



# A Cartographic Reconstruction of the Matrix of Emotions in Revolutionary Paris, Summer 1792

A Study of the Emotional Rhythm of Violent, Non-Violent and Demonstrative Protest

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## Background and Historiography

Three years since the overthrow of the *Ancien Regime*, the French Revolution, inspired by the motif of '*liberté, égalité, fraternité*' had entered the 'height of agitation' (Alpaugh, 2014) in the summer of 1792. *Sans-culotte* popular involvement was at its peak, to be felled by the Terror in early 1793. One of the most innovative areas in studies of the French Revolution, emotional historical monographs have focused exclusively on the deputies themselves. This study looks to address this issue regarding how emotion was felt and exhibited by the popular masses of Paris. To do as such, this study has mapped 81 incidents of non-violent and violent demonstrations through 99 days (June 1 to September 6, 1792) to reconstruct the matrix of popular emotions within Paris. Maps can spatially deconstruct sources and allow greater nuance and understanding of how events were distributed and arose; a vital avenue of understanding for historians attempting to understand why popular political participation occurs and is sustained.

## Methodology

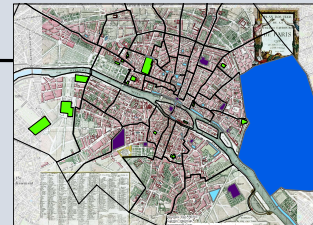
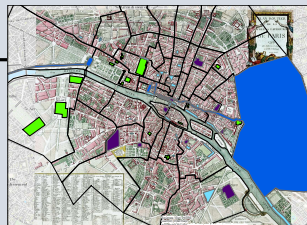
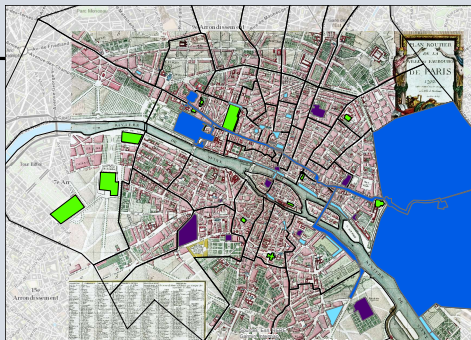
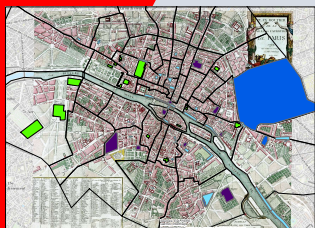
- Use of Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS Pro and ArcMap 10.7) to create a modern topographic map of Paris.
- Base map (Plan Routier de la Ville et Faubourg de Paris, 1792) geolocated through 8 control points (identifiable locations on contemporary map which can be plotted on modern topographic map).
- 81 incidents of non-violent (Blue) and violent (Red) demonstrations plotted through source mining both primary and secondary sources.
- Sections (Black Lines), Stationary Political Centres (Green), Prisons (Purple), Markets (Light Blue) plotted by primary and secondary sources.
- ArcMap 10.7 Layout View used to fix map in place, input Legend and Scale Bar for analysis.

## Arguments

- Demonstrations are events which affect and inspire emotions in both participant and audience; by mapping them spatio-temporally, historians can begin to reconstruct their emotional effect on the surrounding populations. I have applied this conclusion to Revolutionary Paris, summer 1792.
- Parisian popular protest arose in three asymmetric waves which peaked on June 20, August 10 and September 3, respectively.
- A crescendo effect occurred on the Parisian populace as the demonstrative process escalated in first non-violent (and sometimes violent) incidents, leading to a peak which would then be followed by a process of predominately non-violent de-escalation.
- Spatially the wave began in residential localities, reach pan-Parisian proportions, and then encroach into the central political space (defined by the confluence of the National Assembly, Tuileries Palace and Palais Royal), and then de-escalate back into localities.
- The wave model suggests the influence of different communities within Paris and the close-knit communication networks as more and more individuals became involved in the demonstrative process.
- In opposition to the historical theme of the Parisian *sans-culottes* being a violent mass, the Parisian populace looked to engage in dialogue and influence the Parisian political elites, through principally non-violent spatial negotiation. This dialogue, apart from the two weeks of June 22-July 7, featured continuous popular political participation during the period June 1 to September 6.

## First Wave (Late June)

From Left to Right : Mass meeting, Section Quatre-Vingts (19 June), *Journée* of June 20, faubourg Saint-Antoine demonstration halted at Louvre and Versailles demonstration (21 June), *Attopnements* in the faubourg Saint Antoine (22 June)

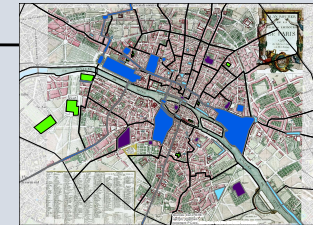
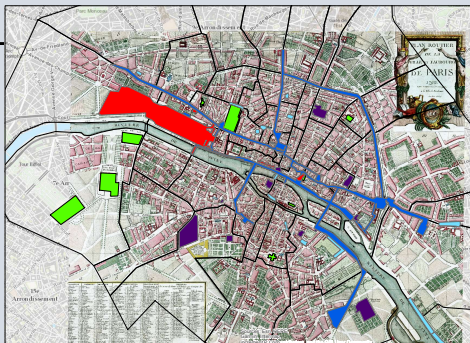
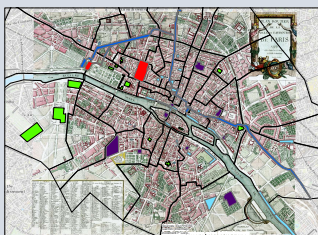
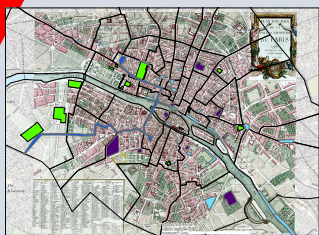


First Wave : Late June

- Arose predominately from the faubourg Saint-Antoine, where it left on June 20 and 21 in the direction of the central political space. On June 22 stayed contained within the faubourg Saint-Antoine.
- The political centre of the National Assembly and Tuileries Palace the objective of the *Journée*.
- Other communities participated : faubourg Saint-Marcel (June 20), Versailles popular groups (June 21).

## Second Wave (Late July to Mid August)

From Left to Right : Bretonais *Fédérés* Arrive and march to National Assembly (July 25) Marseillais *Fédérés* arrive and skirmish with National Guards on Champ de Mars (July 31), *Journée* of August 10, Funeral Corteges, *Attopnements* outside Rightist Newspapers, *Attopnements* outside Swiss Guards imprisoned in the Palais Bourbon, Section Arsenal march through National Assembly (August 12)

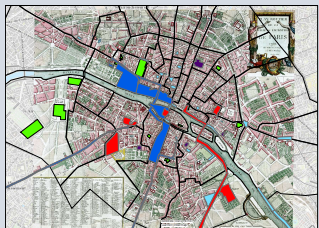
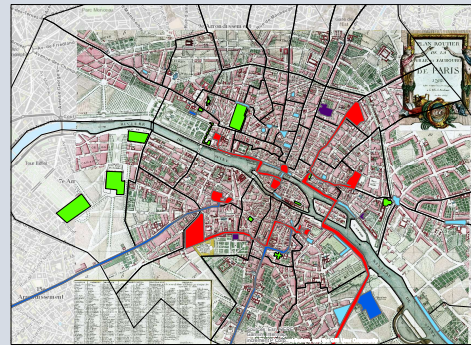
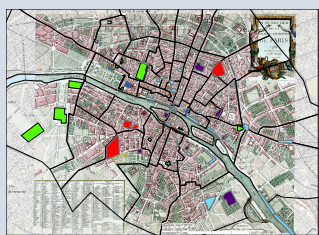


Second Wave : Late July to Mid August

- Lasted much longer, featured more sustained build up
- Arrival of the *fédérés* stimulated increasing tension and violence through inspiration of other groups, fraternal events and agitations
- Non-violent recourse (petitions, civic offerings, popular orators) led into some scattered violence (skirmishes, legislators assaulted)
- August 10 engulfed the entire city; violence concentrated around the Tuileries, but spread out into central Parisian streets
- Visible funeral corteges bring huge swathes of Parisian population into contact with the trauma of August 10

## Third Wave (Late August to Early September)

Clockwise from Top Left: violence begins at L'Abbaye and Carmes, crowds attempts to break into Le Temple (September 2), violence spreads to La Force, Conciergerie, Chatelet, funeral corteges begin (September 3), violence continues contained within La Force, L'Abbaye, Carmes, spreads to Salpêtrière Hospital, various sections petition the National Assembly (September 4)



Third Wave : Late August to September

- Prisons had been visited in month prior: Palais Bourbon (August 12) and Celestins (August 29)
- Non-violent expeditions : reactions against rightist press (September 1), popular patrols (August 29 and 30), Lafayette effigy burning (August 28)
- Massacres weren't as assumed – petitions to National Assembly continued throughout
- Grew in scope from September 2 to 3, processions from prisons made violence visible in streets, on September 4 moved east to La Force-Salpêtrière-Bicêtre locus.

## Limitations

- Problems of Source Material : Often, especially regarding the smaller events, the accounts only give a start and end destination, which leads to a certain amount of conjecture about the route of the demonstration.
- Impression of Objectivity : The monochromatic symbology gives impression of even spread of emotional effect. The double implication is that where nothing is plotted, nothing is happening, which was not necessarily the case; nor did effect stop immediately at the edges of the *attopnement*. For example, the audio-visual effect of a crowd could disseminate further than its physical edges.
- Issue of definition : The definition of 'non-violent' doesn't extrapolate the nuance of differences in intent and consequences. It homogenises truly passive crowds with those using aggressive language or iconoclasm.
- Removes nuance of crowd compositions : the methodology gives the impression that the crowd were united in a common goal. Whilst not necessarily the case, the spatial movement of all individuals within the *attopnement* was similar, and hence arose some form of goal convergence.
- The larger the area does not necessarily pertain to the larger the *attopnement*. It can also imply a lack of source specificity