

THE ROLE OF THE GIRONDIN PARTY IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION**Rahimjonov Mirzohid**

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Annotation: This article analyzes the role and political significance of the Girondin Party during the French Revolution on a scientific basis. The Girondins emerged as an important force in the struggle against monarchy at the end of the 18th century and promoted republican ideas. They supported freedom, the rule of law, and economic liberalism. The Girondin Party played a leading role in the early stage of the Revolution, but later suffered defeat due to political confrontation with the Jacobins. This study reveals their historical importance and contribution to revolutionary developments and the formation of modern political thought.

Keywords: French Revolution, Girondin Party, republic, political struggle, Jacobins, liberalism, National Assembly, monarchy, revolutionary movement, historical significance.

Аннотация: В данной статье на научной основе анализируется роль и политическое значение партии жирондистов в период Французской революции. Жирондисты выступили важной силой в борьбе против монархии в конце XVIII века и продвигали республиканские идеи. Они поддерживали свободу, верховенство закона и экономический либерализм. Партия жирондистов сыграла ведущую роль на раннем этапе революции, однако впоследствии потерпела поражение в результате политического противостояния с якобинцами. Настоящее исследование раскрывает их историческую значимость и вклад в революционные процессы и формирование современной политической мысли.

Ключевые слова: Французская революция, партия жирондистов, республика, политическая борьба, якобинцы, либерализм, Национальное собрание, монархия, революционное движение, историческое значение.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada Fransiya inqilobi davrida Jironda partiyasining siyosiy hayotdagi o'rni va faoliyati ilmiy asosda tahlil qilinadi. Jirondachilar XVIII asr oxirida monarxiyaga qarshi kurashda muhim kuch sifatida maydonga chiqqan bo'lib, respublika g'oyalarini ilgari surgan. Ular erkinlik, qonun ustuvorligi va iqtisodiy liberalizm tarafdori bo'lgan. Jironda partiyasi inqilobning dastlabki bosqichida yetakchi rol o'ynagan, biroq yakobinchilar bilan siyosiy qarama-qarshilik natijasida mag'lubiyatga uchragan. Mazkur maqola ularning tarixiy ahamiyatini ochib beradi.

Kalit so‘zlar: Fransiya inqilobi, Jirona partiyasi, respublika, siyosiy kurash, yakobinchilar, liberalizm, milliy majlis, monarxiya, inqilobiy harakat, tarixiy ahamiyat.

After a long period of feudal fragmentation in world history, many changes occurred from the 16th century onward. The French monarchy, which had existed since the 15th century, seemed destined to continue indefinitely. Dynasties changed, its form evolved from class representation to absolutism, but the foundations of monarchy appeared eternal. The Revolution overturned these ideas and offered the people a choice that did not favor the Bourbon dynasty. Only a small portion of its supporters defended their own interests. In France, the socio-political movement of royalists—supporters of restoring Bourbon royal power—emerged in 1789 and followed a complex path of development.

The Great French Revolution, lasting ten years from 1789 to 1799, contributed greatly to the development of the political and sociological aspects of social progress. During this time, significant changes occurred in the structure of society, leading to serious transformations in administrative governance. It is worth emphasizing the emergence of a political institution close to modern forms of political organization. The purpose of this article is to examine in detail the political clubs of the French Revolution, to identify their philosophical and political thought, to determine their goals, and to compare their philosophy with the main concepts of the Revolution. [1, p.1]

The true beginning of sharp socio-political changes can be considered the convocation of the Estates-General in June 1789. Until then, the Estates-General had shaped a class-based character, naturally benefiting the first two estates (aristocracy and clergy) and supporting the monarchy. During the election campaign, important petitions were presented, such as abolishing privileges of the first estate, imposing taxes on all estates, and transforming the Estates-General into a National Assembly based on property. Due to the numerical superiority of deputies (490 against 90), mostly from the Third Estate, the proclamation of the National Assembly provoked sharp discontent from royal power.

A special motive for uniting deputies and establishing ties with the aristocracy was the Breton Club, founded in April 1789 [6, p.62]. The club was formed on the basis of meetings of Breton deputies, led by lawyer de Chapelier. Later, future radical leaders such as Maximilien Robespierre, Mirabeau, and Pétion joined the club. This club, later transformed into the Jacobin Club, marked the beginning of revolutionary activity in France and the emergence of a multi-party system.

In the following months, many parties and clubs were actively created, involving diverse social groups: sans-culottes, petty bourgeoisie, upper bourgeoisie, and aristocracy. The most important and influential clubs included: the Jacobin Club, the Cordeliers Club, the Royalist Club, the Girondin Party, the Hébertists, the Enragés, the Moderates, and the Montagnards.

The Jacobin Club, founded in June 1789 on the basis of the Breton Club, took its name from the location of its meetings—the Dominican monastery of Saint James on Rue Saint-Jacques in Paris. During the Revolution (until the fall of the Thermidorian faction), the club became famous for its shifting views on monarchy.

The Jacobin Party consisted of three wings: the right wing led by Danton, the center under Robespierre, and the left wing under Marat (later Hébert and Chaumette after Marat's death). Its members included prominent figures such as Maximilien and Augustin Robespierre, Antoine Saint-Just, Jean-Paul Marat, Georges Couthon, Philippe Lebas, and others. From 1791 until July 27, 1794, the party's political orientation can be described as leftist, with radicalism toward the lower classes (sans-culottes). Many historians note that the club followed rudimentary socialist concepts, aiming for equality of rights and opportunities across all classes and the destruction of feudal structures. However, closer examination reveals bourgeois intentions.

Until 1791, the club fully supported constitutional monarchy and royal governance, as reflected in its earlier name "The Society of Friends of the Constitution." Saint-Just's first speeches in the Convention emphasized humanitarian ideals, personal freedom, and equality, while criticizing the death penalty. Robespierre similarly argued: *"You can be free under a king or in a senate. What is the French Constitution today? It is a republic with a monarch. It is neither monarchy nor republic: it is both."* [2, p.35]

At this stage, Jacobin views were moderate, aiming to unify the country into a single republic. With the fall of the monarchy and the king's flight in 1791, the party shifted its stance toward overthrowing the king and transferring power to the National Assembly and the people. Saint-Just declared: *"Live free or die."*

By 1793, after seizing power in the Convention and expelling the Girondins and other factions, the Jacobins relied on peasants and sans-culottes, initiating the Reign of Terror under the guise of socialist goals. Laws allowing arrest without trial freed their hands to establish absolute terror and eliminate rivals. Yet their true aim was not liberty, fraternity, and equality, but placing society under the dominance of intellectuals and the bourgeoisie. Marat clearly stated: *"During uprisings, the masses overwhelm everyone with their numbers, but ultimately they are defeated, lacking enlightenment, knowledge, means, weapons, leaders, and plans. Meanwhile, conspirators*

possess wealth, arms, ammunition, offices, education, political experience, and cunning intrigues. The French Revolution proved this." [2, p.64]

Membership statistics confirm this: officials (31%), professionals, clergy, merchants (15%), artisans and shopkeepers (38%), peasants (8%), officers (4%), soldiers (4%). [2, p.52] Thus, the Jacobins' main concept was exploiting ordinary people to gain power and maintaining constant terror.

The Girondin Party

Founded in 1791, the Girondin Party was named after the Gironde department and included lawyers such as Vergniaud, Guadet, Jansonnet, and Grangeneuve. Later, Brissot's faction joined. Compared to the Jacobins, the Girondins held more moderate views. They opposed the king's execution, fearing it would destroy the bourgeois class and destabilize the state. Unlike the Jacobins' radical organization, the Girondins preferred calm debate and negotiation, which weakened their popularity and ability to hold power.

They were mainly intellectuals accustomed to discussion, which left their party disorganized and decentralized. They failed to establish strong ties with sans-culottes and ordinary people, leading to their portrayal as enemies of the people and supporters of the bourgeoisie. Their main struggle was against the Montagnards, whom they accused of dictatorship and exploiting sans-culottes.

The peak of conflict came in 1792, when disputes over foreign treaties exposed the Girondins' political ambitions. On March 24, 1792, they demanded the replacement of justice ministers, securing dominance until the monarchy's fall. However, Roland's letter criticizing the king led to their removal from office, marking the party's decline.

By 1793, Danton renewed attacks against the Girondins, accusing them of betrayal and defending radical measures. Soon, laws permitting arrests without trial led to their expulsion and imprisonment. On October 31, 1793, 21 Girondins, including Brissot and Vergniaud, were executed. Others committed suicide or fled, while about 80 survived, some returning to the Convention after Thermidor.

The Girondins envisioned a parliamentary republic based on bourgeois and intellectual power, with constitutional equality for all classes, including sans-culottes. However, their lack of organization and reliance on rhetoric doomed their ideal society. Unlike the Jacobins, they did not pursue radical goals but represented a moderate bourgeois foundation for capitalist development.

The "Enragés" (The Madmen)

This ultra-left radical movement emerged in 1793 after splitting from the Jacobins. Founded by Jacques Roux, Théophile Leclerc, and Claire Lacombe, it was the least organized faction, often plagued by internal conflicts. Unlike the bourgeois-oriented Jacobins and Girondins, the Enragés pursued policies supporting only the poor.

Their main concept was defending the sans-culottes, who suffered most during the Revolution. They advocated radical measures: killing merchants, profiteers, and wealthy bourgeois, and looting. Their membership included pre-proletarian factory workers. They supported basic rights—food, clothing, shelter—but rejected labor contract systems.

Jacques Roux declared: *“Liberty is nothing but an empty shadow if one class can starve another without punishment. Equality is an illusion if monopolies allow the rich to decide life and death. For four years, only the rich have benefited from the Revolution. Only by stopping profiteering and feeding the sans-culottes can you unite them around constitutional laws.”* [6, p.143]

By late 1793, Jacobin repression crushed the Enragés. Roux was arrested on September 5, and later committed suicide to avoid trial. Leclerc and Lacombe abandoned politics after persecution, though they were eventually arrested in 1794.

Conclusion

Analyzing the main clubs of the French Revolution, we can conclude that the Revolution radically transformed society, freeing it from feudalism and monarchy. It laid the foundation for modern governance, granting equal rights to estates and uniting deputies into the National Assembly. Although later developments included the Vendémiaire uprising, Napoleon’s First Empire, Bourbon Restoration, and July Monarchy, the Revolution created a lasting foundation in public consciousness. Political clubs played a crucial role in shaping its course.

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