

FR335U: Documents pertaining to the July Revolution

Charles X: The July Ordinances (25 July 1830)

I. Ordinance for Suspending Liberty of the Press.

1st **The liberty of the periodical press is suspended.**

2nd ... [N]o newspaper or periodical or semi-periodical work, established or to be established, without discrimination as to the matters which shall be treated therein, **shall appear**, either in Paris or in the departments, **except in virtue of an authorisation**, which the authors and the printer thereof shall have separately obtained from us.

This authorisation must be renewed every three months.

It can be revoked.

3rd The authorisation can be provisionally granted and provisionally withdrawn by the prefects for newspapers and periodicals or semi-periodical works published or to be published in their departments.

4th **Newspapers and works published in contravention of article 2, shall be immediately seized. The presses and the type which shall have been used for their printing shall be placed in a public repository under seal or put out of service.**

5th **No work of less than twenty printed sheets can appear** without the authorisation of our minister—secretary of state of the interior at Paris, and of the prefects in the departments.

6th. Proceedings upon law suits and the **transactions of scientific or literary societies are subject to prior authorisation, if they treat in whole or in part of political matters ...**

II. Ordinance for Dissolving the Chamber of Deputies.

1st The Chamber of Deputies of the departments is dissolved.

III. Ordinance upon the elections.

12th The presidents of the sections of the district electoral colleges shall be **appointed by the prefects** from among the electors of the district.

18th In the department electoral colleges **the two most aged electors and the two most heavily taxed** shall discharge the duties of tellers.

The Paris Journalists' response (26 July 1830)

The legal régime is interrupted, that of force is begun. **The government has violated legality, we are absolved from obedience. We shall attempt to publish our papers without asking for the authorisation which is imposed upon us.** The government has to-day lost the character which commands obedience. We are resisting it in that which concerns us; it is for France to decide how far its own resistance must extend.

The Paris Deputies' response (26 July 1830)

... [S]eeing on the one hand, that the Chamber of Deputies, not having been constituted, cannot be legally dissolved; and on the other hand that the attempt to form another Chamber of Deputies by a new and arbitrary method is in formal contradiction to the Constitutional Charter and the acquired rights of the electors, the undersigned declare that **they still consider themselves as legally elected** to the deputation by the district and department colleges whose suffrages they have obtained, and that **they cannot be replaced except in virtue of elections conducted according to the principles and forms determined by the laws.**

Thiers'* Orleanist Manifesto (30 July 1830)

Charles X can no longer return to Paris: he has caused the blood of the people to flow. The Republic would expose us to frightful divisions; it would embroil us with Europe. The Duke of Orleans is a prince devoted to the cause of the revolution. The Duke of Orleans did not fight against us. The Duke of Orleans was at Jemmapes. **The Duke of Orleans is a citizen king. The Duke of Orleans has borne the tricolors with ardor.** The Duke of Orleans alone can again bear them; we do not wish for any others. The Duke of Orleans does not declare himself. He awaits our will. Let us proclaim that will, and he will accept the Charter as we have always understood and wanted it. It is **from the French people** that he will hold the crown.

*Adolphe Thiers: journalist, historian; opposition politician and 1st President of the IIIrd Republic

Proclamation of the Deputies (31 July 1830)

Frenchmen,

France is Free. The absolute power was raising its flag, the heroic population of Paris overthrew it. ... No more fear for acquired rights; no further barrier between us and the rights which we still lack.

The Duke of Orleans is devoted to the national and constitutional cause; he has always defended its interests and professed its principles. **He will respect our rights, for he will hold his from us.** We shall assure ourselves by laws all the necessary guarantees in order to render liberty strong and durable

...

Abdication of Charles X (2 August 1830)

My cousin ... I have .. taken the resolution to abdicate the crown in favor of my grandson, the Duke of Bordeaux.

The dauphin, who shares my feelings, also renounces his rights in favor of his nephew.

You will have, therefore, in your capacity of lieutenant-general of the kingdom, to cause to be proclaimed the accession of Henry V to the crown.

Declaration of the Chamber of Deputies (7 August 1830)

The Chamber of Deputies, taking into consideration the imperative necessity which results from the events of July 26, 27, 28, 29 and the days following and the general situation in which France is placed in consequence of the violation of the Constitutional Charter;

Considering that ... His Majesty Charles X, His Royal Highness Louis-Antoine, dauphin, and all the members of the elder branch of the royal house have at this moment left French territory;

Declares that the throne is vacant in fact and in right, and that it is indispensable to provide therefor.

The Chamber of Deputies declares secondly that,

In accordance with the wish and in the interest of the French people, **the preamble of the Constitutional Charter is suppressed, as wounding the national dignity, in appearing to grant to Frenchmen the rights which essentially belong to them,** and that the following articles of the same Charter must be suppressed or modified in the manner which is about to be indicated.

[The Chamber of Deputies requires the consideration of the following measures (and others which have here been omitted):]

1st. The use of the jury for offences of the press and for political offences;

...

8th. Public instruction and liberty of education;

...

On condition of the acceptance of these provisions and propositions, the Chamber of Deputies declares finally that **the universal and pressing interest of the French people calls to the throne His Royal Highness Louis-Philippe d'Orleans ... and his descendants in perpetuity, from male to male,** by order of primogeniture **to the perpetual exclusion of women and their descendants.**

In consequence, His Royal Highness Louis-Philippe d'Orleans shall be invited to accept and to swear to the clauses and engagements above set forth, the observation of the Constitutional Charter and the modifications indicated, and after having done it before the assembled chambers, to take **the title of King of the French.**