The experience, and failure, of Louis XVI's short-lived constitutional monarchy of 1789–1792 deeply influenced the politics and course of the French Revolution. The dramatic breakdown of the political settlement of 1789 steered the French state into the decidedly stormy waters of political terror and warfare on an almost global scale. This book explores how the symbolic and political practices which underpinned traditional Bourbon kingship ultimately succumbed to the radical challenge posed by the Revolution's new 'proto-republican' culture. While most previous studies have focused on Louis XVI's real and imagined foreign counter-revolutionary plots, Ambrogio A. Caiani examines the king's hitherto neglected domestic activities in Paris. Drawing on previously unexplored archival source material, Caiani provides an alternative reading of Louis XVI in this period, arguing that the monarch's symbolic behaviour and the organisation of his daily activities and personal household were essential factors in the people's increasing alienation from the newly established constitutional monarchy.

Ambrogio A. Caiani is College and Departmental Lecturer at Lady Margaret Hall and the Faculty of History, University of Oxford.
Louis XVI and the French Revolution, 1789–1792

Ambrogio A. Caiani
For my parents
‘Mais on ne se bat pas dans l’espoir du succès!
Non! non! c’est bien plus beau lorsque c’est inutile!’

Edmond Rostand, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, Act V, Scene VI
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Note on translations

Unless otherwise stated all translations present in this volume are my own. I have tended in general to opt in favour of a simple translation into modern English rather a literal rendition of the original, and somewhat antiquated, French expressions used by eighteenth-century writers. I hope that the resultant loss in authenticity will be compensated by comprehensibility.
Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AN</td>
<td>Archives Nationales, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASGe</td>
<td>Archivio di Stato di Genova</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASMo</td>
<td>Archivio di Stato di Modena</td>
</tr>
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<td>ASPr</td>
<td>Archivio di Stato di Parma</td>
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<td>Archivio di Stato di Torino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASVe</td>
<td>Archivio di Stato di Venezia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA</td>
<td>Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BnF</td>
<td>Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FO</td>
<td>Foreign Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLH</td>
<td>Musée de Légion d'Honneur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms.fr.</td>
<td>Manuscrits Français</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAF</td>
<td>Nouvelles Acquisitions Français</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHAT</td>
<td>Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre (Archives de la Guerre, Château de Vincennes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNA</td>
<td>The National Archives, London</td>
</tr>
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