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NIGEL ASTON is a Lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of Leicester. His most recent book is Religion and Revolution in France, 1780–1804 (2000)."
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Christianity and revolutionary Europe, 1750–1830

Nigel Aston

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For
Ian Beckett and Larry Butler:
resilient in adversity
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Preface

Writing this book has forced me to think out the convergences and cleavages of the religious world on either side of the French Revolution in a way which I might not otherwise have done. So I am very grateful to Professor Tim Blanning for giving me the opportunity to do so by asking me to contribute to this series and trust that he feels his confidence has not been misplaced. Without question, this final version of the text has benefited appreciably from his constructive comments on the chapters as they have been written. The co-founder of the *New Approaches to European History* series, Professor Bob Scribner, was also encouraging in the first stages of writing and read over the first chapter. His tragically early death prevented me, like other historians, from having the benefits of his insight thereafter. I also much indebted to Sheridan Gilley and John McManners, who have unflinchingly read over the entire text and made innumerable suggestions for improvement. I hope that they, too, consider that the final version indicates that I have been listening beneficially to their good counsel. Jeremy Black and Brendan Simms have also commented helpfully on several sections of the book, while, among historian friends, Matthew Cragoe and Peter Nockles have provided particular support as the enterprise has proceeded. Above all, I am grateful to the innumerable historians, living and dead, whose scholarship is the indispensable foundation of this book. If it succeeds in distilling the fruits of their labours to a wider audience then I shall count myself richly repaid.

At Cambridge University Press I am unreservedly obliged to Richard Fisher, Elizabeth Howard and Sophie Read. Their patience in waiting for the manuscript to reach the Edinburgh Building appeared to have no limits. The British Academy, the University of Luton and the Open University all made available financial assistance that offset research costs and other expenses involved in the writing and completion of the book. Archivists and librarians, especially at the British Library and Bibliothèque Nationale de France, were unfailingly courteous. Katy Cooper was my alert and patient copy editor. My thanks to them, and
Preface

to my wife, Caroline Aston, who, once again, tolerated the absence of the author with forbearance, good humour, advice and encouragement. The book was completed against a background of the impending closure of the History Department at Luton and the dispersal of a fine team of six colleagues. It is wholly appropriate that it should be dedicated to two of the most doughty of them.
Date list

1750  Upper Consistory established in Prussia
1753  Concordat signed between Spain and Benedict XIV
1753  Paris *parlement* issues a long remonstrance against clerical power in France
1755  Silence imposed by the Crown in dispute between the Gallican Church and the Paris *parlement*
      Lisbon earthquake
1761  Mary of the Immaculate Conception officially declared patronness of Spain
      Hontheim publishes *On the Condition of the Church and the Legitimate Power of the Roman Pontiff*
1768  Campomanes coauthored one of the great Spanish regalist tracts of the century, the *Juicio Imparcial*
1772  Feathers Tavern petition rejected in Parliament
1773  *Dominus ac redemptor* issued
1774  Quebec Act privileges Roman Catholicism in British Canada
1778  Catholic Relief Act passed for England
      Gottfried Lessing’s writings censored in Brunswick
1780  Gordon Riots in London
1782  Catholics allowed right to worship in Ireland
1783  Joseph II reorganises diocesan boundaries in the Habsburg Empire
1784  Samuel Seabury consecrated as first Anglican bishop in the United States by (nonjuring) Scottish bishops
1786  ‘Mutinous’ Riksdag in Sweden
      Cardinal Rohan disgraced in the Diamond Necklace affair
      Synod of Pistoia in Tuscany
      ‘Punctuation’ of Ems
      *Don gratuit* increased in France
1787  First Anglican bishop for Canada (Nova Scotia) consecrated by Archbishop Moore of Canterbury
      Edict on non-Catholics passed in France
Archbishop Loménie de Brienne named principal minister of France
Bishop Richard Woodward of Cloyne initiated a pamphlet controversy over the security of the ‘Protestant Ascendancy’ in Ireland

1788 Declaration of Potsdam published by Frederick William II of Prussia
Revolt of the curés in France

1789 Estates-General and junction of the 3 Orders
Abolition of annates and suspension of the tithe in France
Sephardic Jews granted toleration by the National Assembly

1790 Failure of Dom Gerle’s motion to have Catholicism declared France’s national religion
Civil Constitution of the Clergy passed
Regular clergy largely disband in France
Bagarre at Nîmes

1791 Oath imposed to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy
First bishops of the Constitutional Church consecrated
Civil Constitution of the Clergy condemned by Pius VI
Ashkenazim Jews granted toleration by the National Assembly

1792 Roman Catholic Relief Act passed in Ireland
Toleration for former nonjuring Scottish Episcopalians sanctioned

1793 Second Roman Catholic Relief Act passed in Ireland
Outbreak of the Vendée
Dechristianisation begins in France

1794 Papal Bull Auctorem fidei condemns Richerism
Robespierre sponsors the cult of the Supreme Being
First meeting of Grégoire’s ‘United Bishops’

1795 Law of 3 Vendôme in France restores freedom of worship
Maynooth College opened in Ireland

1796 Kilhamite secession in English Methodism
Papal Brief Pastoralis Sollicitudo

1797 First national council of the Constitutional Church in France
Irish Rebellion
Second ‘Reign of Terror’ in France
Proscription of the Belgian Catholic clergy after the failure of the peasant uprising
French troops under Bertier occupy Rome – Pius VI exiled
Date list  xiii

1799  Death of Pius VI
Sanfedisti led by Cardinal Ruffo in the kingdom of Naples
Schleiermacher’s lectures on religion (Reden über die Religion) were first published

1800  Election of Pius VII

1801  Act of Union unites Britain and Ireland and creates the
United Churches of England and Ireland
Concord between France and the Vatican

1802  Gallican Articles unilaterally imposed by First Consul
Bonaparte on the Church
Chateaubriand publishes the Génie du Christianisme

1803  Abolition of all the German ecclesiastical electorates

1804  Coronation of Napoleon in Notre-Dame Cathedral
F. J. W. von Schelling publishes his Philosophy and Religion

1806  Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire
G. W. F. Hegel publishes The Phenomenology of the Spirit

1807  Occupation of the papal states by a French army

1808  Napoleon invades Spain

1809  Pius VII removed from Rome

1811  Formation of the Primitive Methodists

1812  Concordat ‘of Fontainbleau’

1813  Unitarians given formal right to freedom of worship in England

1813–14  German ‘War of Liberation’

1814  Pius VII released from imprisonment
Jesuits were universally restored by the Bull Sollicitudo omnium ecclesiarum

1817  New Concordat in France
Frederick William III creates a united Protestant state
Church for Prussia

1821  Greek War of Independence begins

1825  Jubilee Year in Rome

1828  Test and Corporation Acts repealed in Britain

1829  Catholic emancipation finally conceded in Britain
and Ireland
Election of Pius VIII