

Chronology

1870

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| 19 July | French declare war on Prussia. |
| 20 August | News comes to Paris that Marshal Bazaine is trapped at Metz. |
| 31 August–1 September | Marshal MacMahon is defeated at Sedan; Napoleon III taken prisoner. |
| 18 September | A republic is proclaimed in Paris; Government of National Defense is formed. |
| 18 September | Germans form siege lines around Paris. |
| 7 October | Gambetta leaves Paris by balloon. |
| 10 October | Gambetta arrives at Tours, on the Loire, to head Delegation of Tours and organize armies. |
| 27 October | Marshal Bazaine surrenders Metz. |
| 30 October | Thiers reaches Paris via safe-conduct from Russian Foreign Office to report on peace efforts. |
| 31 October | Thiers goes to Versailles to discuss possible armistice terms with Bismarck. Insurrection led by Blanqui and other radicals takes temporary control of Hôtel de Ville; defeated. |

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- 5 November Thiers reports failure of talks with Bismarck.
 Mayors are elected in Paris arrondissements.
- 10 November French Army of the Loire takes Orléans.
- 30 November Sortie from Paris, to the east, toward Champigny, fails.
- 4 December French lose Orléans.
- 8 December Delegation of Tours retreats to Bordeaux.
- 1871
- 5 January Prussians bombard Paris.
- 18 January King William I of Prussia is crowned German Emperor in Hall of Mirrors at Versailles.
- 19-20 January Sortie from Paris, to the west, toward Buzenval, fails.
- 21-22 January Insurgent National Guard units in Paris release prisoners, attack Hôtel de Ville, call for "Commune"; defeated.
- 28 January Paris is surrendered as Jules Favre accepts Bismarck's terms for armistice and election of National Assembly to vote on question of making peace for all France.
- 8 February Elections for National Assembly to meet in Bordeaux take place.
- 15 February National Guard units in Paris form Federation and elect provisional Central Committee.
- 17 February Thiers is elected Chief of the Executive Power of the French Republic by National Assembly at Bordeaux.

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- 21-26 February Thiers discusses preliminary peace terms with Bismarck at Versailles.
- 24-28 February Demonstrations and disorders take place in Paris as *Fédérés* show displeasure at prospects of German victory and possible German entry into Paris; artillery belonging to National Guard is moved to Montmartre and other heights.
- 1 March National Assembly at Bordeaux ratifies preliminaries of peace.
 Germans make triumphal entry into Paris, as agreed upon in peace preliminaries; quick French ratification forces evacuation after two days.
- 8 March French regular troops under General Vinoy fail in effort to take National Guard artillery.
- 10 March National Assembly at Bordeaux makes decision to move to Versailles and passes other measures distasteful to Parisians.
- 15 March National Guard units in Paris choose definitive Central Committee.
- 18 March Troops sent by Thiers to seize cannon at Montmartre and elsewhere fraternize with crowds; much of Paris joins insurrection; Thiers withdraws troops and officials from Paris; Central Committee of National Guard moves into Hôtel de Ville.
- 19-22 March Mayors of Paris arrondissements fail in efforts to mediate between National Guard and National Assembly.

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- 20 March First meeting of National Assembly is held at Versailles.
- 26 March Municipal government (Commune) is elected in Paris without permission of National Assembly at Versailles.
- 28 March Bismarck agrees to increase in number of French regular army units permitted north of Loire.
- 29 March Paris Commune divides work among committees and forms Executive Committee.
- 3 April Parisian sortie toward Versailles fails. Second siege of Paris begins.
- 6 April General MacMahon is named commander of troops serving National Assembly.
- 10 May Treaty of Frankfurt is signed.
- 21 May Versailles forces enter Paris via Porte de Saint Cloud. "Bloody Week" begins.
- 27 May Battle takes place in Père Lachaise cemetery.