

The **French Republican Calendar** (French: *calendrier républicain français*), also commonly called the **French Revolutionary Calendar** (*calendrier révolutionnaire français*), was a calendar created and implemented during the French Revolution, and used by the French government for about 12 years from late 1793 to 1805, and for 18 days by the Paris Commune in 1871. The revolutionary system was designed in part to remove all **religious** and **royalist** influences from the calendar, and was part of a larger attempt at **decimalisation in France (which also included decimal time of day, decimalisation of currency, and metrication)**.

The days of the French Revolution and Republic saw many efforts to sweep away various trappings of the *ancien régime* (the old feudal monarchy); some of these were more successful than others. The new Republican government sought to institute, among other reforms, a new social and legal system, a new system of weights and measures (which became the metric system), and a new calendar. Amid nostalgia for the ancient Roman Republic, the theories of the Enlightenment were at their peak, and the devisers of the new systems looked to nature for their inspiration. Natural constants, **multiples of ten**, and *Latin* as well as *Old Greek* derivations formed the fundamental blocks from which the new systems were built.

The new calendar was created by a commission under the direction of the **politician** Charles-Gilbert Romme seconded by Claude Joseph Ferry and Charles-François Dupuis. They associated with their work the **chemist** Louis-Bernard Guyton de Morveau, the **mathematician** and **astronomer** Joseph-Louis Lagrange, the **astronomer** Joseph Jérôme Lefrançois de Lalande, the **mathematician** Gaspard Monge, the **astronomer** and **naval geographer** Alexandre Guy Pingré, and the **poet, actor** and **playwright** Fabre d'Églantine, who invented the names of the months, with the help of André Thouin, **gardener** at the Jardin des Plantes of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. As the rapporteur of the commission, Charles-Gilbert Romme presented the new calendar to the Jacobin-controlled National Convention on 23 September 1793, which adopted it on 24 October 1793 and also extended it proleptically to its epoch of 22 September 1792. It is because of his position as rapporteur of the commission that the creation of the republican calendar is attributed to Romme.^[2]

The calendar is often called the '**French Revolutionary Calendar**' because it was created during the Revolution, but this is somewhat of a misnomer. Indeed, there was initially a debate as to whether the calendar should celebrate the Great Revolution, which began in July **1789**, or the **Republic**, which was established in **1792**.^[3] Immediately following 14 July 1789, papers and pamphlets started calling **1789 year I** of Liberty and the following years II and III. It was in 1792, with the practical problem of dating financial transactions, that the legislative assembly was confronted with the problem of the calendar. Originally, the choice of epoch was either 1 January 1789 **or** 14 July 1789. After some hesitation the assembly decided on 2 January 1792 that all official documents would use the 'era of Liberty' and that **the year IV of Liberty started on 1 January 1792**. This usage was modified on 22 September 1792 when the Republic was proclaimed and the Convention decided that all public documents would be dated **Year I of the French Republic. The decree of 2 January 1793 stipulated that the year II of the Republic began on 1 January 1793; this was revoked with the introduction of the new calendar, which set 22 September 1793 as the beginning of year II. The establishment of the Republic was used as the epochal date for the calendar; therefore, the calendar commemorates the Republic, not the Revolution.** In France, it is known as the *calendrier républicain* as well as the *calendrier révolutionnaire*.

The Revolution is usually considered to have ended with the coup of 18 Brumaire (the push of Napoléon Bonaparte against the established constitutional regime of the *Directoire*) in Year VIII (**9 November 1799**). The French Republic ended with the coronation of Napoleon I as *Empereur des Français* (Emperor of the French) on 11 Frimaire, Year XIII (2 December 1804), a little more than a year before the calendar did.

The Concordat of 1801 re-established the Roman Catholic Church as an official institution in France (though not as a state religion) with effect from Easter Sunday, 18 April 1802, restoring the names of the days of the week to the ones they had in the Gregorian Calendar, while keeping the rest of the Republican Calendar, and fixing Sunday as the official day of rest and religious celebration. . . .

Napoléon finally abolished the calendar with effect from 1 January 1806 (the day after 10 Nivôse an XIV), a little over twelve years after its introduction.

Republican year	Started on	Republican year	Started on
I	22 Sep 1792	VIII	23 Sep 1799
II	22 Sep 1793	IX	23 Sep 1800
III	22 Sep 1794	X	23 Sep 1801
IV	23 Sep 1795	XI	23 Sep 1802
V	22 Sep 1796	XII	24 Sep 1803
VI	22 Sep 1797	XIII	23 Sep 1804
VII	22 Sep 1798	XIV	23 Sep 1805