Ending the Terror makes accessible for the first time to an English-speaking readership a major revisionist assessment of a crucial moment in the history of the French Revolution. The months that followed the fall of Robespierre in July 1794 mark not only a turning point in the history of the Revolution: 'Thermidor' is also a symbolic moment which came to haunt the subsequent revolutions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. By this date the Terror as a system of power was discredited, and the engineers of the Terror were confronting the problem of how to dismantle it without repudiating "Did you want a revolution without a revolution?" Robespierre sharply remarked. In her provocative essay, Sophie Wahnich has new things to say about the difference between today's terrorists and their nominal 18th-century predecessors. The French revolutionaries, in contrast, did live at a time of foundation (of new political values), represented by the universal "Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen", which, Wahnich argues, could not be secured without heroism in the face of profanation. Nor is being frightened of terror and terrorism necessarily connected to the fear of freedom, or the price one might be made to pay for freedom in specific political circumstances. A satirical engraving of Robespierre guillotining the executioner after having guillotined everyone else in France. Overthrow And Execution. 21 of his closest associates were also executed bringing an end to the Reign of Terror. A Depiction of the execution of Robespierre and his supporters on 28 July 1794. Assessment. He remains a controversial figure of the French Revolution with some viewing him as dictatorial and fanatical while others saying that his role in the Reign of Terror was exaggerated to make him a scapegoat. Whatever might be the case, Robespierre was the leading radical revolutionary during the French Revolution who played a prominent part during its course. Categories Interesting Facts. Tags Events, French Revolution, Leaders & Icons.