

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

History 348

Revolutionary France, 1789-1880

Mr. Gargan

Course Description:

Beginning in 1789 the French Revolution offered France a series of revolutions as models best suited to determining the desired relationships between society and the political order. The revolutions of 1830, 1848, Napoleon III's coup d'etat of December 2, 1851, and the Commune of 1871 all imitated the Great Revolution's experiments. France was also an unrevolutionary society. The years 1789 to 1880 marked a century of slow and gradual change in France's demography, regional life, rural and urban societies, industrial economy, social distances and encounters between its classes, shifts in popular and elite cultures, and ideologies. France presents the paradox of a society that seems to be constantly changing and yet remains a nation that hardly changes at all. This is the problem to be reflected upon in this course.

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:15 and one discussion section each week. The discussion section is essentially devoted to the assigned paperback appropriate for each week.

Written Assignments and Exams: Great emphasis is placed on the Student's participation in the weekly discussions. Very brief written comments will be asked for in preparation for the weekly discussions. The final, and only, essay examination is a take-home distributed two weeks before the last class and due on the assigned date of the examination.

Grading System: Written comments and contribution to the weekly discussion 50%; Final examination essay 50%.

Required Readings:

Text: Gordon Wright, France in Modern Times (Third Edition) W. W. Norton

Required Paperbacks:

Brian Tierney - The Origins of the French Revolution - Random House, Historical Pamphlet Edition 10.
Charles Fourier - The Utopian Vision of Charles Fourier: Selected Texts on Work, Love and Passionate Attraction, Edited by Jonathan Beecher and Richard Bienvenu - Univ. of Missouri Press.
Stendhal - Red & Black - Penguin.
Roger Price - 1848 in France - Cornell.
Flaubert - Sentimental Education - Penguin.
Zola - Germinal - Penguin.
Edwards, Stewart - The Communards of Paris - Cornell.
Guillaumin, Emile - The Life of a Simple Man - University Press of New England.

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FINAL EXAMINATION

E. T. Gargan
December 18, 1985

Please answer three questions. Your answers are to be returned to my office 4227 Humanities between 12:25 and 2:25 on December th.

1. Compare the demographic experiences of France in the eighteenth century and in the years 1815 to 1880.
2. Compare France's provincial and regional history in the eighteenth century and in the years 1815 to 1880.
3. Compare the essential features of France's rural and agrarian history in the eighteenth century to that of the years 1815 to 1880.
4. Compare the essential aspects of France's urban history in the eighteenth century and in the years 1815 to 1880.
5. What are the essential features of France's popular culture in the eighteenth century and in the years 1815 to 1880.
6. Compare France's commercial and industrial performance in the eighteenth century and in the years 1815 to 1880.
7. Imagine a discussion between Stendhal, Flaubert, Zola and Emile Guillaumin on their presentation of French society. Presume as your point of departure Stendhal's observation, "You are talented writers, but I really touched the heart of France's social existence in comparison to your more limited achievements."
8. Identify the essential contradictions in France's political history during the periods 1815 to 1830 and 1830 to 1848.
9. Compare the social and political aspirations of the Revolution of 1848 and those of the Commune of 1871.
10. To what degree does the reign of Louis Napoleon recapitulate the political contradictions present during the Restoration, July Monarchy, and the Second Republic?