**Maximilien Robespierre**



Born 6 May 1758

Died 28 July 1794

Robespierre was a French lawyer and politician, and one of the best-known and most influential figures of the French Revolution.

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Robespierre was a political leader of the radical **Jacobins** in the National Assembly. As chairman of the **Committee of Public Safety**, Robespierre pursued a planned economy and vigorous mobilization for war. He grew increasingly paranoid about counterrevolutionary opposition, however, and during the **Reign of Terror** of 1793–1794 attempted to silence all enemies of the Revolution in an effort to save France from invasion. After the moderates regained power and the **Thermidorian Reaction** was under way, they had Robespierre executed on July 28, 1794.

Robespierre was a member of the Estates General, the Constituent Assembly and the Jacobin Club, he opposed the death penalty and advocated the abolition of slavery, while supporting equality of rights, universal male suffrage and the establishment of a republic.

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### On the 5th of September 1793, The Reign of Terror begins when Robespierre declares Terror "the order of the day." This marks the beginning of almost two years of repressing perceived enemies of the Revolution. It will claim an estimated 18,500-40,000 lives before its end in July 1794.