

DOCUMENT 3

A British Newspaper's Response

The trial and execution of King Louis XVI of France in 1793 shocked people around Europe. Descriptions of the execution were printed by newspapers around the world, many of them clearly expressing their opinions of the revolutionaries who had overthrown Louis. The following passage was printed in *The Times*, a London newspaper, on January 25, 1793.

The Republican tyrants of France have now carried their bloody purposes to the uttermost diabolical stretch of savage cruelty. They have murdered their King without even the shadow of justice, and of course they cannot expect friendship nor [dealings] with any civilized part of the world. The vengeance of Europe will now rapidly fall on them; and, in process of time, make them the veriest wretches on the face of the earth. The name of Frenchman will be considered as the appellation [name] of savage, and their presence will be shunned as a poison, deadly destructive to the peace and happiness of Mankind.

DOCUMENT 4

An American Reaction to British Critics

Thomas Paine, one of the heroes of the American Revolution, was living in Europe when the French Revolution broke out. There, he read British writings (like Document 3) on events in France. Paine, in response to these writings, published his own thoughts on the French Revolution. The excerpt below is one of his published reactions.

It was not against Louis XVI, but against the despotic principles of the Government, that the nation revolted. These principles had not their origin in him, but in the original establishment, many centuries back; and they were become too deeply rooted to be removed, and the ... parasites and plunderers too abominably filthy to be cleansed by anything short of a complete and universal Revolution. When it becomes necessary to do anything, the whole heart and soul should go into the measure, or not attempt it. That crisis was then arrived, and there remained no choice but to act with determined vigor, or not to act at all.

Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

DOCUMENT 1

- Describe** How does Chateaubriand describe the lives of French people during the French Revolution?
- Infer** Do you think Chateaubriand supported the Revolution? Why or why not?

DOCUMENT 2

- Identify** Which elements of the image suggest that the people are not happy with the revolutionary government?
- Compare** Do you think the artist who created this image would agree with Chateaubriand's opinions? Why or why not?

DOCUMENT 3

- Recall** What does the author predict will happen to France?
- Analyze** What words or phrases in this selection reveal the author's bias? What impact do these words have?

DOCUMENT 4

- Interpret** Why does Paine say that a revolution was needed? Support your answer.
- Interpret** Does Paine agree with the writer of Document 3 about the execution of King Louis XVI? What words or phrases support your answer?

DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY QUESTION

Responses to the French Revolution varied from country to country, and from person to person. Why do you think people had such different reactions to the idea of revolution? Using the documents above and information from the chapter, form a thesis that might explain these differences. Then write a short essay to support your position.

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H25, H26, H30, H34