



France, Vichy — Va-PoReg Country Report

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[The Vichy-regime refers to the independent French State (État Française, zone libre), the southern part of France that was not occupied by Nazi-Germany during World War II.]

06/22/1940 Start Right-Wing (Corporatist) Autocracy [semi-sovereign, external affairs under Germany, Right-Wing (Fascist) Autocracy]: On this date, the armistice agreement between Germany and France was signed, dividing the former territory of France into two zones, a German-occupied zone in the north (zone occupée) and a nominally independent zone in the south (zone libre). We code this regime change event as a foreign intervention to acknowledge the presence and political influence exercised by Nazi Germany. However, the Vichy-Regime is a collaborationist regime and not an occupational regime. Pétain agreed on the armistice with Nazi Germany and set up a government in Vichy, leaving Paris and the northern regions of France to German occupation. The French colonies outside of Europe remained under French, meaning Vichy's, authority.¹ Pétain followed an authoritarian, conservative-fundamentalist polity (Vagge 2024: 72). The anti-Semitic laws he adopted were by no means forced upon him and his regime orchestrated the deportation of roughly 76.000 Jewish people into German death camps voluntarily (Prinz 2008: 265). Though his ideology was not exactly fascist, it did resemble the fascist ideology in that it was anti-modern, authoritarian, Anglophobe and anti-communist (Prinz 2008: 265). Another narrative that Pétain shared with fascist ideologies was his denunciation of decadence and moral degeneration in the French Third Republic.² Vichy France as a collaboration regime was a borderline case between occupation and a protectorate status.

11/11/1942 End Right-Wing (Corporatist) Autocracy/Start Indirect Rule Occupation Regime [by Germany, Right-Wing (Fascist) Autocracy]: Three days earlier, on 11/08/1942, Allied navy troops had landed in North Africa and pushed back the German Africa Corps. This Allied advance posed a threat to Nazi-Germany, because Europe was now vulnerable along the Mediterranean coastline. On 11/11/1942, German troops started Case Anton, marching south and hence occupying all of France. Italian troops invaded the south-east of France, assisting the German occupation.³

08/25/1944 End France, Vichy [Indirect Rule Occupation Regime of Germany, Right-Wing (Fascist) Autocracy]: With the liberation of Paris, effectively, the Vichy-regime came to an end and was replaced by Charles de Gaulles' Provisional Government of the French Republic (Gouvernement provisoire de la République française, GPRF).

For the time after 08/25/1944, see France.

Notes

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_military_administration_in_occupied_France_during_World_War_II

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_military_administration_in_occupied_France_during_World_War_II

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_military_administration_in_occupied_France_during_World_War_II

References

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