

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Four week Session  
June 17-July 14 1991

History 349

Contemporary France: 1880 to the Present

Mr. Gargan

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The social, political and intellectual history of France is followed from the firm establishment of the Third Republic to the present. An effort is made to relate the structural features of French society to the long-range secular trends that have shaped the nation's history. Critical moments such as World War I, the Congress of Tours, the Popular Front, the creation of the Fourth and Fifth Republics, the events of 1968, the Socialist victory of May-June 1981, and the years of the Socialist government 1981-1986 are analyzed at some length. Similarly, attention is given to the legislative victory of the Right in March 1986 and to the legislative and presidential elections of 1988. In 1989 the bicentennial of the French Revolution invited new consideration of the revolutionary heritage, its heirs and the disinherited in French society in the two hundred years since 1789. This reflection and France's plans to participate in the further unification of Europe in 1992 will command our attention.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSION

Five lectures each week. A part of each 2 hour class time will be devoted to a discussion of the assigned fiction.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

A brief essay commenting on the book we read each week is required. Active participation in the discussion of the readings is indispensable for survival.

GRADING SYSTEM

Contribution to the weekly discussion 75%; Final examination essay 25%.

REQUIRED READINGS: All paperbound books

Wright, Gordon. France in Modern Times (4th or 3rd edit., 1981), W.W. Norton.  
Celine, Louis-Ferdinand. Journey to the End of the Night. NDP84 New Directions  
Berger, John, Pig Earth. Pantheon.  
Sartre, Jean-Paul. The Wall, NDP 272. New Directions

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1987-88

HISTORY 349  
Contemporary France

FINAL EXAMINATION

E. T. Gargan  
May 4, 1987

Please answer two (2) questions. Please return your examination to my office (4227 Humanities) on Wednesday May 11, between 2:45 and 4:45. If you would feel more comfortable answering three (3) questions, please do so.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: On May 11, please return, with your final examination, the papers you wrote this term on the readings. Please put your papers in a folder.

1. The changes in France's demographic history since 1945 have been described as "revolutionary" when compared to the period 1880 to 1940. How do you understand these changes?
2. The changes in France's regional history since 1945 have been characterized as "revolutionary" when compared to the nation's regional experience in the years 1880 to 1940. What were these changes and what is the historical significance of this new situation?
3. Why may the changes in France's rural and agricultural history since 1945 be considered "revolutionary"?
4. What is your understanding of the social distances between the classes in France of the 1980s compared to their respective situations in the years 1880 to 1940?
5. How do you understand the shared experiences of the French today with regard to the family, attitudes toward death, religion, superstitions, fears, and dreams?
6. What is the historical significance of Surrealism in the cultural history of France?
7. When do events matter as distinct from longue durée historical trends? Illustrate their significance by discussing one of the following "events": February 6, 1934, Vichy France, May 1968.
8. Compare the documentary and interpretative historical importance of two of the novels we read this term. Sartre's The Childhood of a Leader is to be considered as a novel.
9. Discuss the merit and limits of the following judgment about The Second Sex: "In the 1970's it was used as a starting point in the women's movement and in conscious-raising groups. It is read differently in the 1980s. Today, for a younger generation, it is criticised as pessimistic and without any clear direction for liberation." Judith Okely, Simone de Beavoir, p. 51.

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LECTURES AND DISCUSSION

Two lectures and one discussion each week. The discussion sections are essentially devoted to the assigned paperbacks appropriate for each week.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Great emphasis is placed on the student's participation in the weekly discussion: each student will lead at least one such discussion. The final essay examination is a take home distributed during the last week of class and due on the assigned date of the examination. A brief essay commenting on the book read each week is required.

GRADING SYSTEM

Contribution to the weekly discussion 50%; Final examination essay 50%.

REQUIRED READINGS: All paperbound books

Wright, Gordon. France in Modern Times (4th or 3rd edit., 1981), W.W. Norton.  
Nizan, Paul. Antoine Bloyé, PB 3098 Monthly Review.  
Celine, Louis-Ferdinand. Journey to the End of the Night. NDP84 New Directions  
Malraux, Andre. Man's Fate, V-479-Vin Random.  
Sartre, J.P. The Wall, NDP 272  
Bloch, M. Strange Defeat, Norton.  
Camus, Albert. The Rebel, Vin 30.  
Wylie, Laurence. Village in the Vaucluse, Harvard 371.  
DeBeauvoir, Simone. Second Sex, Vintage.

SOME STATISTICS ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND STRUCTURE  
OF FRENCH SOCIETY 1775-1968

Distribution of the Population  
According to Age Groups

| Ages  | 1775   | 1851   | 1901   | 1946   | 1968   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 0-19  | 42.8   | 38.5   | 34.3   | 29.5   | 33.8   |
| 20-59 | 49.9   | 51.3   | 52.7   | 54.5   | 48.3   |
| 60+   | 7.3    | 10.2   | 13.0   | 16.0   | 17.9   |
|       | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

Population 1791-1968

| Year | Population<br>(in thousands) | Annual<br>Increase<br>per 100 |
|------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1791 | 27,190                       | 0.005                         |
| 1801 | 27,350                       | 0.56                          |
| 1821 | 30,462                       | 0.69                          |
| 1831 | 32,589                       | 0.59                          |
| 1836 | 33,541                       | 0.41                          |
| 1841 | 34,230                       | 0.68                          |
| 1846 | 35,400                       | 0.21                          |
| 1851 | 35,783                       | 0.14                          |
| 1856 | 36,039                       | 0.74                          |
| 1861 | 37,386                       | 0.36                          |
| 1866 | 38,067                       |                               |
| 1872 | 36,103                       | 0.55                          |
| 1876 | 36,906                       | 0.41                          |
| 1881 | 37,672                       | 0.29                          |
| 1886 | 38,219                       | 0.06                          |
| 1891 | 38,343                       | 0.09                          |
| 1896 | 38,518                       | 0.23                          |
| 1901 | 38,962                       | 0.15                          |
| 1906 | 39,252                       | 0.18                          |
| 1911 | 39,605                       |                               |
| 1921 | 39,210                       |                               |
| 1926 | 40,744                       | 0.78                          |
| 1931 | 41,835                       | 0.53                          |
| 1936 | 41,907                       | 0.03                          |
| 1946 | 40,503                       |                               |
| 1954 | 42,777                       | 0.70                          |
| 1962 | 47,558                       | 0.80                          |
| 1968 | 50,105                       | 0.70                          |

Percentage of Urban Population

| Year | % of Urban<br>Population in<br>Communes of<br>2,000 and more | % of Population<br>in Towns of<br>5,000 and more |
|------|--|--|
| 1836 |  | 16.8   |
| 1846 | 24.4   |  |
| 1851 | 25.5   | 17.9   |
| 1856 | 27.3   |  |
| 1861 | 28.9   |  |
| 1866 | 30.5   | 24.4   |
| 1872 | 31.1   |  |
| 1881 | 34.8   |  |
| 1891 | 37.4   |  |
| 1901 | 40.9   | 35.6   |
| 1911 | 44.2   | 38.4   |
| 1921 | 46.4   | 41.1   |
| 1936 | 52.4   | 46.8   |
| 1954 | 56.0   | 50.2   |
| 1962 | 61.7   | 55.2   |
| 1968 | 70.5   | 59.0   |

Source: Georges Dupeux, La Société française 1789-1970  
(Paris, 1972) pp. 46, 16, 19.

## % of Active Population in the Three Sectors of the Economy

| Years            | 1851 | 1881 | 1901 | 1921 | 1936 | 1954 | 1962 | 1968 | 1968 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Primary Sector   | 53   | 48   | 42   | 43   | 37   | 30   | 22   | 16   |      |
| Secondary Sector | 25   | 27   | 31   | 29   | 30   | 34   | 37   | 40   |      |
| Tertiary Sector  | 22   | 25   | 27   | 28   | 33   | 36   | 41   | 44   |      |

Source - IBID., p. 30

## Distribution of Active Population at the Age of Leaving School

| Age when ending studies | 1901 | 1906 | 1911 | 1921 | 1926 | 1931 | 1936 | 1946 | 1954 | 1962 | 1968 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Illiterates             | 12   | 10   | 8    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    |
| 7-9                     | 14   | 12   | 10   | 7    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | -    | -    |
| 10-12                   | 17   | 15   | 14   | 11   | 10   | 8    | 6    | 4    | 2    | 1    | 1    |
| 13-14                   | 40   | 44   | 48   | 54   | 58   | 61   | 64   | 65   | 63   | 61   | 57   |
| 15-18                   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 20   | 23   | 27   | 30   |
| 19-21                   | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 7    |
| 22+                     | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
| TOTAL                   | 100  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

N.B. The Years 1901-1946 refer to masculine active population

1954, 1962, 1968 refers to total active population

Source: Revue Population, Mai-Juin 1968

### 3 of Active Population in the Three Sectors of the Economy

| Years            | 1851 | 1881 | 1901 | 1921 | 1936 | 1954 | 1962 | 1968 | 1968 |
|------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Primary Sector   | 53   | 48   | 42   | 43   | 37   | 30   | 22   | 16   |      |
| Secondary Sector | 25   | 27   | 31   | 29   | 30   | 34   | 37   | 40   |      |
| Tertiary Sector  | 22   | 25   | 27   | 28   | 33   | 36   | 41   | 44   |      |

Source - IBID., p. 30

### Distribution of Active Population at the Age of Leaving School

| Age when ending studies | 1901 | 1906 | 1911 | 1921 | 1926 | 1931 | 1936 | 1946 | 1954 | 1962 | 1968 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Illiterates             | 12   | 10   | 8    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 2    |
| 7-9                     | 14   | 12   | 10   | 7    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | -    | -    |
| 10-12                   | 17   | 15   | 14   | 11   | 10   | 8    | 6    | 4    | 2    | 1    | 1    |
| 13-14                   | 40   | 44   | 48   | 54   | 58   | 61   | 64   | 65   | 63   | 61   | 57   |
| 15-18                   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 20   | 23   | 27   | 30   |
| 19-21                   | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 7    |
| 22+                     | 1    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 4    |
| TOTAL                   | 100  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |

N.3. The Years 1901-1946 refer to masculine active population

1954, 1962, 1968 refers to total active population

Source: Revue Population, Mai-Juin 1968

# DEMOGRAPHIC EVOLUTION of FRANCE

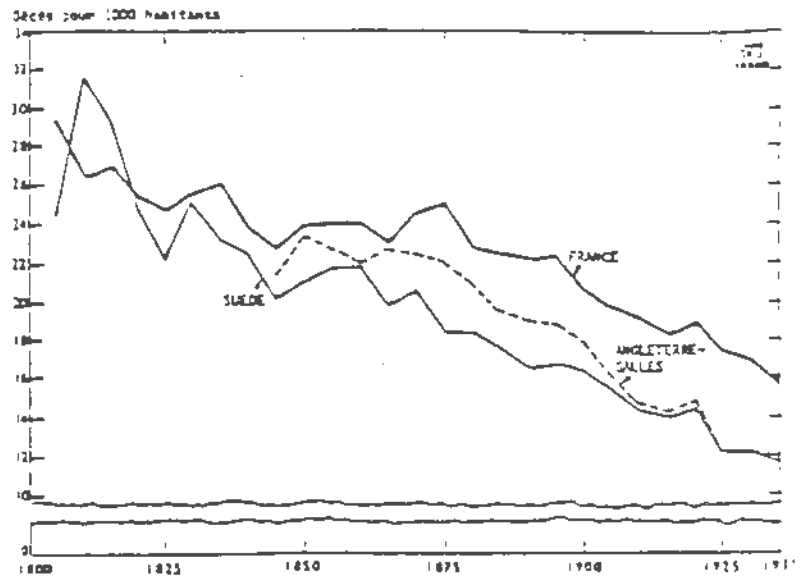
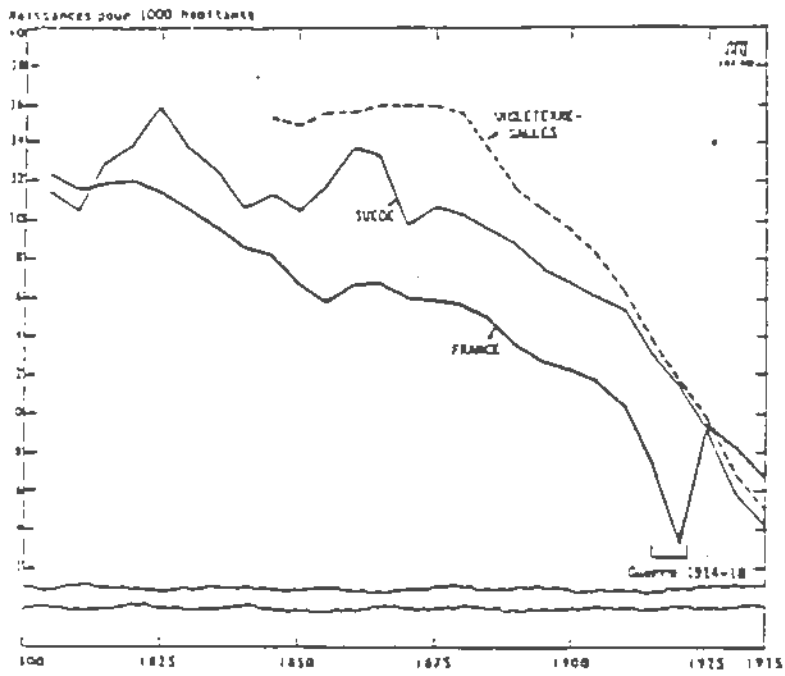


Figure 1. - Evolution du taux de natalité

Figure 2. - Evolution du taux de mortalité

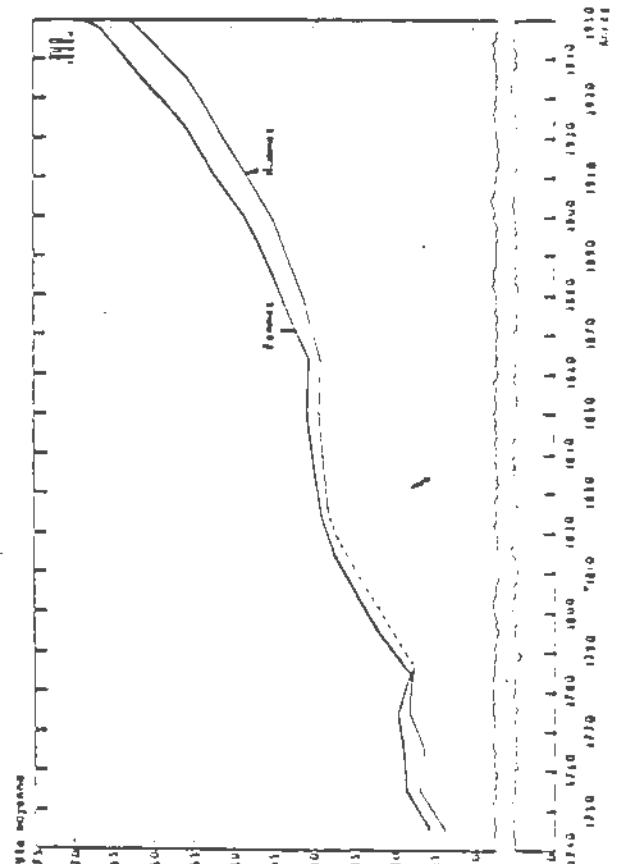
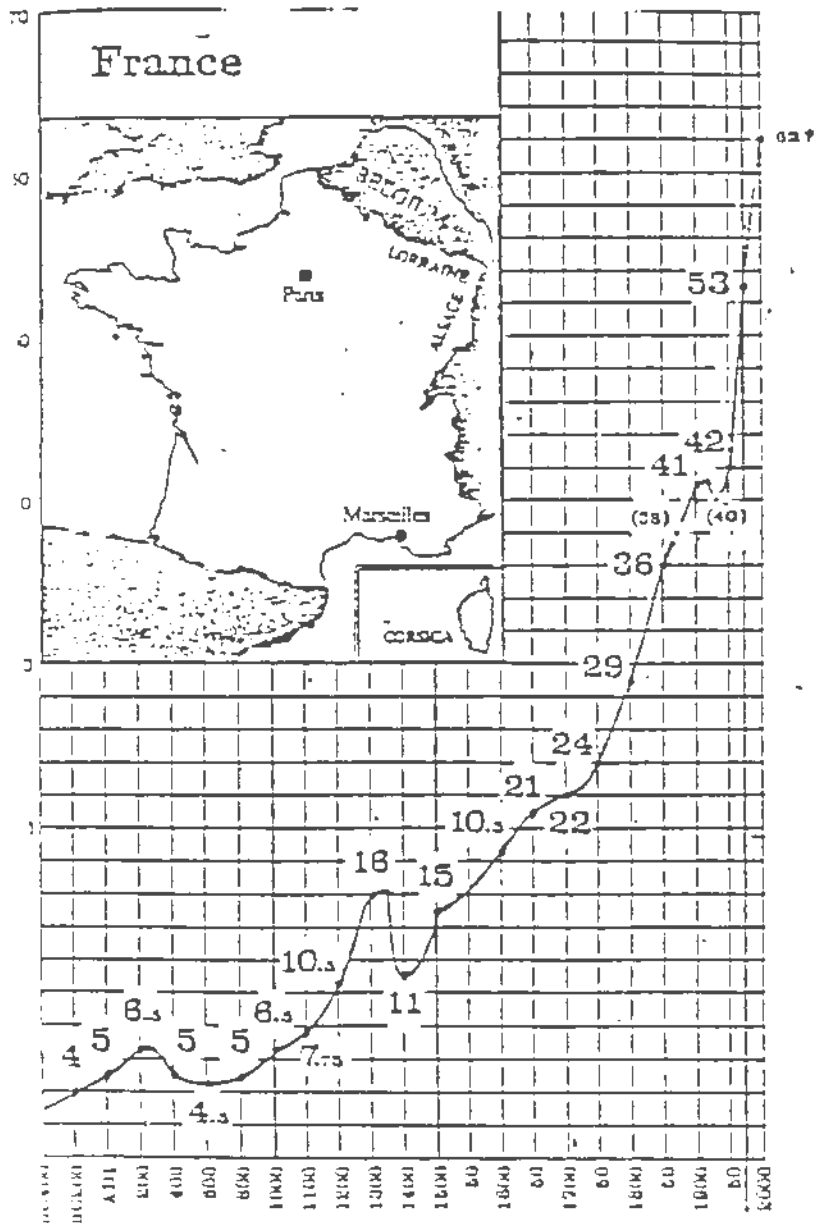
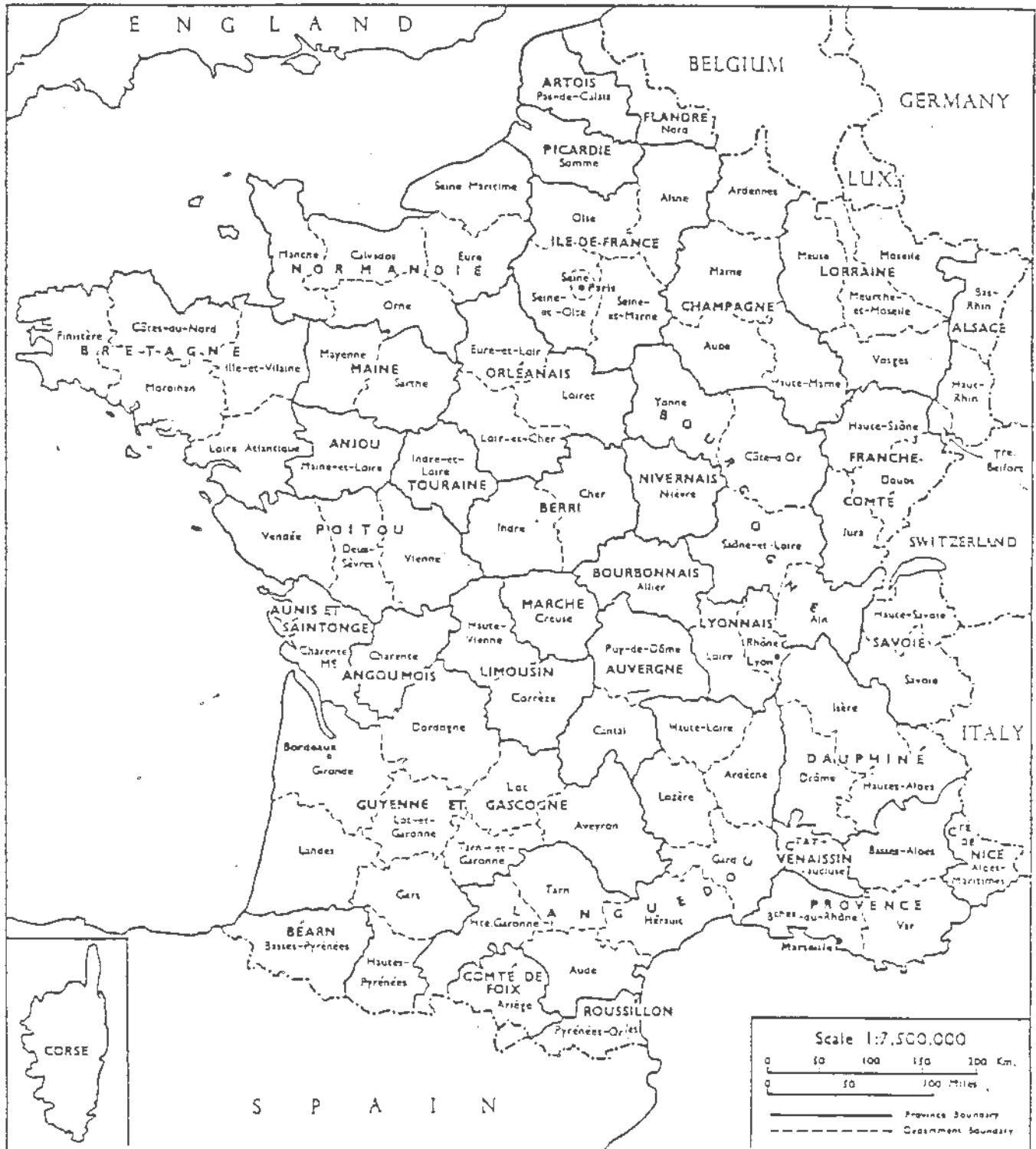


Figure 4. - Evolution de l'espérance de vie à la naissance (ou vie moyenne) en France

# MAP I

## FRANCE: DEPARTMENTS and FORMER PROVINCES

(see *Départements*, p. 194; *Provinces, Les Anciennes*, p. 579)



1 COMTAT-VENAISSIN, see *Vaucluse*, p. 733.

2 SAVOIE AND COMTE DE NICE. The Duché de Savoie (out of which the *départements* of Savoie and Haute Savoie were formed) and the Comté de Nice were not finally ceded to France until 1860.

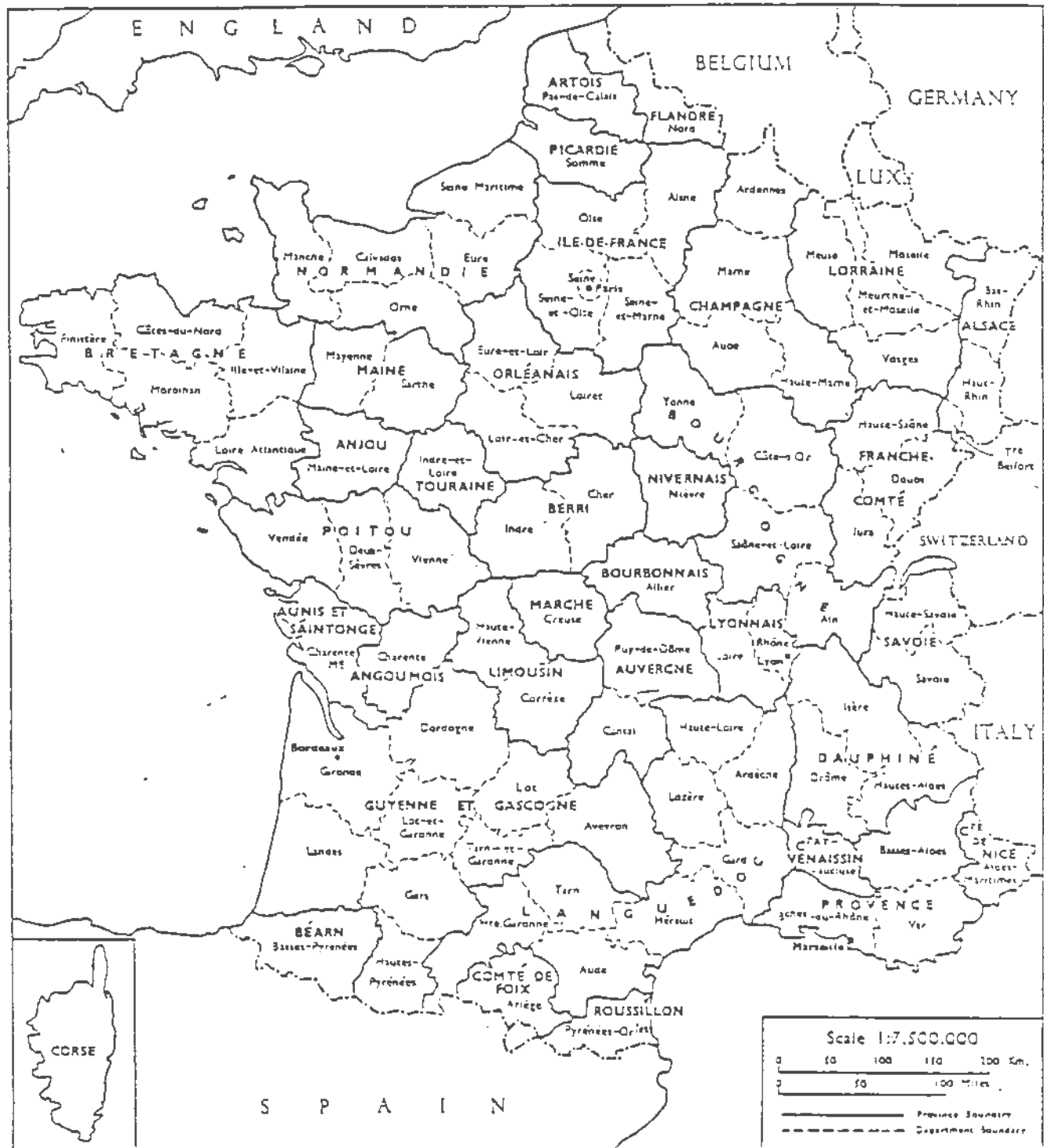
3 TERRITOIRE DE BELFORT, the portion of the *Département* du Haut-Rhin which remained in French possession in 1871 after the Franco-Prussian War. It retained its separate administrative status when Alsace and Lorraine were restored to France in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles, and now ranks as a *département*.



MAP I

FRANCE: DEPARTMENTS and FORMER PROVINCES

(see *Départements*, p. 194; *Provinces, Les Anciennes*, p. 579)






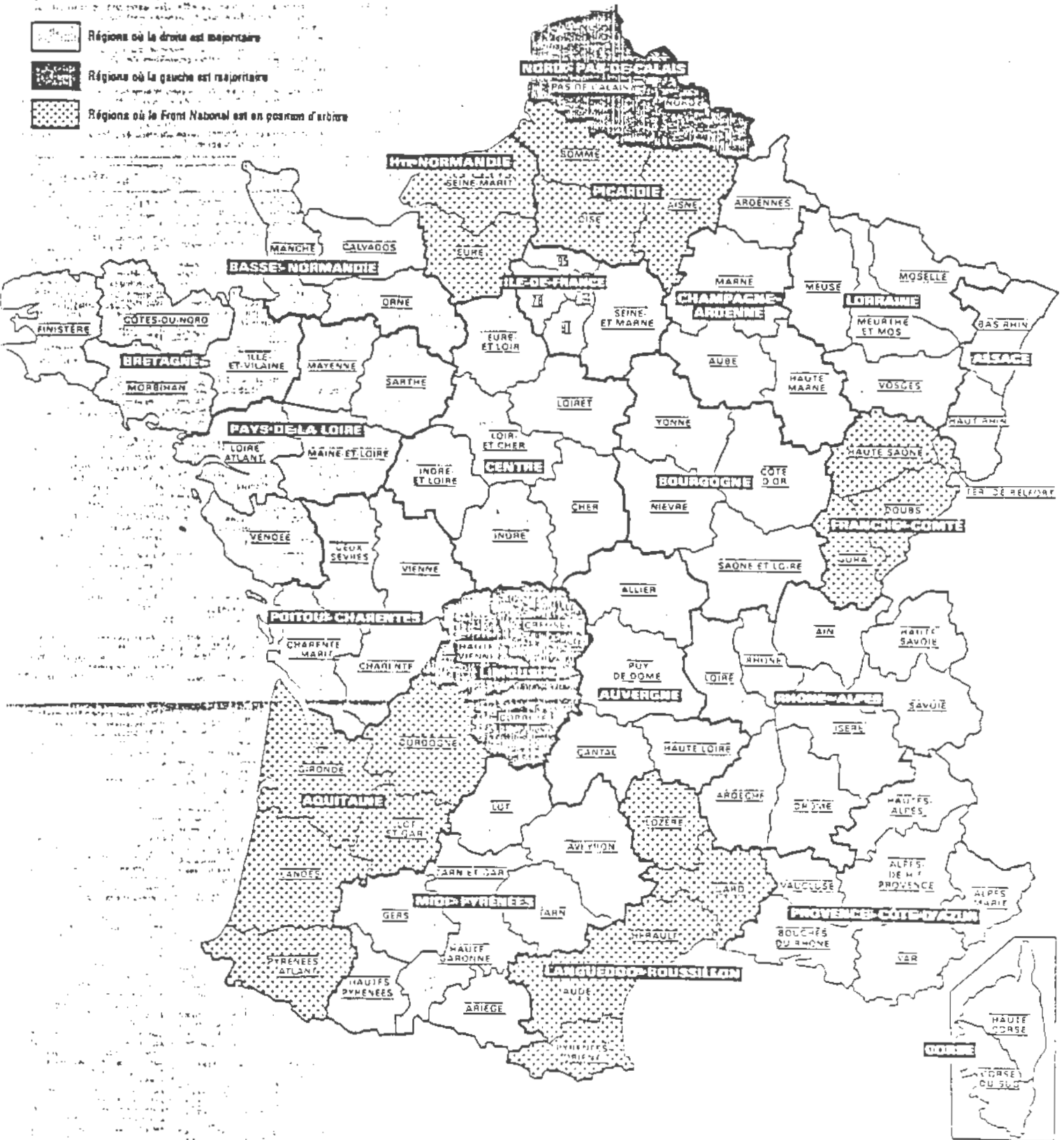
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# ET RÉGIONALES

-  Régions où la droite est majoritaire
-  Régions où la gauche est majoritaire
-  Régions où le Front National est en position d'attente



## Les socialistes devraient perdre la moitié de leurs régions

Les socialistes ne profiteront pas de ce défilé en Corse et en Corse : l'élection des conseillers régionaux au suffrage universel direct et au scrutin proportionnel. La gauche avait pourtant...

ques. Il n'y a que deux ans que, par une loi votée par Georges Pompidou, elle est devenue un établissement public géré par ses membres politiques. Aujourd'hui, à côté de ce statut de...

dent de l'assemblée régionale. Celle-ci ne pourra, tout au long de son mandat, renverser le président ou le vice-président. Il n'y a pas de...

démontrent de plus aux seconds du tour premier, sans que le PS en perde 113. Le RPR et l'UDF perdent un peu moins d'un tiers, à un peu plus d'un tiers, mais en gagnant 113. Le PS en...