REWRITING THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

The Andrew Browning Lectures 1989

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The French Revolution continues to generate historical controversy. During the last thirty years, consensus on its meaning has disappeared. Scholarship and debate constantly reinterpret both the event as a whole and its constituent parts, changing our perceptions and understanding of it. Today the French Revolution is still being rewritten as history. In this volume, eight of the most distinguished scholars in the field present new interpretations of major themes in the history of the French Revolution. They explore areas of intellectual, political, religious, and social development. Two hundred years ago, we are often told, rewrites the past in its own image. In the case of the French Revolution, this is an understatement. In the second half of this century the scholarship has seemed to be in a state of almost permanent revolution as historians have taken up one interpretative or methodological approach after another. Some of the story of this historiographical roller-coaster ride may be known to readers, thanks to William Doyle’s best-selling text book Origins of the French Revolution, which begins with a long and detailed survey “Writings on Revolutionary Origins since 193
Each age, we are often told, rewrites the past in its own image. In the case of the French Revolution, this is an understatement. In the second half of this century the scholarship has seemed to be in a state of almost permanent revolution as historians have taken up one interpretative or methodological approach after another. Some of the story of this historiographical roller-coaster ride may be known to readers, thanks to William Doyle's best-selling text book Origins of the French Revolution, which begins with a long and detailed survey.

Writings on Revolutionary Origins since 193 The French Revolution, also known as the Revolution of 1789, was the revolutionary movement that shook France between 1787 and 1799 and reached its first climax in 1789. Hence the conventional term "1789 Revolution", which denotes the end of the Old Regime in France and also serves to distinguish that event from the later French revolutions of 1830 and 1848. When was it: From 07/14/1789 to 09/11/1799. Where was it: France. What was the French Revolution? It was a revolution that marked the end of a historical era and the beginning of the contemporary age, it marks a dividing line bet