

REWRITING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The Andrew Browning
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French Revolution, revolutionary movement that shook France between 1787 and 1799 and reached its first climax there in 1789—hence the conventional term “Revolution of 1789,” denoting the end of the ancien regime in France and serving also to distinguish that event from the later French revolutions of 1830 and 1848. The French Revolution was a period of major social upheaval that began in 1787 and ended in 1799. It sought to completely change the relationship between the rulers and those they governed and to redefine the nature of political power. It proceeded in a back-and-forth process between revolutionary and reactionary forces. Why did the French Revolution happen? The French Revolution was a period of far-reaching social and political upheaval in France and its colonies beginning in 1789 and ending in 1799. The Revolution overthrew the monarchy, established a republic, catalyzed violent periods of political turmoil, and finally culminated in a dictatorship under Napoleon who brought many of its principles to areas he conquered in Western Europe and beyond. Inspired by liberal and radical ideas, as equality before the law the Revolution made a profound THE FRENCH REVOLUTION REVISITED Francois Furet. THE IDEA OF A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS Keith Michael Baker. A RHETORIC OF BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION William H. Sewell, Jr. BOURGEOIS REVOLUTION REVIVIFIED: 1789 and social change Colin Jones. Rewriting history, or revisionism, has always followed closely in the wake of history writing. In their efforts to re-evaluate the past, professional as well as amateur scholars have followed many approaches, most commonly as empiricists, uncovering new information to challenge earlier accounts. Historians have also revised previous versions by adopting new perspectives, usually fortified by new research, which overturn received views.