Camille Desmoulins was a journalist and a French revolutionary. Despite a huge popularity among the French, his support of the moderate revolutionaries during the Reign of Terror cost him his life. Desmoulins career in journalism started in November 1789. He published a paper called "Les Revolutions de France et de Brabant". His main subject was the denunciation of the French aristocracy. Desmoulins also joined the Jacobins Club and was opposed to the Girondists. When Louis XVI fired his very popular minister of finance, Jacques Necker, Desmoulins screamed his disappointment to the Parisians crowd gathered in the garden of the Palais Royal. This event made him famous in Paris as he was suddenly seen as a leader of the Revolution. After the downfall of the monarchy he was elected deputy in the National Convention and belonged to the "Montagnards" group. In December 1793, Desmoulins created a new paper called "Le Vieux Cordeliers" where he denounced the extreme ideas of the "Enrages" and asked for peace between partisans of the Revolution. Robespierre turned his back to Desmoulins since his newspaper defended Danton's opinions. Desmoulins and Danton were arrested on March 31st, 1794. Desmoulins was accused by the Revolutionary Tribunal of being a counter revolutionary. But the reason of this sentence was his support to Danton. Desmoulins was beheaded, alongside Danton, on April 5th, 1794.

George Danton studied law and became a lawyer in Paris. His political role in the early stage of the Revolution was important, even if he was not publicly known before 1792. He was involved in the storming of the Bastille and for the move of the King's court from Versailles to the Tuileries. In 1790, he became president of the "Cordeliers" club, along with Marat and Camille Desmoulins. This group believed in popular sovereignty and the need for a radical action to dramatically change the face of the French society. He supported the Parisian insurrections on August 10th, 1792, when the people of Paris stormed the Tuileries following the King's failed attempt to escape. Soon after, he became Minister of Justice. Danton voted for the execution of Louis XVI and participated in the creation of a revolutionary's court in March 1793. He became president of this court. He entered the "Comite de Salut public" in April 1793. He voted for the exclusion of the Girondist group, which he considered an obstacle to the development of the Convention. He was accused of being too soft by counter revolutionaries. Even his Jacobins friends criticize his thirst for power and money. He was then fired from the "Comite de Salut public" and Robespierre took his position. In August 1793, he supported the "sans culottes" and the Terror. In November, he lost power within the "Cordeliers". Danton was left alone, with no support from his past friends. On March 30th, 1794, Danton was arrested with Desmoulins. He was accused by the revolutionaries court of being an enemy of the Republique. He was convicted and killed on April 5th, 1794. His last words were: "Do not forget to show my head to the people, it is well worth seeing".

Jean-Paul Marat left his parents at age 16 to study medicine in France and later, in England. He was a pretty renowned scientist; he worked on physics and published some of his works on energy from fire and on electricity. The political events in France gave Marat the opportunity to express his disapproval of the regime in another way. In September 1789, he started his own newspaper "L'ami du peuple" ("Friend of the people") where he attacked the enemies of the Revolution. His articles criticized the conservatives at every level of the French society. On July 14th, 1789 at the Storming of the Bastille, Marat declared that five to six hundreds heads should be cut in order to install a new regime. His goal was to eliminate all the people near or far related to the king. In 1792, he talked about his wish to see a new dictatorship installed where the true values of the Revolution will be implemented. His extremist ideas were accused to have led to the massacre of September 1792. That same month, Marat was elected to the National Convention where he sat with the "Montagnards". He renamed his famous newspaper to "le journal de la republique francaise" (the journal of the French republic). In 1793, he was elected president of the Jacobins club and asked for the destitution of the Girondins, whom he believed where enemies of the republicanism. On the other side, the Girondins attacked the dictatorship of the Montagnards and their famous leaders, Robespierre, Danton and Marat. The
battle between to two parties ended on June 2nd, 1793. The Convention decided to eliminate the Girondins. This was a very important victory for Marat, who became even more popular. On July 13th, 1793 Marat was murdered by Charlotte Corday, a Girondin sympathizer. The Republic gave him a national honor with grandiose funeral. On his tombstone was engraved these words, "Here sleeps Marat, the friend of the people who was killed by the enemies of the people on July 13th, 1793". On September 21st, 1794 Marat was officially declared an "Immortal" and exhumed to the Pantheon.

**Marquis de Lafayette** was from the Nobility and could have belonged to the court and worked for the king. However, he refused this prestigious career and joined the army in 1771. Fond of enlightened ideas, he traveled secretly to America in 1777 to help the Americans. He became a general in the army and a close friend to George Washington. Back in France, he became a hero, welcomed by Louis XVI in Versailles and congratulated on his military victory. Lafayette participated in the meeting of the Estates General and joined the National Assembly when the negotiations failed. He worked on the Declaration of the Rights of Man which was adopted on August 26th, 1789. On October 5th, 1789 an angry mob stormed Versailles and Lafayette avoided a massacre by taking the royal family to the Tuileries. Lafayette was in a tough position; being an aristocrat, he wanted to support the ideas of the revolution without harming the royal family. Lafayette gradually lost the support of the revolutionaries and was even called a "traitor" by Robespierre. On July 17th, 1791 the Champ de Mars massacre fastened Lafayette's decline as Marat held him responsible for the killings. On August 10th, 1792 the king was captured and a National Convention was formed with Robespierre and Danton as the leaders. Lafayette refused to serve the Convention and was declared a traitor on August 19th, 1792. He had to flee France to avoid being executed by the most radical revolutionaries.

**Comte de Mirabeau**'s family belonged to the French aristocracy of Provence, but it often struggled with financial problems. Mirabeau was fond of enlightenment ideas. He was opposed to the Ancien Regime, tried to be elected representative in the Estates General meeting, but the Nobility rejected his application. He then decided to join the Third Estates and was elected their representative. He was a great speaker at the Assembly and became very famous within the French people. On June 23rd, 1789 he refused the decision of the king to dissolve the newly formed assembly. His answer to Louis XVI representatives remains famous: “Tell those who sent you here that we stand here by the will of the people and we will leave only by the force of the bayonets”. Mirabeau was one of the most eloquent speakers at the National Assembly. However, he was in favor of creating a Constitutional Monarchy when the revolutionaries wanted to create a Republic. In May 1790, he became president of the National Assembly but died on April 2nd, 1791 of unknown causes.

**Maximilien Robespierre** studied law and became a lawyer at 21. In 1783, Robespierre decided to go to Paris to defend his favorite cause: the rights of the people. He volunteered to represent the poorest congregation of the "Third Estate" during the Estates General in March 1789. One of his main requests was the right for everyone to vote. His virtues earned him the nickname of the incorruptible. 1791, he participated in the writing of the Declaration of the Rights of Man. Robespierre chose to be part of the Jacobins group, one of the more radical movements of the new assembly, and rapidly became one of their most respected members. In 1792, Robespierre joined Danton and Marat at the National Assembly. During the Reign of Terror, Robespierre governed France like a dictator and supported the death penalty even though he fought against it during the early stage of the revolution. In July 1794, Robespierre was evicted from the Convention and accused of dictatorship and tyranny. The members voted for his eviction and his death at the same time, without allowing him to defend himself. The same day, he was decapitated under the ovation of the people of Paris. His death was the symbol of the end of the Terror and the end of the democratic movement at the same time.