

## Contributions to AHBL / Radicalization of the French Revolution

1. General nature of all revolutions (Brinton) “when the going gets crazy, the crazies rise to the top”
2. Unleashed passions / demands that were kept under wraps for a long time
3. The continuing demands of the people- this puts pressure on the revolutionary leaders to out-pace the people who are going crazy
4. Foreign countries (Austria, Prussia) who fear that the revolutionary forces in France will spread to their countries
5. Fear of counter-revolution / enemies of the revolution who would try to destroy the revolution. Each increasingly revolutionary step seems to generate some level of opposition (well, yeah!) which leads to those opponents being labeled as “enemies of the revolution and enemies of the people.” This pushes the revolutionary leaders to move in an even more radical direction. This seems to create an “all or nothing” character to what is unfolding, especially after the execution of the King in January, 1793 and the execution of Danton and other Jacobins in April, 1794.
6. The isolation of the leading revolutionary group and the leaders of that group, because of #5. Think about the dynamics of Robespierre and the Jacobins, who eventually come to dominate the Revolutionary Committees. They develop an increasingly broader and “inclusive” definition of “counter-revolutionaries” and “enemies of the people” by an increasingly narrower and exclusive group of revolutionary leaders. Thus, the “crazies” appear to be the only viable alternative in this increasingly radical context.
7. The desire of the revolutionary leaders to continue “leading” the revolution: the belief that only the most revolutionary / radical group can lead the revolution. It thus appears that an increasingly isolated, small, extremely radical group will begin to dominate the overall revolution in the “name of the people” (ironic)
8. The increasing belief that “the ends justify the means.” In other words, the revolutionary leaders increasingly believe that any methods to push France in a more revolutionary direction are acceptable
9. Consider the phrase “*revolutions devour their own*”