**Time Line**

**1774**

* [Coronation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coronation) of [Louis XVI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XVI) at [Reims](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reims).

**1775**

* Start of the [American War of Independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_War_of_Independence) (1775–1783)

**1778**

* France declares war against Great Britain in support of the American colonies.

**1785**

* The [Diamond Necklace Affair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_Necklace_Affair) results in the discrediting of [Marie Antoinette](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Antoinette).

**1787**

* August 19: Louis orders the closure of all political clubs in Paris

**1788**

* August 16: Repayments on government loans stop, and the French government effectively declares bankruptcy

**1789**

* July 12: [Camille Desmoulins](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camille_Desmoulins) gives a speech in the gardens of the Palais Royale, urging the citizens of Paris to take up arms.
* July 14: [Storming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storming_of_the_Bastille) of the [Bastille](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bastille)