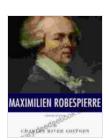
# The Life and Legacy of Maximilien Robespierre: A Complex Figure in French History

Maximilien Robespierre was a French lawyer and politician who played a leading role in the French Revolution. He was a major advocate for the rights of the poor and the oppressed, and he was instrumental in the establishment of the First French Republic. However, Robespierre's legacy is also marred by the Reign of Terror, a period of intense violence and repression that occurred during his time in power.

Robespierre was born in Arras, France, on May 6, 1758. He was the eldest of four children, and his father was a successful lawyer. Robespierre received a classical education, and he showed a talent for writing and public speaking at an early age. In 1781, he graduated from the University of Paris and began practicing law in Arras.



#### French Legends: The Life and Legacy of Maximilien Robespierre by Charles River Editors

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.4 out of 5 Language : English File size : 2052 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 64 pages Lending : Enabled



Robespierre was initially a supporter of the monarchy, but he became increasingly critical of the government as the financial crisis of the 1780s deepened. In 1789, he was elected to the Estates-General, the representative body of the French people. Robespierre quickly became a leading figure in the National Assembly, and he played a major role in the drafting of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

In 1792, Robespierre was elected to the National Convention, the body that replaced the National Assembly. He served as president of the Convention on several occasions, and he was a leading advocate for the execution of King Louis XVI. Robespierre also played a major role in the establishment of the Committee of Public Safety, which was responsible for suppressing counter-revolutionary activities during the Reign of Terror.

The Reign of Terror was a period of intense violence and repression that lasted from 1793 to 1794. During this time, the Committee of Public Safety executed over 17,000 people, including many of Robespierre's political opponents. Robespierre was instrumental in the execution of many of these people, and he has been accused of being a tyrant and a mass murderer.

Robespierre's downfall came in July 1794, when he was overthrown in a coup d'état. He was executed on July 28, 1794, at the age of 36.

Robespierre's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a great orator and a brilliant politician, but he was also a ruthless dictator who presided over a period of intense violence and repression. His execution marked the end of the Reign of Terror and the beginning of a new era in French history.

Here are some additional details about Robespierre's life and legacy:

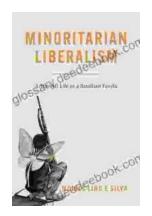
- Robespierre was a devout Catholic, but he became increasingly critical of the Church as the Revolution progressed.
- Robespierre was a passionate advocate for the poor and the oppressed. He believed that all citizens should have equal rights and opportunities.
- Robespierre was a brilliant orator. His speeches were often filled with passion and idealism.
- Robespierre was a ruthless dictator. He used the Committee of Public Safety to suppress all opposition to his rule.
- Robespierre's execution marked the end of the Reign of Terror and the beginning of a new era in French history.

Robespierre was a complex and controversial figure. He was a great orator and a brilliant politician, but he was also a ruthless dictator who presided over a period of intense violence and repression. His legacy is still debated today.



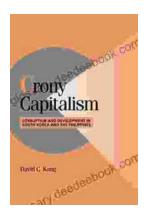
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