

Name _____

Maximilien Robespierre: The Enigmatic Figure of the Reign of Terror

Short Answer Key

1. The primary goal of the Committee of Public Safety was to protect the revolution from both external and internal threats, maintain control, and eliminate opposition to the revolutionary government.
2. Robespierre's influence within the Committee of Public Safety grew due to his commitment to revolutionary ideals, eloquence, and dedication to the revolutionary cause. He advocated for radical policies, making him a dominant figure.
3. The Cult of the Supreme Being promoted by Robespierre aimed to establish a civic religion based on virtue and moral values. It sought to replace traditional religious practices with a new belief system centered around the worship of the Supreme Being.
4. Robespierre's downfall and execution were triggered by opposition within the Committee of Public Safety, particularly from members who feared his increasing authoritarianism. A dramatic confrontation in July 1794 led to their arrest, and they were subsequently executed.
5. Maximilien Robespierre is a controversial figure because he played a significant role in the Reign of Terror, during which there were mass arrests, trials, and public executions. Some view him as a champion of revolutionary ideals, while others see him as a ruthless dictator responsible for the excesses of the Reign of Terror.

