

The trial of Louis XVI (now only called Louis), December 1792 / January 1793

The Indictment of Louis XVI (December, 1792)

*“Is Louis guilty of many crimes in order to create his tyranny and
by destroying the people’s liberty?”¹*

¹ Based on: P. M. Rogers (ed.),
Aspects of Western Civilization,
vol. II, Upper Saddle River, N.J.,
Prentice Hall, 1997: pp. 88-89 (adapted).

Prosecution:

Louis ...

Defence:

Louis ...



Verdict:

Consequences of this verdict:

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Prosecution:

Louis ...

- was against the National Assembly.
- tried to leave the country to fight against the Revolution.
(→ high treason)
- ... was against the constitution.
- ... is guilty because all kings are.
- ... has to die to save the Revolution.



Defence:

Louis ...

- ... should not be judged by the Convention.
- ... could be judged only by God.
- ... like all citizen has the right to a fair trial.
- ... is judged by politicians who are not neutral.

Verdict: Louis was found guilty.

(by 718 against 673 votes) and sentenced to death (by 380 to 310 votes).

Date of the execution: 21st January 1793

Consequences of this verdict:

- the supporters of the Revolution became “regicides” (killers of the king)
- final break with the time before the Revolution → radicalization