**Maximilien François Marie Isidore de Robespierre** (IPA: [[maksimiljɛ̃ fʁɑ̃swa maʁi izidɔʁ də ʁɔbɛspjɛʁ]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AIPA_for_French); 6 May 1758 – 28 July 1794) was a French lawyer, politician, and one of the best-known and most influential figures of the [French Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution). As a member of the[Estates-General](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estates-General_of_1789), of the [Constituent Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Constituent_Assembly) and of the [Jacobin Club](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobin_Club), he defended the[abolition of slavery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abolitionism#First_abolition_of_slavery_.281794.29) and of the death penalty, he supported equality of rights, [universal suffrage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_suffrage) and the establishment of a republic. He opposed war with Austria and the possibility of a coup by [La Fayette](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilbert_du_Motier%2C_marquis_de_Lafayette). As a member of the [Committee of Public Safety](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_Public_Safety), he was instrumental in the period of the Revolution commonly known as the [Reign of Terror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reign_of_Terror), which ended a few months after his arrest and execution in July 1794.

Robespierre was influenced by 18th-century [Enlightenment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) *[philosophes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophes%22%20%5Co%20%22Philosophes)* such as [Jean-Jacques Rousseau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Rousseau) and [Montesquieu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montesquieu), and he was a capable articulator of the beliefs of the[left-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left-wing_politics) [bourgeoisie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgeoisie). He was described as being physically unimposing yet immaculate in attire and personal manners. His supporters called him "The Incorruptible", while his adversaries called him *dictateur sanguinaire* (bloodthirsty dictator).