**Jean Baptiste Treilhard**

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Jean-Baptiste Treilhard

**Jean-Baptiste Treilhard** (3 January 1742 – 1 December 1810) was an important [French](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) statesman of the [revolutionary period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution). He passed through the troubled times of the [Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_French_Republic) and [Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_French_Empire) with great political savvy, playing a decisive role at important times.

Without achieving the notoriety of some of his more famous revolutionary colleagues, he held a number of key positions - President of the [National Constituent Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Constituent_Assembly) (20 July - 1 August 1790), President of the [National Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Convention) (27 December 1792 - 10 January 1793, coinciding with [the trial of Louis XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_of_Louis_XVI), three-time member of the [Committee of Public Safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_Public_Safety) (7 April 1793 - 12 June 1793; 31 July 1794 - 5 November 1794; 4 May 1795 - 2 August 1795), chairman of the [Council of Five Hundred](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Five_Hundred), member of the [French Directory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Directory).

Eugene Marbeau describes Jean-Baptiste Treilhard as "a man honest and right, who is content to do his duty in the situation... but who does not seek... to dominate events". He is buried at the [Panthéon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panth%C3%A9on).

**Biography**

Born in [Brive-la-Gaillarde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brive-la-Gaillarde), [Corrèze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corr%C3%A8ze),[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1) to a father who was the [Présidial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pr%C3%A9sidial) and [maire perpétuel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mayor) of Brive.

Jean Baptiste was a student at the *collège des doctrinaires* at Brive, Jean-Baptiste received an education balancing the requirements of science and of faith.

After studies in law, Jean-Baptiste Treilhard settled in [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) and became, in 1761, a lawyer at the [Parlement of Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parlement_of_Paris). He is a protégé of [Turgot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne-Robert-Jacques_Turgot%2C_Baron_de_Laune), future [Controller of Finance](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Controller_of_Finance&action=edit&redlink=1) (24 August 1774 - 12 May 1776) to [Louis XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XVI). Treilhard was retained to care for judicial affairs of the family [Condé](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_of_Cond%C3%A9).

 **French Revolution**

Treilhard was elected deputy by the [Third Estate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estates_General_%28France%29) of [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris) to the [Estates-General of 1789](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Estates-General_of_1789), then to the [National Constituent Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Constituent_Assembly). His most important early role was in the Comité ecclésiastique (Ecclesiastical Committee) where he took the lead in promoting the [Civil Constitution of the Clergy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Constitution_of_the_Clergy), a major reorganization of the [Roman Catholic Church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) (including the suppression of its monasteries and the [nationalization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalization) of its property). He served one term as President of the [National Constituent Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Constituent_Assembly) (20 July - 1 August 1790).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1)

Ineligible, like all the members of the Constituent Assembly, for the [Legislative Assembly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legislative_Assembly_%28France%29), he became president of the criminal tribunal of Paris, but was judged as lacking of firmness.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1)

Elected to the [National Convention](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Convention) by the department of [Seine-et-Oise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seine-et-Oise), Treilhard was President (27 December 1792 - 10 January 1794) of the National Convention, and in this capacity served as first magistrate during a part of [the trial of Louis XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_of_Louis_XVI), in which he voted for death without reprieve.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1)

He was an inaugural member of the [Committee of Public Safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Committee_of_Public_Safety) (7 April 1793 - 12 June 1793), but was excluded by the [Montagnard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mountain). He is imprisoned, but will survive the [Reign of terror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reign_of_terror). The July 31, 1794, after 9 Thermidor Year II (27 July 1794), he returned to the Committee until November 5, 1794. He would serve again from 4 May to 2 August 1795.

Treilhard served on three [missions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representant_en_mission):

* 17 June - 7 August 1793: to [Gironde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gironde) and [Lot-et-Garonne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lot-et-Garonne), with fellow deputy Mathieu.
* 22 September - 25 November 1793: to Marly ([Seine-et-Oise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seine-et-Oise), today Yvelines), with Auguis and Enlart
* 30 December 1794 - 4 April 1795: to [Bec-d'Ambes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gironde) ([Gironde](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gironde)) and again the [Lot-et-Garonne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lot-et-Garonne)

**Directory**

Chairman of the [Council of Five Hundred](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Five_Hundred) in the month of [Nivôse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niv%C3%B4se), [Year IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republican_calendar) (22 December 1795 - 23 January 1796). In his speech from 1 Pluviose year IV (21 January 1796), he delivered a speech on the third anniversary of the execution of Louis XVI, in which he execrated [monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy).

In 1796, he arranged the exchange of the daughter of [Louis XVI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_XVI), [Marie Thérèse of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marie_Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se_of_France), future [Duchess of Angoulême](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_Marie-Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se-Charlotte), who was a prisoner of the [Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_French_Republic) since autumn 1792, for the commissioners to armies betrayed by the general [Dumoriez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dumoriez) and turned over to the Austrians in spring 1793.

After refusing an appointment as [ambassador](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambassador) to [Naples](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Naples) in 1796, he served as a judge of the [Court of Cassation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_of_Cassation_%28France%29) (6 September - 23 October 1797), before the [Directory of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directory_of_France) appointed him [minister plenipotentiary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minister_plenipotentiary) at the [Congress of Rastadt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Congress_of_Rastatt) in December 1797).

Treilhard became one of five Directors, the chief executive body of France, 15 May 1798 (26 Floréal year VI)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1) in replacement of [François de Neufchâteau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_de_Neufch%C3%A2teau). He chaired the Directory 24 August - 27 November 1798.

On 17 June 1799, his election as a member of the Executive Board is invalidated by a resolution of the [Council of Ancients](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Ancients), on the grounds of ineligibility due to an irregularity in the election. He is succeeded by [Louis-Jérôme Gohier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis-J%C3%A9r%C3%B4me_Gohier).

**Consulate and Empire**



Buste de Jean-Baptiste Treilhard -- Salle du serment du jeu de paume -- Versailles

After the coup of [18 Brumaire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18_Brumaire) (10 November 1799), during the Consulate, he was appointed the April 4, 1800 vice-president of the court of appeal of the department of the [Seine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seine_%28department%29), and became its president on 1 January 1802. He chaired the legislative section of the [Council of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_State_%28France%29#History), in 1802, and participated in the drafting of the French [Civil Code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleonic_Code), the Criminal Code and the Code of commerce in close collaboration with [Tronchet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Denis_Tronchet) and [Portalis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-%C3%89tienne-Marie_Portalis). He also served as a [senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_France).

He collected such honours as being named Grand Officer of the [Legion of Honor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legion_of_Honor) 14 June 1804, and [comte de l'Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comte_de_l%27Empire) 24 April 1808.

On 30 March 1809 he is named to the [Council of State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_State_%28France%29), a position he held until his death.

As officer of the Empire, he is buried at the [Panthéon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panth%C3%A9on) the 5 December 1810.

Under the [Directory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Directory), he entered the [Council of Five Hundred](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Five_Hundred), of which he was president during the month of [Nivôse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niv%C3%B4se), [Year IV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republican_calendar),[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Baptiste_Treilhard#cite_note-FOOTNOTEChisholm1911-1) and was a member of the [Court of Cassation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_of_Cassation_%28France%29), as well [plenipotentiary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plenipotentiary) at the [Second Congress of Rastatt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Congress_of_Rastatt) (December 1797). Treilhard became a director in the year VI.