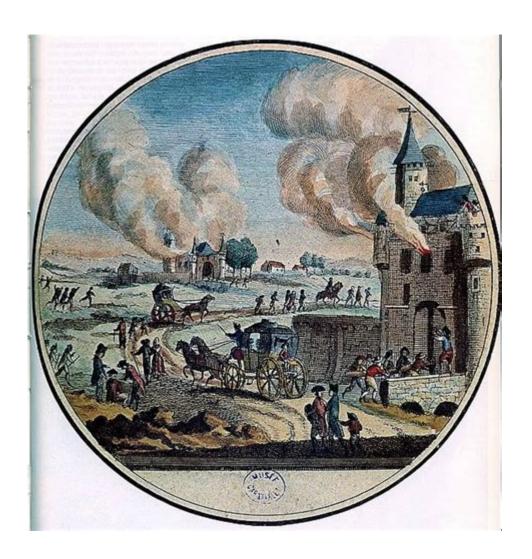
Great Fear Definition World History



The Great Fear: A Definition and its Impact on World History

The French Revolution, a period of radical social and political upheaval, wasn't a sudden eruption. It was preceded by a simmering discontent, a palpable sense of unease that historians call "The Great Fear." But what exactly was the Great Fear? This blog post will delve into a precise definition of this critical historical event, exploring its causes, consequences, and lasting impact on the course of world history. We'll dissect the social anxieties that fueled it and analyze its role in shaping the revolutionary landscape of late 18th-century France. Prepare to uncover a crucial, often misunderstood, chapter in the annals of world history.

What is the Great Fear? A Precise Definition

The Great Fear, which occurred in the summer of 1789, wasn't a single, organized event but rather a widespread wave of panic and violence that swept across rural France. It's defined as a period of intense peasant unrest fueled by rumors, fear of aristocratic counter-revolution, and widespread social inequality. This fear wasn't unfounded; it stemmed from legitimate grievances, including heavy taxation, food shortages, and the perceived threat of aristocratic reprisals against revolutionary movements. The "Great Fear" wasn't simply fear; it was a catalyst, igniting a conflagration that fundamentally altered the social and political fabric of France.

The Seeds of Fear: Underlying Causes of the Great Fear

Several factors contributed to the fertile ground upon which the Great Fear took root.

1. Socio-Economic Inequality: The rigid feudal system of France placed an immense burden on the peasantry. They bore the brunt of taxation while enjoying minimal political representation or social mobility. This systemic inequality bred resentment and a simmering desire for change.

2. Food Shortages and Economic Hardship: Poor harvests and soaring bread prices exacerbated the already dire economic situation. Hunger and desperation fuelled social unrest, making the peasantry vulnerable to rumors and incitements to violence.

3. Rumors and Propaganda: The rapid spread of often exaggerated and fabricated rumors played a pivotal role in escalating the panic. Stories of aristocratic plots to attack peasants, destroy crops, and unleash violence fueled collective hysteria. This information, spread through word-of-mouth, created a climate of fear and mistrust.

4. The National Assembly and the Fall of the Bastille: The storming of the Bastille on July 14, 1789, while a powerful symbol of revolutionary defiance, also contributed indirectly to the Great Fear. News of this event, coupled with the ongoing political instability, amplified existing anxieties in the countryside. The perceived threat of royalist counter-revolution further fueled the flames of panic.

The Manifestation of Fear: Violence and its Impact

The Great Fear manifested itself in widespread peasant uprisings, attacks on aristocratic chateaux, and the destruction of feudal documents (such as manorial records detailing feudal dues). Peasants, armed with pitchforks and other rudimentary weapons, targeted symbols of aristocratic authority. While some acts were undoubtedly driven by genuine grievances, others were fueled by the chaotic atmosphere and the spread of misinformation. This period saw widespread violence, property destruction, and even instances of summary justice.

The Great Fear's Legacy: Shaping the Revolution and Beyond

The Great Fear, though a chaotic and violent period, played a crucial role in shaping the course of the French Revolution. It forced the National Assembly to take decisive action, leading to the abolition of feudalism and the implementation of significant social and political reforms. The peasantry, emboldened by their actions during the Great Fear, became a significant force in the revolutionary process. The events of this period fundamentally altered the power dynamics in French society, paving the way for a more egalitarian (though still far from perfect) social order. The impact resonates even today, highlighting the importance of addressing socio-economic inequalities and preventing the spread of misinformation to avoid similar outbreaks of collective fear and violence. The lessons learned from the Great Fear continue to be relevant in understanding social unrest and the importance of effective governance and social justice.

Conclusion

The Great Fear, far from being a mere footnote in the French Revolution, stands as a powerful testament to the destructive potential of unchecked fear, social inequality, and the spread of misinformation. It was a pivotal moment that significantly shaped the revolution's trajectory and left an enduring legacy on the development of modern societies. Understanding its causes, manifestations, and consequences offers valuable insights into the dynamics of social change, the importance of addressing social grievances, and the dangers of unchecked panic.

FAQs

- 1. Was the Great Fear a planned event? No, the Great Fear wasn't a coordinated uprising. It was a spontaneous eruption of widespread panic and unrest fueled by rumors and existing social tensions.
- 2. How long did the Great Fear last? The Great Fear lasted approximately from mid-July to late August 1789.
- 3. What were the main targets of peasant violence during the Great Fear? Aristocratic chateaux, symbols of feudal authority, and manorial records detailing feudal dues were primary targets.
- 4. Did the Great Fear contribute to the abolition of feudalism? Yes, the widespread peasant uprisings during the Great Fear significantly pressured the National Assembly to abolish feudalism.
- 5. How does the Great Fear relate to modern concerns? The Great Fear serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of social inequality, misinformation, and the importance of addressing underlying social grievances to prevent similar outbreaks of collective fear and violence.

great fear definition world history: Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction Charles Townshend, 2018-05-17 Is one person's terrorist another's freedom fighter? Is terrorism crime or war? Can there be a 'War on Terror'? For many, the terrorist attacks of September 2001 changed the face of the world, pushing terrorism to the top of political agendas, and leading to a series of world events including the war in Iraq and the invasion of Afghanistan. The recent terror attacks in various European cities have shown that terrorism remains a crucial issue today. Charting a clear path through the efforts to understand and explain modern terrorism. Charles Townshend examines the historical, ideological, and local roots of terrorist violence. Starting from the question of why terrorists find it so easy to seize public attention, this new edition analyses the emergence of terrorism as a political strategy, and discusses the objectives which have been pursued by users of this strategy from French revolutionaries to Islamic jihadists. Considering the kinds of groups and individuals who adopt terrorism, Townshend discusses the emergence of ISIS and the upsurge in individual suicide action, and explores the issues involved in finding a proportionate response to the threat they present, particularly by liberal democratic societies. Analysing the growing use of knives and other edged weapons in attacks, and the issue of 'cyberterror', Townshend details the use of counterterrorist measures, from control orders to drone strikes, including the Belgian and French responses to the Brussels, Paris, Nice, and Rouen attacks. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject guickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

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great fear definition world history: Encyclopaedia Britannica Hugh Chisholm, 1910 This eleventh edition was developed during the encyclopaedia's transition from a British to an American publication. Some of its articles were written by the best-known scholars of the time and it is considered to be a landmark encyclopaedia for scholarship and literary style.

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great fear definition world history: *The Haitian Revolution* Toussaint L'Ouverture, 2019-11-12 Toussaint L'Ouverture was the leader of the Haitian Revolution in the late eighteenth century, in which slaves rebelled against their masters and established the first black republic. In this collection of his writings and speeches, former Haitian politician Jean-Bertrand Aristide demonstrates L'Ouverture's profound contribution to the struggle for equality.

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great fear definition world history: Revolutions: a Very Short Introduction Jack A. Goldstone,

2023 In the 20th and 21st century revolutions have become more urban, often less violent, but also more frequent and more transformative of the international order. Whether it is the revolutions against Communism in Eastern Europe and the USSR; the color revolutions across Asia, Europe and North Africa; or the religious revolutions in Iran, Afghanistan, and Syria; today's revolutions are quite different from those of the past. Modern theories of revolution have therefore replaced the older class-based theories with more varied, dynamic, and contingent models of social and political change. This new edition updates the history of revolutions, from Classical Greece and Rome to the Revolution of Dignity in the Ukraine, with attention to the changing types and outcomes of revolutionary struggles. It also presents the latest advances in the theory of revolutions, including the issues of revolutionary waves, revolutionary leadership, international influences, and the likelihood of revolutions to come. This volume provides a brief but comprehensive introduction to the nature of revolutions and their role in global history--

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great fear definition world history: The Prince Niccolo Machiavelli, 2024-10-14 It is better to be feared than loved, if you cannot be both. The Prince, written by Niccolò Machiavelli, is a groundbreaking work in the genre of political philosophy, first published in 1532. It offers a direct and unflinching examination of power and leadership, challenging conventional notions of morality and ethics in governance. This work will leave you questioning the true nature of authority and

political strategy. Machiavelli's prose captures the very essence of human ambition, forcing readers to grapple with the harsh realities of leadership. This is not just a historical treatise, but a blueprint for navigating the political power structures of any era. If you're seeking a deeper understanding of political leadership and the dynamics of influence, this book is for you. Sneak Peek Since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved. In The Prince, Machiavelli draws on historical examples and his own diplomatic experience to lay out a stark vision of what it takes to seize and maintain power. From the ruthlessness of Cesare Borgia to the political maneuvering of Italian city-states, Machiavelli outlines how a leader must be prepared to act against virtue when necessary. Every decision is a gamble, and success depends on mastering the balance between cunning and force. Synopsis The story of The Prince delves into the often brutal realities of ruling. Machiavelli provides rulers with a pragmatic guide for gaining and sustaining power, asserting that the ends justify the means. The book is not just a reflection on how power was wielded in Renaissance Italy but a timeless manual that offers insight into political consulting, political history, and current political issues. Its relevance has endured for centuries, influencing leaders and thinkers alike. Machiavelli emphasizes that effective rulers must learn how to adapt, deceive, and act decisively in pursuit of their goals. This stunning, classic literature reprint of The Prince offers unaltered preservation of the original text, providing you with an authentic experience as Machiavelli intended. It's an ideal gift for anyone passionate about political science books or those eager to dive into the intricacies of power and leadership. Add this thought-provoking masterpiece to your collection, or give it to a loved one who enjoys the best political books. The Prince is more than just a book - it's a legacy. Grab Your Copy Now and get ready to command power like a true Prince. Title Details Original 1532 text Political Philosophy Historical Context

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great fear definition world history: The Flour War Cynthia Bouton, 2010-11 In the spring of 1775, a series of food riots shook the villages and countryside around Paris. For decades France had been free of famine, but the fall grain harvest had been meager, and the government of the newly crowned King Louis XVI had issued an untimely edict allowing the free commerce of grain within the kingdom. Prices skyrocketed, causing riots to break out in April, first in the market town of Beaumont-sur-Oise, then sweeping through the Paris Basin for the next three weeks. Known as the Flour War, or the guerre des farines, these riots are the subject of Cynthia Bouton's fascinating study. Building upon French historian George Rud&é's pioneering work, Bouton identifies communities of participants and victims in the Flour War, analyzing them according to class, occupation, gender, and location. As typically happened, crowds of common people (menu peuple) confronted those who controlled the grain-bakers, merchants, millers, cultivators, and local authorities. Bouton asks why women of the menu peuple were heavily represented in the riots, often assuming crucial roles as instigators and leaders. In most instances, the people did not steal the provisions but forced those they cornered to sell at a price the rioters deemed &just.& Bouton examines this phenomenon, known as taxation populaire, and considers the growing &sophistication of purpose& of rioters by placing the Flour War within the larger context of food riots in early modern Europe.

great fear definition world history: The Crowd Gustave Le Bon, 1897

great fear definition world history: Letters on England Voltaire, 1894 great fear definition world history: <u>Between Fear and Hope</u> Andrew L. Barlow, 2003 This book provides a structural analysis of race, and a methodology for connecting global to national and

local racial processes. Visit our website for sample chapters!

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great fear definition world history: The Art of War in World History Gérard Chaliand, 1994-10-07 This engrossing anthology gathers together a remarkable collection of writings on the use of strategy in war. Gérard Chaliand has ranged over the whole of human history in assembling this collection—the result is an integration of the annals of military thought that provides a learned framework for understanding global political history. Included are writings from ancient and modern Europe, China, Byzantium, the Arab world, Persia, and the Ottoman Empire. Alongside well-known militarists such as Julius Caesar, Napoleon, Walter Raleigh, Rommel, and many others are irregulars such as Cortés, Lawrence of Arabia, and even Gandhi. Contrary to standard interpretations stressing competition between land and sea powers, or among rival Christian societies, Chaliand shows the great importance of the struggles between nomadic and sedentary peoples, and of the conflicts between Christianity and Islam. With the invention of firepower, a relatively recent occurrence in the history of warfare, modes of organization and strategic concepts—elements reflecting the nature of a society—have been key to how war is waged. Unparalleled in its breadth, this anthology will become the standard work for understanding a fundamental part of human history—the conduct of war. This anthology is not only an unparalleled corpus of information and an aid to failing memory; it is also and above all a reliable and liberating guide for research. . . . Ranging from the origins to the nuclear age, it compels us to widen our narrow perspectives on conflicts and strategic action and open ourselves up to the universal.—from the Foreword

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great fear definition world history: <u>Social Anxiety Disorder</u> National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health (Great Britain), 2013-08-01 Social anxiety disorder is persistent fear of (or anxiety

about) one or more social situations that is out of proportion to the actual threat posed by the situation and can be severely detrimental to quality of life. Only a minority of people with social anxiety disorder receive help. Effective treatments do exist and this book aims to increase identification and assessment to encourage more people to access interventions. Covers adults, children and young people and compares the effects of pharmacological and psychological interventions. Commissioned by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The CD-ROM contains all of the evidence on which the recommendations are based, presented as profile tables (that analyse quality of data) and forest plots (plus, info on using/interpreting forest plots). This material is not available in print anywhere else.

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great fear definition world history: The Age of Eisenhower William I Hitchcock, 2018-03-20 A New York Times bestseller, this is the "outstanding" (The Atlantic), insightful, and authoritative account of Dwight Eisenhower's presidency. Drawing on newly declassified documents and thousands of pages of unpublished material, The Age of Eisenhower tells the story of a masterful president guiding the nation through the great crises of the 1950s, from McCarthyism and the Korean War through civil rights turmoil and Cold War conflicts. This is a portrait of a skilled leader who, despite his conservative inclinations, found a middle path through the bitter partisanship of his era. At home, Eisenhower affirmed the central elements of the New Deal, such as Social Security; fought the demagoguery of Senator Joseph McCarthy; and advanced the agenda of civil rights for African-Americans. Abroad, he ended the Korean War and avoided a new guagmire in Vietnam. Yet he also charted a significant expansion of America's missile technology and deployed a vast array of covert operations around the world to confront the challenge of communism. As he left office, he cautioned Americans to remain alert to the dangers of a powerful military-industrial complex that could threaten their liberties. Today, presidential historians rank Eisenhower fifth on the list of great presidents, and William Hitchcock's "rich narrative" (The Wall Street Journal) shows us why Ike's stock has risen so high. He was a gifted leader, a decent man of humble origins who used his powers to advance the welfare of all Americans. Now more than ever, with this "complete and persuasive assessment" (Booklist, starred review), Americans have much to learn from Dwight Eisenhower.

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each era, including anti-slavery and pro-civil rights advocates, who used their gifts and intelligence wittingly or otherwise to rationalize and justify existing racial disparities in everything from wealth to health. Seen in this piercing new light, racist ideas are shown to be the result, not the cause, of inequalities that stretch back over centuries, brought about ultimately through economic, political and cultural self-interest. Stamped from the Beginning offers compelling new answers to some of the most troubling questions of our time. In forcing us to reconsider our most basic assumptions about racism and also about ourselves, it leads us to a true understanding on which to build a real foundation for change. **INCLUDED IN BARACK OBAMA'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH READING LIST**

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great fear definition world history: The French Revolution Albert Mathiez, 1928 great fear definition world history: The Threat of Pandemic Influenza Institute of Medicine, Board on Global Health, Forum on Microbial Threats, 2005-04-09 Public health officials and organizations around the world remain on high alert because of increasing concerns about the prospect of an influenza pandemic, which many experts believe to be inevitable. Moreover, recent problems with the availability and strain-specificity of vaccine for annual flu epidemics in some countries and the rise of pandemic strains of avian flu in disparate geographic regions have alarmed experts about the world's ability to prevent or contain a human pandemic. The workshop summary, The Threat of Pandemic Influenza: Are We Ready? addresses these urgent concerns. The report describes what steps the United States and other countries have taken thus far to prepare for the next outbreak of killer flu. It also looks at gaps in readiness, including hospitals' inability to absorb a surge of patients and many nations' incapacity to monitor and detect flu outbreaks. The report points to the need for international agreements to share flu vaccine and antiviral stockpiles to ensure that the 88 percent of nations that cannot manufacture or stockpile these products have access to them. It chronicles the toll of the H5N1 strain of avian flu currently circulating among poultry in many parts of Asia, which now accounts for the culling of millions of birds and the death of at least 50 persons. And it compares the costs of preparations with the costs of illness and death that could arise during an outbreak.

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great fear definition world history: Origins of the French Revolution William Doyle, 1999 The revised and updated 3rd edition of the Origins of the French Revolution emphasises the Revolution's social & economic origins & critically appraises the results of a new generation of research findings and interpretation.

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great fear definition world history: The Heritage Industry Robert Hewison, 2023-02-03 First published in 1987, The Heritage Industry sets out to protect the present and the future of life in Britain from their most dangerous enemy: a creeping takeover by the past. The author sets today's obsession with yesterday in the context of a climate of social and political decline. The economic uncertainties and cultural convulsions of post-war life have made the past seem a pleasanter and safer place. But how true is that image of the past, and whose past is it, anyway? Hewison questions the way institutions like the National Trust are helping to create a past that

never was. While the real economy crumbles, a new force is taking over: the Heritage Industry, a movement dedicated to turning the British Isles into one vast open-air museum. This book will be of interest to students of history, art and cultural studies.

great fear definition world history: Discovering the Brain National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, Sandra Ackerman, 1992-01-01 The brain ... There is no other part of the human anatomy that is so intriguing. How does it develop and function and why does it sometimes, tragically, degenerate? The answers are complex. In Discovering the Brain, science writer Sandra Ackerman cuts through the complexity to bring this vital topic to the public. The 1990s were declared the Decade of the Brain by former President Bush, and the neuroscience community responded with a host of new investigations and conferences. Discovering the Brain is based on the Institute of Medicine conference, Decade of the Brain: Frontiers in Neuroscience and Brain Research. Discovering the Brain is a field guide to the brainâ€an easy-to-read discussion of the brain's physical structure and where functions such as language and music appreciation lie. Ackerman examines: How electrical and chemical signals are conveyed in the brain. The mechanisms by which we see, hear, think, and pay attentionâ€and how a gut feeling actually originates in the brain. Learning and memory retention, including parallels to computer memory and what they might tell us about our own mental capacity. Development of the brain throughout the life span, with a look at the aging brain. Ackerman provides an enlightening chapter on the connection between the brain's physical condition and various mental disorders and notes what progress can realistically be made toward the prevention and treatment of stroke and other ailments. Finally, she explores the potential for major advances during the Decade of the Brain, with a look at medical imaging techniquesâ€what various technologies can and cannot tell usâ€and how the public and private sectors can contribute to continued advances in neuroscience. This highly readable volume will provide the public and policymakersâ€and many scientists as wellâ€with a helpful guide to understanding the many discoveries that are sure to be announced throughout the Decade of the

great fear definition world history: The Bastille Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, Rolf Reichardt, 1997-07-18 This book is both an analysis of the Bastille as cultural paradigm and a case study on the history of French political culture. It examines in particular the storming and subsequent fall of the Bastille in Paris on July 14, 1789 and how it came to represent the cornerstone of the French Revolution, becoming a symbol of the repression of the Old Regime. Lüsebrink and Reichardt use this semiotic reading of the Bastille to reveal how historical symbols are generated; what these symbols' functions are in the collective memory of societies; and how they are used by social, political, and ideological groups. To facilitate the symbolic nature of the investigation, this analysis of the evolving signification of the Bastille moves from the French Revolution to the nineteenth century to contemporary history. The narrative also shifts from France to other cultural arenas, like the modern European colonial sphere, where the overthrow of the Bastille acquired radical new signification in the decolonization period of the 1940s and 1950s. The Bastille demonstrates the potency of the interdisciplinary historical research that has characterized the end of this century, combining quantitative and qualitative approaches, and taking its methodological tools from history, sociology, linguistics, and cultural and literary studies.

great fear definition world history: Culture, Ideology and Politics (Routledge Revivals) Raphael Samuel, Gareth Stedman Jones, 2016-05-20 First published in 1982, this book is inspired the ideas generated by Eric Hobsbawm, and has taken shape around a unifying preoccupation with the symbolic order and its relationship to political and religious belief. It explores some of the oldest question in Marxist historiography, for example the relationship of 'base' and 'superstructure', art and social life, and also some of the newest and most problematic questions, such as the relationship of dreams and fantasy to political action, or of past and present — historical consciousness — to the making of ideology. The essays, which range widely over period and place, are intended to break new ground and take on difficult questions.

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closest thing to total war before the First World War, the Seven Years' War was fought in North America, Europe, the Caribbean and India with major consequences for all parties involved. This fascinating book is the first to truly review the grand strategies of the combatants and examine the differing styles of warfare used in the many campaigns. These methods ranged from the large-scale battles and sieges of the European front to the ambush and skirmish tactics used in the forests of North America. Daniel Marston's engaging narrative is supported by personal diaries, memoirs, and official reports.

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