old monarchy rather than one that represented the people. It was also largely unsuccessful, the oath to the constitution from religious officials required by the assembly was confirmed by seven (out of 160) bishops and half of the priests. This was a turning point in the Revolution, never before had popular support for the movement turned against the assembly so drastically.<sup>16</sup>

### *Neighbouring Distrust*

The French nobles that had been fleeing France since the beginning of the Revolution, shortly after the Storming of the Bastille in fact, were dubbed emigrés. Royalists in general tended to leave France after the National Assembly started to assert power, as despite the body's pledge to the freedom of thought in practice this was not exactly accurate.<sup>17</sup> This fear culminated in the Day of the Daggers, on February 28, 1791, when hundreds of nobles, carrying weapons, arrived at the castle to protect the King from riots that were rather common at the time. The National Guard and the Marquis de Lafayette, charged with protecting the king, were putting down a mob elsewhere. Confusion struck as the guard was not aware of this plan and thought they were going to take the royal couple away.

Although the powers of the nobility were suppressed, foreign powers looking on became increasingly concerned at what they saw in France. Specifically, Holy Roman Emperor King

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<sup>15</sup> "Religion in France," Wikipedia, last modified December 24, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion\\_in\\_France#Post%E2%80%93Edict\\_of\\_Nantes\\_\(1598%E2%80%931789\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_France#Post%E2%80%93Edict_of_Nantes_(1598%E2%80%931789))

<sup>16</sup> Anthony James Joes, *Resisting Rebellion: The History and Politics of Counterinsurgency*, (United Kingdom: University Press of Kentucky, 2006).

<sup>17</sup> "French emigration (1789–1815)." Wikipedia, last modified November 22, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_emigration\\_\(1789%E2%80%931815\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_emigration_(1789%E2%80%931815)).



Leopold the II, brother to Marie Antoinette, was becoming increasingly concerned with the radicalization of the Revolution.<sup>18</sup> A successful overthrow of monarchy in France could spell doom to other royal families across Europe. Émigrés were starting to form armed groups across the northeastern frontier of France and reaching out to figures like Leopold for support. War seemed just above the horizon for the new government.<sup>19</sup>

### *Drafting the First Constitution*

With growing adversaries outside the assembly forming, conflicts within the assembly were detrimental. But the divisions within the National Assembly only seemed to grow, the radical Jacobins were often at odds with the Feuillants. Radical support gained momentum through the influence of people like Jean Paul Marat, writer of the newsletter *The Friends of the People*, yet some still wanted constitutional monarchy.<sup>20</sup> How was France to be governed at all?

The assembly had not yet answered these fundamental questions, passage of legislation such as the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen or the Civil Constitution of the Clergy were not actual constitutions. After almost two years, the National Assembly was still unsuccessful in the drafting of a formal constitution. Debate over the future of the political landscape was heated and the French population awaited for a conclusion.

### *The Royal Family*

The flight to Varennes marked the attempted escape of Louis XVI and his family. The plan plotted by Count Axel von Fersen and sponsored by Marie Antionette outlined for the royals to travel by coach to Montmedy. Royalists troops were gathered there to escort the couple to safety away from France. They were snuck out disguised as servants on June 20th and were discovered on the 21st. King Louis was overall discontent with the religious action taken by the assembly and felt as if his own position was endangered.

Fersen, the choreographer of the escape was a common visitor to France although he was a Swedish aristocrat. There are rumors around court that Fersen and the Queen were lovers, although this is yet to be proven. However, Fersen's operations were funded by Sweden's Gustav III, illustrating yet another European royal's hostility towards the Revolution.

Integrally, the plan was delayed for a total of four hours that allowed the National Guard to discover the King's disappearance and pursue the royal family. The King's coach would proceed

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<sup>18</sup> "French Revolutionary Wars," Wikipedia, last modified December 19, 2020, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_Revolutionary\\_Wars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolutionary_Wars).

<sup>19</sup> "French Revolution," Britannica, last modified September 10, 2020,. <https://www.britannica.com/event/French-Revolution>.

<sup>20</sup> Oversimplified, "The French Revolution - OverSimplified (Part 1)," video, 17:53, June 28, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qRZcXIODNU>.

to Sainte-Menehould 50 miles from their destination wherein they were identified by a local postmaster.<sup>21</sup>

### **Where to Start:**

When navigating this crisis, decide where the given character's priorities would be, decide what is most important. Consider the possible ramifications of King Louis' attempted escape and how that affects all the other factors present in this section. Delegates should acknowledge that some options or beliefs their characters hold, specifically those with conservative views, will be jeopardized. They should also consider what information is technically available to them at the time, after all this committee was set very recently after the discovery of the royal couple's betrayal. The intelligence around who is involved in this plot is not yet known, gathering of the particulars of this situation must be done as a precursor. In addition, while the assembly is meant to draft a formal constitution this will only be possible through the resolution of outside conflicts. History will not play out as it did if delegates choose to address the factors that cause the events in time. The committee also must decide whether it should double down on its past positions or start rolling back unpopular legislation. Regardless of what path is taken, all delegates should consider their popular support and who backs them, any action they take should also be representative of their constituents (if applicable), and what unique abilities or connections they have.

In researching for this committee, most if not all of the people represented are real. The advantage of setting a historical crisis in the French Revolution is that it is incredibly well documented and well researched. Starting anywhere from a history textbook or to videos on Youtube can help contextualize the series of events within this complex event. Furthermore, specific documents like the Declaration of the Right of Man and Citizen are available online and are translated. This background guide is a good starting point but is hardly comprehensive enough to grasp the entire scope of the French Revolution.

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<sup>21</sup>Jennifer Llewellyn and Steve Thompson, "The flight to Varennes," Alpha History, last modified September 30, 2019, <https://alphahistory.com/frenchrevolution/flight-to-varennes/>.

## **Delegate List:**

### **1. Jacques-Pierre Brissot**

Brissot was a member of the Legislative Assembly and the National Convention. Brissot believed in a Constitutional Monarchy, and opposed the overthrow of the Monarchy. He led a group of like-minded legislators called the Girondins, a group who opposed the radical Jacobins. They held more support in local governments and smaller cities, while the Jacobins had more support in Paris. He advocated for the resolution of the revolution and the reinstatement of the monarchy.

### **2. Lazare Carnot**

Carnot was highly educated, and was considered an important mathematician and physicist of the time. His foray into politics included him being elected into the Legislative Assembly, where he served as a very prominent member on the Committee of Public Instruction, which organized public education. He wrote a series of reforms while there. He aligned himself with the Jacobins.

### **3. Marquis de Lafayette**

Lafayette served a crucial role in securing a victory for the Americans in the Revolutionary War. After returning home, he continued to serve as a high-ranking member of the military. He was a lieutenant general in 1791. He drafted the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen with Thomas Jefferson. He was responsible for the safety of the Royal Family as the commander-in-chief of the National Guard of France.

### **4. Maximilien Robespierre**

Robespierre was a radical Jacobin, and was a leader in the revolution. He led the Jacobins and was a judge at the Versailles Tribunals. He was known to speak frequently at the National Assembly, making hundreds of speeches in favor of a constitutional assembly. He viewed anyone who was close to the monarchy as a traitor. After the flight of the monarchy, he called for a trial.

### **5. Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès**

Sieyès was a member of the clergy in France for most of his career. However, when his lack of noble birth limited him from climbing further in the church ranks, he became disillusioned with the aristocracy. In a scathing and radical pamphlet known as “Qu’est-ce que le tiers état?” Sieyès claimed that the Third Estate, or a group of poorer citizens, had the sole right to draft the constitution. The popularity that he gained from the pamphlet landed him a spot in the National

Assembly. He was a moderate compared to the Jacobins who were gaining power.

#### **6. Jean-Baptiste Annibal Aubert du Bayet**

At the time of this committee, Aubert du Bayet served as the president of the National Assembly. He served in the National Assembly starting in 1791. At the time of this committee, he was still a member of the Jacobins, but he was a part of the group that opposed the radicalism of Robespierre's branch. He was born in the Louisiana colony, and served as a member of the military for many years. He even became a general. Additionally, he held a strong relationship with the Ottoman Empire.

#### **7. William Short**

Short was the US Minister to France at the time. He was a native Virginian, and Thomas Jefferson considered him an "adoptive son." He was an important fiscal agent for the US in Europe. At the time of this committee, he was starting to become wary of the excessive violence of the revolution. In addition, after Jefferson's departure from France he would, in effect, replace Jefferson's place as US Minister as the highest ranking US diplomat in France.

#### **8. Georges Danton**

Danton was an important leader in the revolution. He founded a political club known as the Cordeliers Club, and was a prominent speaker at the Jacobin Club. He is, however, conflicted over the abdication of the monarchy. He was a part of the military, and had some sway in local Parisian politics.

#### **9. Jean-Paul Marat**

Marat was the leader of the radical Montagnards and was an influential journalist and physician of the time. After being rejected by the Academy of Sciences, Marat started to feel that he was being opposed by the people in power. This led him to advocate against the established order, both in the government and in the scientific community.

#### **10. Jeanne-Marie Roland**

Roland was an important figure in the Girondin faction. Her salon was a place for people of all kinds to discuss politics. She was fiercely democratic, but was known to be soft-spoken. She was extremely close with Brissot and Robespierre, but her relationship with the latter was rapidly deteriorating at the time of this committee.

### **11. Johann Mattias Simolin**

Simolin was the Russian ambassador to France starting in 1784. Little is known about his personal politics, so the delegate should assume he shared the views of the Russian Federation at the time.

### **12. Antoine Barnave**

At the time of this committee, Barnave was a member of the Jacobins, and was an important orator of the time. However, he was part of a more moderate group within the Jacobins known as the 'triumvirate,' who advocated for a constitutional monarchy. He was known for corresponding with the monarchy, particularly Marie Antoinette.

### **13. George Leveson-Gower**

Leveson-Gower was the English ambassador to France starting in 1790. He was one of the wealthiest people in England, and held a lot of political sway there. For the purposes of this committee, Leveson-Gower shares the political views of Britain.

### **14. Adrien Duport**

A member of the more moderate 'triumvirate' of the Jacobins. He advocated for a constitutional monarchy. Elected by the nobility for his eloquence, he had been a staunch supporter of trial by jury and helped organize the judiciary of France.

### **15. Alexandre Lameth**

Known for his eloquence and anti-corruption stances, Lameth was the third member in the moderate 'triumvirate' of the Jacobins. He and his colleagues controlled a bloc of about 40 deputies in the Constituent Assembly who believed that the escape of the royal family was the result of a faulty revolution.

### **16. Jean Sylvain Bailly**

Bailly was the mayor of Paris starting in 1789. He was a scientist, even receiving Benjamin Franklin into his home years prior, and was the first president of the Constituent Assembly, leading the Tennis Court Oath. He was called out by figures like Marat for his conservative, authoritarian role as mayor. He was a member of the Jacobin club, but was considered to be a more moderate member.

## **17. Joseph-Ignace Guillotin**

During his time in the Constituent Assembly, Guillotin focused on medical reform. He served on the Poverty Committee and was the chair of the Health Committee. He greatly opposed capital punishment, and proposed a more humane way to go about it: his own invention, the guillotine. He was very compassionate toward the poor, and worked to protect them.

## SOURCES

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