The People in Arms
Military Myth and National Mobilization since the French Revolution

The People in Arms is concerned with the mass mobilization of society for war. It takes as its starting point the French levée en masse of 1793, which replaced former theories and regulations concerning the obligation of military service with a universal concept more encompassing in its moral claims than any that had prevailed under the Old Regime. The levée en masse would go down in history as a spontaneous, free expression of the French people’s ideals and enthusiasm, and became a crucial source for one of the most powerful organizing myths of modern politics: that compulsory, mass social mobilizations merely express, and give effective form to, the wishes or higher values of society and its members. The papers presented here seek to analyze and trace the historical memory and influence of the original levée and, more generally, compare episodes in which the distinctive ideological configuration that it typified plays a leading role.

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Military Myth and National Mobilization since the French Revolution

Edited by

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and

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illustrations</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributors</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Introduction: The Legend of the *Levée en masse*  
   Daniel Moran  
   | 1 |

2. *La patrie en danger*: The French Revolution and the First  
   *Levée en masse*  
   Alan Forrest  
   | 8 |

3. The Historiography of the *Levée en masse* of 1793  
   Owen Connelly  
   | 33 |

4. Arms and the Concert: The Nation in Arms and the  
   Dilemmas of German Liberalism  
   Daniel Moran  
   | 49 |

5. American Views of Conscription and the German Nation  
   in Arms in the Franco-Prussian War  
   John Whiteclay Chambers II  
   | 75 |

6. Defining the Enemy: War, Law, and the *Levée en masse*  
   from 1870 to 1945  
   John Horne  
   | 100 |

7. People’s War: The German Debate About a *Levée en masse*  
   in October 1918  
   Michael Geyer  
   | 124 |

8. The *Levée en masse* from Russian Empire to Soviet Union,  
   1874–1938  
   Mark Von Hagen  
   | 159 |

9. From Jaurès to Mao: The *Levée en masse* in China  
   Arthur Waldron  
   | 189 |
vi

Contents

10. In Lieu of the *Levée en masse*: Mass Mobilization in Modern Vietnam  208
    *Greg Lockhart*

    *Douglas Porch*

12. Looking Backward: The People in Arms and the Transformation of War  256
    *Arthur Waldron*

*Index*  263
Illustrations

1. Pierre-Etienne Lesueur, Fabrication de fusils (Watercolor, 1793) page 20
2. Guillaume Guillon-Lethière, La patrie en danger (Oil, 1799) 22
3. François Rude, Le départ des volontaries en 1792 (Sculpture, 1833–6) 34
4. Sem, Pour le triomphe souscrivez à l'emprunt national (War Loan Poster for the Bank National de Crédit, 1916) 35
5. Georg Friedrich Kersting, Auf Vorposten (Oil on linen, 1815) 58
8. Honoré Daumier, L'appel de leurs réserves (Lithograph, 1870) 106
9. Honoré Daumier, La République nous appelle (Lithograph, 1870) 107
10. French Resistance Poster, La Patrie en danger (1943) 120
11. Koven, Wer rettet das Vaterland? (Freikorps Recruitment Poster, 1919) 142
12. Dimitri Moor, To the Peoples of the Caucasus (Colored lithograph, 1920) 174
13. OAS Poster, Aux armes citoyens (1961) 238
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Acknowledgments

The chapters in this volume originated as contributions to the Seminar on Force in History at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. The Seminar was sponsored by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation and J. Richardson Dilworth, and the editors are grateful for the opportunity to thank them for their generous support. We would also like to acknowledge the special efforts of two seminar participants, Alan Forrest and John Horne, whose assistance in putting this volume together went well beyond what we were reasonably entitled to ask of them. Finally, we wish to offer our special thanks to Professor Peter Paret of the Institute for Advanced Study faculty, who arranged for the Institute to host the seminar and provided indispensable intellectual inspiration and organizational support for its work.