



Calendar Changes in German, Dutch, and French Research

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The Julian and Gregorian calendars

The Julian calendar had been in use for centuries. Introduced in 46 BC by Julius Caesar. A leap day added to February every fourth year= 365.25 days. That is too long. The year is 365.2425 days. The year, especially Easter, which is tied to the vernal equinox, was getting 'off.'

In 1582, the calendar was off by 10 days. Pope Gregory XIII commissioned a reform to correct the aberration. Catholic countries, including France and parts of the Low Countries and Germany, adopted the Gregorian calendar right away, usually 1582 or 1583. Non-Catholic areas were slow to follow.

Calendar switch from Julian to Gregorian

For more detailed information on the Julian and Gregorian calendars and when various jurisdictions switched to the latter, see these websites:

<http://www.polysyllabic.com/?q=book/export/html/25> Good explanation and gives conversion dates for various regions

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/gregorian.html> Good explanation and gives conversion dates for various regions

<http://europeanhistory.about.com/od/religionandthought/a/introgregcalend.htm> Some explanation with a few conversion years for various regions

http://www.sizes.com/time/cal_Gregadoption.htm conversion dates for various regions. Organised by century rather than alphabetically.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregorian_calendar Very good explanation of the Gregorian calendar with adoptions for various regions

http://www.ortelius.de/kalender/greg_en.php Good explanation and gives conversion dates for various regions

Julian to Gregorian converters

<http://www.calendarhome.com/> Click on "Calculate," then "Convert a date." Converts both ways and has numerous other calendars, including Julian. It also gives the day of the week. Great converter. No scrolling.

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar/> Converts both ways and has numerous other calendars, including Julian. It also gives the day of the week and has an explanation of each calendar. Great converter.

Day of Week finders (The two sites above will also give the day of the week)

http://www.calculatorcat.com/free_calculators/day_of_week.phtml put in a date (Gregorian only) and day of week will come up. Nothing more.

<http://www.csgnetwork.com/dayoftheweekcalc.html>

Feast Day converters

According to the liturgical calendar, each Sunday had a feast day associated with it. Often, priests indicated a date by only its feast day name. Therefore, one must be able to recognize and know how to convert the feast days to Gregorian dates.

Moveable Feast Day Calendar for Denmark and other Protestant areas:

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Moveable_Feast_Day_Calendar_for:_Denmark This works for any Protestant area that was using the either the Julian or Gregorian calendar at the same time Denmark was.

Bukke, Inger M., Peer K. Kristensen, Finn A. Thomsen. *The Comprehensive Genealogical Feast Day Calendar*. Bountiful, Utah: Thomsen's Genealogical Center, c1983. This can be found online on the FamilySearch catalog. See: <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search> and search by either author or book title. If you want to see the online version and have searched by author's name (Inger Bukke), you must choose the listing:

The Comprehensive genealogical feast day calendar

Author: Kristensen, Peer K.; Thomsen, Finn A.; Bukke, Inger M.

French Republican Calendar

One of the goals of the French republicans was to eradicate society from all vestiges of religion and irrationality. A new era of rational thinking and enlightenment was to be ushered in. This led to the introduction of the metric system, which, at the time, included a new time-keeping method which is known as the French Republican Calendar.

<http://www.napoleon.org/> Click on "History of the Two Empires," then on "The Republican Calendar." Converts both ways but only in time period that FRC was in use. My favorite.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Republican_Calendar General information, no conversion table, but links to some.

<http://windhorst.org/calendar/> Will give today's date and convert from Gregorian to FRC. Does not convert from FRC to Gregorian.

<http://www.fourmilab.ch/documents/calendar/> Converts both ways and has numerous other calendars, including Julian. It also gives the day of the week. Great converter. But does give days in terms of decades instead of straight dates.

http://www.heinrichbernd.de/calendar/index_html?mode=f#.UsXol8scy71 In German, but fine to use. *Umrechnen* means 'convert.'

<http://www.francegenweb.org/~actes/convdate.php> In French, but easy to use.

<http://www.calendarhome.com/calculate/convert-a-date/> Converts both ways and has numerous other calendars, including Julian. It also gives the day of the week. Great converter. No scrolling. But it gives days in terms of decades instead of straight dates.

<http://www.genver.nl/service/fsfrans.htm> In Dutch, but easy to use. Long list of each day of FRC to Gregorian conversion.

http://www.ortelius.de/kalender/form_de2.php In German, but fine to use. *Umrechnen* means 'convert.'

<http://www.projectpluto.com/calendar.htm#republican> This does not have a converter, but has a very good explanation of several aspects of the FRC.

<http://stevemorse.org/jcal/french.html> Gives conversions both ways, including day of 'week.' Covers post FRC use.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/French_Republican_Calendar Not an easy site to use, but has good information.

Some Practice problems:

Feast Days

	Julian	Gregorian
Example: Trinitatis 1617	15 June	21 May
Sexagesima 1616		
Pascha (Easter) 1618		
6 p. " (" 7) 1620 (6 weeks after Trinitatis)		

French Republican Calendar

FRC	Gregorian
Example: 15 Ventose V	5 March 1797
14 Vendemiaire VI	
2 Pluviose IX	
29 Nivose XI	
15 Thermidor XI	
3 jour complémentaire XII (3 rd Complementary Day XII)	

Answer Keys:

Feast Days

	Julian	Gregorian
Sexagesima 1616	4 Feb.	7 Feb.
Pascha (Easter) 1618	5 April	15 April
6 p. " (" 7) 1620 (6 weeks after Trinity)	23 July	26 July

French Republican Calendar

FRC	Gregorian
Example: 15 Ventose V	5 March 1797
14 Vendemiaire VI	5 October 1797
2 Pluviose IX	22 January 1801
29 Nivose XI	19 January 1803
15 Thermidor XI	3 August 1803
3 jour complémentaire XII (3 rd Complementary Day XII)	20 September 1804