

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1988-89

THE OLD REGIME AND THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
History 378 Ms. Desan
5124 Humanities

Reading:

Alfred Cobban, A History of Modern France, 1715-1799, vol I.
David Jordan, The King's Trial.
Georges Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution.
Moliere, Middle-Class Gentleman.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract & The Discourse on the
Origins of Inequality.

The above books have been ordered and should be available at the University Bookstore and at Brown's. They are marked with an asterisk (*) in the assignments below.

** A READER of xeroxed articles and documents is available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue. The reader is required. Readings from the reader are marked "R#."

All students will take an in-class exam on Thursday, March 2 and a final exam. All students will also write a paper: 5-6 pages for 3-credit students and 10-12 pages for 4-credit students.

There will also be one or two movies shown for this course ("The Flight to Varennes" and/or "Danton.")

WEEK 1 (January 24-26): INTRODUCTION: THE DIVERSITY OF FRANCE
Reading: Richard Dunn, Age of Religious Wars, 1589-1689, 128-139 & 153-164 (R1).
Bossuet, passage from Politics drawn from the Very Word of Holy Scripture, (R2).
Saint Simon, from his Mémoires, (R3).

WEEK 2 (January 31-February 2): LOUIS XIV & VERSAILLES
Reading: * Molière, The Middle-Class Gentleman.

WEEK 3 (February 7-9): SOCIAL STRUCTURES: BOURGEOIS & PEASANT
Reading: Robert Darnton, "A Bourgeois Views his World," from The Great Cat Massacre, intro and pp. 107-43 (R4).
Isser Woloch, The Peasantry in the Old Regime, pp. 24-41 & 82-87 (R5).
Olwen Hufton, "Women and the Family Economy in the Eighteenth Century," (R6).

WEEK 4 (February 14-16): RURAL AND URBAN CULTURE

Reading: Jeffry Kaplow, The Names of Kings: The Parisian Laboring Poor in the Eighteenth Century, pp. 27-66 & 93-126 (R7).

Christopher Isherwood, "Entertainment in Parisian Festivals," from R. Golden, ed. Social History of Western Civilization, vol. 2, pp. 56-72 (R8).

WEEK 5 (February 21-23): POLITICS, ECONOMY, & DIPLOMACY TO MID-CENTURY

Reading: * Alfred Cobban, History of Modern France, pp. 9-81.
C. L. R. James, The Black Jacobins, pp. 3-61 (R9).

WEEK 6 (February 28-March 2): REVIEW AND EXAM

** EXAM ON Thursday, March 2

No Reading

WEEK 7 (March 7-9): THE ENLIGHTENMENT

Reading: * Cobban, History of France, pp. 82-90.

Isser Woloch, Eighteenth-Century Europe, pp. 231-264 (R10).

Montesquieu & Diderot, from Gay, Enlightenment: Anthology, pp. 122-143 & 287-291 (R11).

WEEK 8 (March 14-16): ENLIGHTENMENT II: ROUSSEAU & SCIENCE

Reading: * Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Selections from The Discourse on the Origins of Inequality, pp. 153-58, 167-78, & 210-48; The Social Contract, pp. 5-58 & 136-47.

WEEK 9 (March 28-30): EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY POLITICS

Reading: * Cobban, History of France, 90-122.

** PAPER DUE on Monday, April 3.

WEEK 10 (April 4-6): THE CAUSES AND COMING OF REVOLUTION

Reading: * Cobban, History of France, pp. 123-162.

* Georges Lefebvre, The Coming of the French Revolution, Chapters 1-5.

Documents: Abbe Sieyes, "What is the Third Estate?"; Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen (R12).

WEEK 11 (April 11-13): 1789 & INTERPRETATIONS OF REVOLUTION

Reading: * Lefebvre, Coming of the Revolution, Chapters 6-7, 10, 13-15, & Conclusion.

* Cobban, History of France, pp. 162-218.

Documents from Philip Dawson, The French Revolution, pp. 91-108 (R13).

WEEK 12 (April 18-20): RADICALIZATION OF THE REVOLUTION

Reading: * David Jordan, The King's Trial, pp. 1-116.

Documents: Robespierre's Speech (R14).

WEEK 13 (April 25-27): THE CULTURE OF REVOLUTION

Reading: * Jordan, King's Trial, pp. 129-160 & 178-237.

Darlene Gay Levy & Harriet Branson Applewhite, "Women and Political Revolution in Paris," in Becoming Visible: Women in European History, eds, Renate Bridenthal, Claudia Koonz, & Susan Stuard, pp. 279-06 (R15).

WEEK 14 (May 2-4): THE DIRECTORY

Reading: * Cobban, History of France, 218-266.

WEEK 15 (May 9-11): NAPOLEON

Reading: Gordon Wright, "Napoleon" (R16).