**Timeline of French Political Rule from the Revolution until the Third Republic**

**1789, May-July** – French Revolution begins. Bastille falls.

**1792, August** – Revolution becomes radical. Louis XVI is imprisoned.

**1792, September** – Monarchy is abolished. The National Assembly rules France.

**1793, January** – Louis XVI is executed.

**1793, spring** – The Committee of Public Safety is formed. Maximilien Robespierre becomes the chief spokesperson.

**1793, autumn** – The Terror begins.

**1794, July** – Robespierre and his closest deputies are overthrown. The Terror ends.

**1795, November** – The National Convention and Committee of Public Safety disband. The Directory, a less radical government, is formed. This greedy ruling class overturns many of the laws that had been introduced to help the working classes.

***1795/6 – Jean Valjean steals a loaf of bread to save his sister’s child. He spends 19 years in prison, known only as prisoner 24601.***

**1795-1799** – The gap between rich and poor gets bigger and bigger. The only difference to before the Revolution is that the wealthy bourgeoisie (middle class) run the country instead of the nobility.

**1799, November** – Napoleon Bonaparte, a military superstar, puts down some uprisings in Paris and conquers some of Italy. He overthrows the government and becomes the new leader.

**1804** – Napoleon declares himself Emperor of France after taking over large chunks of Europe.

**1804-1814** – Napoleon’s imperial rule is quite progressive and he is very popular as he sticks to many of the ideals of the Revolution. He decides to conquer more of Europe including Russia to spread Revolutionary ideas further.

**1812** – Napoleon is defeated in Russia and returns to France.

**1814** – Napoleon’s enemies invade France and force him to abdicate (step down). He is exiled to the island of Elba. Louis XVIII, younger brother of Louis XVI, is restored to the throne.

***1815 – Valjean is released from prison. He starts a new life under a different name. (Clip 1)***

**1815, June** – Napoleon decides to leave Elba and return to France, picking up supporters along the way to Paris (known as the ‘Hundred Days’). Louis XVIII panics and runs away. Napoleon makes a last bid for power but is defeated at the Battle of Waterloo (June 18). Louis XVIII returns and the monarchy is restored.

**1821** – Napoleon dies in exile on the island of St. Helena.

**1824** – Louis XVIII dies. His younger brother Charles X takes over but returns to the absolute monarchy of pre-revolutionary France.

**1830, July** – After 6 years of Charles X trying to reverse 35 years’ worth of social and political progress, 3 days of Parisian riots break out, known as the ‘July Revolution’. Charles X abdicates. His cousin Louis-Philippe is proclaimed king by the will of the people.

***1828-1830, roughly – Marius becomes a Bonapartist (fan of Napoleon), quarrels with his royalist grandfather, and moves out to live with like-minded students and workers at the radical working-class cafes. (Clip 2)***

**1832** – Within 2 years many people in France are unhappy with the new king and the July Monarchy, which isn’t as liberal (free) as they had hoped it would be. Radicals dream about a second Republic, while Bonapartists dream of restoring the Empire.

**1832, June** – Jean Maximilien Lamarque, a popular politician and former Napoleonic general dies during a cholera epidemic in Paris. His state funeral sets off rioting and armed resistance among students and workers hoping to overthrow of Louis-Philippe, or at least demand reforms. ***(Clip 3)***

***June 5-6 1832 – The barricades go up, 43 years after the French Revolution. Marius and the students gather to fight against government soldiers. The students are all killed, except Marius. Nothing was achieved by the fighting. (Clip 4)***

**1848** – Louis-Philippe is overthrown in another Revolution after 18 years on the throne. The Second Republic is proclaimed. This is taken over by Napoleon’s nephew, Louis Napoleon, as president. He then becomes Emperor, creating the Second Empire.

**1870** – The Second Empire lasts for almost 20 years, before collapsing after the Franco-Prussian War. A new Republic is proclaimed.

**18 March – 28 May 1871** – Radical socialists declare Paris in revolt (the Paris Commune).

**28 May 1871** – The government troops eventually suppress the rebellion by shooting down about 20,000 people in one week, many more than the number guillotined during the 16-month Terror of 80 years before. The Third Republic comes into being, which remains in place for 69 years until 1940, when Hitler invades France.