Guided Reading on “The Terror” and “The Trial of Louis XVI”

1) How did the king lose any remaining popular support? What happened on August 10, 1792 that forced the king to seek protection with the Legislative Assembly? What action did the Legislative Assembly take? (651)

2) In the fall of 1792 what violent events took place in Paris? Why was the king put on trial and executed? What was the effect of the king’s execution? (651)

3) Who invented the guillotine and why was this form of execution favored during the violent phase of the French Revolution? What is the irony shown in the cartoon? (652)

3) When the National Convention convened in 1793, from which social class were most of its members? What was the difference in political viewpoints between the Jacobins and Girondists? Which group came to dominate the National Convention? (642)

4) Who was Maximilien Robespierre? What was his background and whose ideas influenced him? Why did Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety gain power? What actions did they take and why did this period come to be known as the Reign of Terror (1793-1794).

5) What was the situation of France like in the spring of 1794? Why was it shocking that the executions still continued? How did the Reign of Terror finally end? (652-653)

(over)
In tomorrow’s class you will join in the trial of Louis XVI in your role as either a Jacobin and Girondist. First read the Indictment of Louis XVI and in the space below prepare your arguments. Keep in mind that Jacobins tended to be much more radical in their views and Girondists were more conservative.

A) What is your verdict as to the guilt or innocence of Louis XVI of the crimes noted in the Indictment? Write this in the space below together with your reasons for this verdict.

B) If Louis XVI is found guilty, write below your opinion of the appropriate form of punishment and explain why you have selected this: