



Butler University
Digital Commons @ Butler University

Scholarship and Professional Work - LAS

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

1986

La Marseillaise' and French Nationalism

Paul R. Hanson

Butler University, phanson@butler.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/facsch_papers



Part of the [European History Commons](#), and the [Political History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hanson, Paul R. "La Marseillaise' and French Nationalism," in *The Book of Days: 1987* (Pierian Press, Ann Arbor, 1986), pp. 370-371. Available from digitalcommons.butler.edu/facsch_papers/502/

This Book Chapter is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Scholarship and Professional Work - LAS by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@butler.edu.

4) Stage a mock debate using: Resolved that the mandate of the IAEA should be altered to endow the agency with strict powers of enforcement.

Sources of Further Information:

International Atomic Energy Agency
PO Box 100
Wagramerstrasse 5
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

University of Michigan
North Engineering Library
1002 I Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Cross-References:

8 December 1953: Eisenhower first proposed an agency for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

26 October 1956: 82 nations adopted the Statute for the IAEA.

1 July 1968: 62 nations signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

See also guide for Accidents at Nuclear Power Plants on October 7.

This resource guide has been prepared by: Richard A. Gray, Editor with Pierian Press.

Other Events on this Day: (See Guide on:)

1883: Benito Mussolini was born in Predappio, Italy. (November 25)

1958: President Eisenhower signed the law creating NASA. (October 4)

1976: David Berkowitz committed his first murder. (August 10)

July 30

(195 years ago)

"La Marseillaise" and French Nationalism

by Paul R. Hanson

On 30 July 1792 patriots in Paris first sang the military marching song that would later become the stirring national anthem of France and a symbol of revolutionary nationalism. Composed by J. C. Rouget de Lisle (1760-1836) in Strasbourg during April 1792, "La Marseillaise" was sung by Marseille volunteers on their march to Paris to defend the fatherland, then at war with Austria. The song quickly became known throughout France, and stands as a symbol of the French Revolution, which awakened a spirit

of nationalism throughout Europe. "La Marseillaise" was officially adopted as the French national anthem on 14 March 1879.

Reference Sources:

• *Historical Dictionary of the French Revolution, 1789-1799*, edited by Samuel F. Scott and Barry Rothaus. 2 vols. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1985. \$95.00.

Excellent resource tool, arranged alphabetically for all topics relating to the revolution.

• *The French Revolution*, by Georges Lefebvre. 2 vols. New York: Columbia University Press, 1964. \$34.00 (each) cloth, \$11.00 (each) paper.

Thorough history of the period by the most respected modern historian of revolutionary France.

• *France, 1789-1815*, by D. M. Sutherland. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986. \$12.95.

A major new history that incorporates recent scholarship. Excellent bibliography.

Adult Works about the Subject:

• *Politics, Culture and Class in the French Revolution*, by Lynn A. Hunt. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. \$19.95.

Includes a sophisticated discussion of the importance of symbols and rhetoric in revolutionary France.

• *The World of the French Revolution*, by R. R. Palmer. New York: Harper & Row, 1972. \$6.95.

Interesting discussion of the impact of the revolution on Europe and on subsequent world history.

• *National Anthems of the World*, 5th ed., edited by Martin Shaw, Henry Coleman, and T. M. Cartledge. Dorset, England: Blandford. New York: Sterling, 1983.

Includes music and lyrics to "La Marseillaise."

Young Adult Works about the Subject:

• *Symbol and Satire in the French Revolution*, by Ernest F. Henderson. New York: Knickerbocker, 1912. Reprint. New York: Gordon, 1977. \$69.95.

Emphasis on discussion of symbols, with a section on "La Marseillaise." With 171 illustrations.

• *The Days of the French Revolution: The Day-to-Day Story of the Revolution*, by Christopher Hibbert. New York: Morrow, 1981. \$8.95.

A very readable popular history.

• *French Revolution for Beginners*, by Martin McCrory and Robert Moulder. London: Writers & Readers Publishing, 1983. \$12.95 cloth, \$4.95 paper.

Illustrated documentary guide to the French Revolution.

• *The Song in the Streets: A Brief History of the French Revolution*, by Cornelia Spencer. New York: John Day, 1960.

Good introduction for young people ages 12 and up.

Children's Works about the Subject:

• *Living Through History: The French Revolution*, by Elizabeth Campling and Robert Campling. Living Through History Series. North Pomfret, VT: David & Charles, 1984. \$14.95 paper.

Illustrated fictional account of the French Revolution.

• *The French Revolution*, by Horizon Books. New York: Harper & Row, 1965.

Written in consultation with David Dowd. Excellent intermediate level introduction with color illustrations.

Feature Films:

- *La Marseillaise*. (Jean Renoir, 1937). Classic tribute to the glory of the French Revolution, featuring the march of the Marseille volunteers to Paris.
- *Napoleon*, directed by Abel Gance. (WESTI: Société générale de Films, 1927). Black & white 16mm available. A monumental epic covering Napoleon's early life and the first years of the revolution. Includes a stirring rendition of "La Marseillaise" in a Paris club in 1792.

Recordings:

- *Chants pour la Liberté*. Histoire de France par les Chansons. (Harmonia Mundi USA.)
- *The Two Pigeons: Isoline*. (EMI Records Ltd.) Includes a recording of Berlioz's arrangement of "La Marseillaise."

Other Audio-Visual Resources:

- *French Revolution: Death of the Old Regime*. (NBC, 1966). Color 16mm. 17 minutes.
 - *French Revolution: Birth of a New France*. (NBC, 1966). Color 16mm. 21 minutes.
- The above are a good two-part introduction to the French Revolution for high school and college students. Available from major university film libraries.

Discussion and Project Suggestions:

- 1) Have students in French language classes translate the lyrics of "La Marseillaise" into English.
- 2) Compare the lyrics of "La Marseillaise" to the lyrics of the "Star Spangled Banner."
- 3) Discuss the meaning of "nationalism" and the way it has changed since 1789.

Sources of Further Information:

Bancroft Library
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Maclure Collection
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Newberry Library
60 West Walton Street
Chicago, IL 60610

All of the above libraries include extensive collections of French Revolutionary pamphlets and newspapers, all in French.

Cross-References:

- 25 April 1792: Rouget de Lisle composed "La Marseillaise."
- 10 August 1792: Fall of the French monarchy.
- 21 September 1792: The National Convention proclaimed the establishment of the French Republic. See the guide for the French Republic on September 21.
- 14 March 1879: "La Marseillaise" officially adopted as the French national anthem.

This resource guide has been prepared by: Paul R. Hanson, Assistant Professor of History, Butler University, Indianapolis.

Other Events on this Day: (See Guide on:)

- 1718: William Penn died in Ruscombe, England. (December 12)
- 1898: Otto von Bismarck died. (September 23)
- 1912: Japanese emperor Mutsuhito died. (January 9)
- 1974: House Judiciary Committee voted three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. (June 17)
- 1975: Thirty-five nations signed Helsinki accords in that city. (December 6)

July 31

(150 years ago)

William Clarke Quantrill, 1837-1865

by Ted P. Yeatman

William Clarke Quantrill, notorious Confederate guerrilla leader of the Civil War on the Missouri-Kansas border, was born 31 July 1837 at Canal Dover, Ohio. His first job, oddly, was as a teacher, at the age of 16, at the Canal Dover Union School. Quantrill spent only a short time in this vocation before moving West, working as a teamster and gold prospector in Utah and Colorado. Returning to Kansas in June 1859, at the height of the border conflict, Quantrill settled in Lawrence. Professing to be an abolitionist, Quantrill reportedly stole slaves in Missouri, returning them for a reward. On 10 December 1860 he led a group of abolitionists into an ambush at the Morgan Walker farm in Missouri. He was later forced to flee to Missouri and Oklahoma (then Indian Territory) to avoid arrest in Kansas. One year later he began his guerrilla unit, engaging Union forces in the Kansas City-Independence area. He gained lasting notoriety for his raid on Lawrence, Kansas, on 21 August 1863, burning most of the town and killing around 150 men and boys. The subsequent massacre of 79 Union soldiers at Baxter Springs, Kansas, in October, added to his infamy. Moving to Texas in the winter of 1863-64, Quantrill lost control of his band to George Todd and "Bloody Bill" Anderson, only regaining a portion of his old command after they were killed in late 1864. Quantrill took a small group, including Frank James and Jim Younger (later noted outlaws), to Kentucky, where he was fatally wounded on 10 May 1865, dying in a Louisville military hospital on June 6. After a later exhumation of the body, some of the bones were stolen and his skull later used in a fraternity initiation rite. It is now in possession of the Dover, Ohio, Historical Society.