The description of anarchy and chaos | The execution of Louis XVI and the queen | the threat for Europe

The French revolution: a view from England

❶ [The former institutions of France have been entirely destroyed]. In their place has succeeded a system destructive of all publick order, maintained by proscriptions, exiles, and confiscations, without number: by arbitrary imprisonment; by massacres which cannot be remembered without horror; and at length by the execrable murder of a just and beneficent Sovereign, and of the illustrious Princess, who, with an unshaken firmness, has shared all the misfortunes of her Royal Consort, his protracted sufferings, his cruel captivity and his ignominious death."— "They (the allies) have had to encounter acts of aggression without pretext, open violations of all treaties, unprovoked declarations of war; in a word, whatever corruption, intrigue or violence could effect for the purpose so openly avowed, of subverting all the institutions of society, and of extending over all the nations of Europe that confusion, which has produced the misery of France.

There is an escalation in the statement. It compares the FR with an infectious disease. It is a justification of the war started in February 1793, just after the execution of the king.

"Declaration sent by his Majesty's command to the Commanders of his Majesty's fleets and armies employed against France, and to his Majesty's Ministers employed at foreign Courts."— Whitehall, Oct. 29, 1793. In Edmund BURKE, *Two Letters Addressed to A Member of the Present Parliament, on the Proposals for Peace with the Regicide Directory of France*, London, Rivington, 1796.]

❷ "Petit souper à la Parisienne" or A family of sans-culottes refreshing, after the fatigues of the day (20 September 1792).



Those Sans Culottes are man-eaters. We see here a scene of cannibalism. They 're barbarians.It alludes to the September massacres.

We can see the buttocks of the Sans Culottes. They are half-naked. The expression is taken at face value.

Cartoon by GILLRAY, The British Museum. In September 1792, in the weeks following the fall of the monarchy, the French revolutionaries slaughtered aristocrats and members of the clergy, men and women, in the prisons of Paris. The new government did nothing to stop them.

➢ **Using the documents and your knowledge, describe the English standpoint on the French revolution and explain it.**