No city more than Paris has had such a constant and deep association with the development of literary forms and cultural ideas. The idea of the city as a space of literary self-consciousness started to take hold in the sixteenth century. By 1620, where this volume begins, the first in a long line of extraordinary works of the human imagination, in which the city represented itself to itself, had begun to find form in print. This collection follows that process through to the present day. Beginning with the ‘salon’, followed by the hybrid culture of libertinage and the revolutionary hotbeds of working-class districts, it explores the continuities and changes between the pre-modern era and the nineteenth century, when Paris asserted itself as cultural capital of Europe. It goes on to explore how this vision of Paris as a key capital of modernity has shaped contemporary literature.

*A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.*
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CONTRIBUTORS

NICOLE G. ALBERT is the author of Saphisme et décadence dans Paris fin-de-siècle (2005) and La Castiglione: vies et métamorphoses (2011). She has edited and prefaced numerous volumes of work by and on Renée Vivien, and has published numerous articles and chapters on fin-de-siècle literature and questions of gender.

JOAN DEJEAN is Trustee Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of nine books on French literature, history and material culture of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including most recently The Age of Comfort (2009) and The Essence of Style: How the French Invented High Fashion, Fine Food, Chic Cafés, Style, Sophistication, and Glamour (2005). She is now completing a book about the rebirth of the city of Paris in the seventeenth century, The Invention of Paris: Making the City Modern.

GEOFF GILBERT teaches in the Department of Comparative Literature and English at the American University of Paris. He is the author of Before Modernism Was: Modern History and the Constituency of Writing (2004), and has written on modernism and cultural history, and on contemporary French literature and theory.

ALEC G. HARGREAVES is Emeritus Winthrop-King Professor of Transcultural French Studies at Florida State University. A specialist on postcolonial minorities in France, he has authored and edited numerous works including Immigration and Identity in Beur Fiction: Voices from the North African Immigrant Community in France (1991), Post-Colonial Cultures in France (with Mark McKinney, 1997), and Transnational French Studies: Postcolonialism and Littérature-monde (with Charles Forsdick and David Murphy, 2010).

OWEN HEATHCOTE is Honorary Visiting Reader in Modern French Studies at the University of Bradford. He researches on the relations between violence, gender and representation and has written widely on such authors as Balzac, Chawaf, Duras, Garréta, Guibert, Guyotat and Hyvrard. He has published Balzac and Violence: Representing History, Space, Sexuality and Death in ‘La Comédie humaine’ (2009).
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

and is currently completing a book on masculinity, sexuality and violence in the work of Éric Jourdan.

NICHOLAS HEWITT is Emeritus Professor of French at the University of Nottingham and Editor of French Cultural Studies. His publications include two books on Céline and numerous articles and chapters on Montmartre, including ‘From “Lieu de plaisir” to “Lieu de memoire”: Montmartre and Parisian Cultural Topography’ (French Studies, 2000) and ‘Montmartre: Artistic Revolution’ in Sarah Wilson (ed.), Paris, Capital of the Arts 1900–1968 (2002)

ANNA-LOUISE MILNE is Senior Lecturer at the University of London Institute in Paris. She has written on the world of twentieth-century literary reviews including The Extreme In-Between: Jean Paulhan’s Place in the Twentieth Century (2006) and The NRF and Modernism (double issue of the Romanic Review, 2008). More recently she published an edited collection with Julian Jackson and James S. Williams, May 68: Rethinking France’s Last Revolution (2011).

BRIAN NELSON is Emeritus Professor of French Studies and Translation Studies at Monash University, Melbourne, and editor of the Australian Journal of French Studies. He has published extensively on the novels of Émile Zola, including Zola and the Bourgeoisie and The Cambridge Companion to Émile Zola. He has translated and edited Zola’s The Ladies’ Paradise, Pot Luck, The Kill, The Belly of Paris and The Fortune of the Rougons for Oxford University Press. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

MARIA SCOTT lectures in French at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her publications include Baudelaire’s ‘Le Spleen de Paris’: Shifting Perspectives (2005) and Stendhal’s Less-Loved Heroines: Fiction, Freedom, and the Female (2013).

MICHAEL SHERINGHAM is Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature, University of Oxford, a Fellow of All Souls College, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He has written on André Breton and Surrealism, modern and contemporary French poetry and fiction, and on autobiography and related genres. His publications include French Autobiography: Devices and Desires (1993), Parisian Fields (as editor, 1996) and Everyday Life: Theories and Practices from Surrealism to the Present (2006).

TOM STAMMERS is a former Fernand Braudel Fellow at the Fondation Maison des sciences de l’homme, junior research fellow at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and now lecturer in Modern European History at Durham. He is completing a book on collecting and curiosity after the French Revolution, analysing the afterlives of artefacts from the old regime.

JEREMY STUBBS teaches at the University of London Institute in Paris. He is currently working on Surrealism and psychological medicine.
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

STÉPHANE VAN DAMME, Professor of Early Modern History at Sciences Po, works at the crossroads between urban history and the history of science. His most recent book is on the birth of urban archaeology in London and Paris (Métropoles de papiers: naissance de l’archéologie urbaine à Paris et Londres, 2012). Among his publications are: Descartes: essai d’histoire culturelle d’une grandeur philosophique (XVIIe–XXe siècle) (2002); Paris, capitale philosophique: de la Fronde à la Révolution (2005); Le Temple de la sagesse: savoirs, écriture et sociabilité urbaine (Lyon, 17e–18e siècles) (2005); and L’Épreuve libertine: morale, soupçon et pouvoirs dans la France baroque (2008).
I would like to thank Dan Gunn and Colin Jones for their help in the early stages of this project, and Kate Briggs, Erica Burnham, Mark Gore, Rosemary Milne and Mike Sadler for their help and support in the latter stages. And it has been a pleasure to work with Linda Bree, Maartje Scheltens and Thomas O’Reilly of Cambridge University Press on this project. But most of all I would like to thank all the students of ‘Paris au pluriel’ at the University of London Institute in Paris who have made thinking about the literature of Paris such a challenging and rewarding process.
CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1610  Assassination of Henri IV, rue de la Ferronnerie; Louis XIII comes to the throne.

1612  The Place Royale, future Place des Vosges, is inaugurated.

1615  Work begins on the Luxembourg Palace for Marie de Médicis.

1622  The windmill called Moulin du Palais, later to become the Moulin de la Galette, is built on the hillside of Montmartre.

1624  Cardinal Richelieu becomes King’s Councillor; work begins on the Hôtel Sully in the Marais.

1629  Work begins on the Palais Cardinal, future Palais-Royal, which will be Richelieu’s residence.

1631  Théophraste Renaudot launches the first newspaper, La Gazette de France.

1632  A bridge, later called Le Pont Royal, is built to replace the boat or ‘bac’ that linked the Left Bank to the Louvre and Tuileries Palaces. The ‘bac’ left its name to the rue du Bac, key access route to the Faubourg Saint-Germain.

1634  Pierre Corneille’s comedy La Place royale is performed in the Marais.

1635  Richelieu founds the Académie Française.

1637  J.-L. Guez de Balzac publishes his Nouvelles lettres; Pierre Corneille’s tragicomic play Le Cid causes a scandal.
C H R O N O L O G Y A N D K E Y R E F E R E N C E S

1641 Descartes publishes his *Meditations* and a theatre opens within the Palais Cardinal (Palais-Royal).

1643 Louis XIII dies; Louis XIV comes to the throne, aged 5. France is governed by Prime Minister Mazarin.

1645 Malherbe publishes his *Lettres*.

1646 Madame de Sévigné begins writing her letters to her daughter.

1648 The beginning of the Fronde; the Court of Louis XIV leaves Paris for Saint-Germain-en-Laye until August 1649.

1649 Madeleine de Scudéry’s first novel, *Artamène ou le Grand Cyrus* is published.

1653 The period of the Fronde is over and Louis XIV’s power consolidated.

1661 Molière’s troupe takes up residency in the Palais-Royal.

1662 The first ‘carrosses à cinq sous’, a horse-driven form of public transport, take to the streets of Paris.

1665 First edition of *Les Maximes* by La Rochefoucauld.

1666 First production of Molière’s *Le Misanthrope* and *Le Médecin malgré lui*.

1667 First production of Racine’s *Andromaque* in the Louvre.

1668 La Fontaine publishes his first *Fables*.

1670 Work begins on the Hôtel des Invalides in what is now the 7th arrondissement.

1670 Port-Royal publishes Pascal’s *Pensées*.

1671 Louis XIV leaves Paris to take up residency for the rest of his life in Versailles.

1672 The first café opens in the Saint-Germain market; the first issue of the ‘magazine’ *Mercure gallant*, subsequently renamed *Mercure de France*, appears. It will start publishing texts on fashion and fashionable life in 1678.

1673 Lully’s *Cadmus et Hermione* is performed at Versailles, marking the beginning of French opera.
1678 Madame de La Fayette publishes *La Princesse de Clèves*.

1682 Colbert, Secretary of State under Louis XIV, gives orders for all Protestants in Paris to be put on file.

1685 The revocation of the *Édit de Nantes*, forcing French Protestants into exile.

1715 Beginning of the Regency following the death of Louis XIV; Philippe II, Duc d'Orléans, establishes his rule until Louis XV comes of age in 1723. The Court returns to Paris.

1718 Work begins on the Hôtel d'Evreux, future Élysées Palace, in what would become the 8th arrondissement, on the Right Bank.

1720 Work is completed on the Place Louis-le-Grand, later called the Place Vendôme.

1722 The Hôtel Matignon is built in the Faubourg Saint-Germain. Instruction in oriental languages begins at the Collège Louis-le-Grand with the aim of facilitating trade between France and the East.

1723 A royal ordinance restricts all printing activities to the area round the University.

1728 The first street signs appear in Paris, and the first issue of the clandestine Jansenist publication, *Les Nouvelles ecclésiastiques* is published. The King bans printing on roller presses, which are too difficult for the police to keep under surveillance.

1731 Voltaire begins publishing his *Lettres philosophiques* from Rouen having fled the capital. The book will be banned and the publisher imprisoned in the Bastille.

1734 Montesquieu publishes his *Lettres persanes*.

1745 First authorisation to publish granted to the *Encyclopédie*; it will extend to thirty-five volumes containing entries by, among others, Diderot, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Condillac. Parliament outlaws all handwritten gazettes.
CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1749  Buffon begins publishing his forty-volume *Histoire naturelle*.

1752  The Archbishop of Paris condemns the *Encyclopédie*.

1762  Rousseau publishes *Le Contrat social*.

1763  The Place Louis XV – now the Place de la Concorde – is inaugurated.

1774  Louis XV dies and Louis XVI comes to the throne.

1775  First performance of Beaumarchais’s *Barbier de Séville*.

1779  Houses start to be numbered all across Paris; work begins on the Odéon theatre near the Luxembourg gardens.

1781  The first pavements are built, on the rue de l’Odéon.

1782  First publication of the Marquis de Sade’s *Cent vingt journées de Sodome*; the Marquis has been imprisoned in the Vincennes dungeon since 1777.

1783  The first ruling on the dimensions of streets and the height of buildings is passed into law: a street must be at least 30 feet (9 metres) in breadth.

1784  The Fermiers généraux wall is built, imposing a toll on goods entering and leaving the city.

1786  The first restaurant is opened by Antoine Beauvilliers in the Palais-Royal.

1789 (23 April)  General Assembly of Parisian electorate at the États Généraux.

1789 (14 July)  The Bastille falls.

1789 (6 October)  Louis XVI, having recognised the new municipality, returns to Paris to take up residence in the Tuileries Palace.

1791  The Parisian populace learns that the King has fled.

1792  The Tuileries Palace is invaded and occupied by the people of Paris; Year 1 of the Republic is declared.
**Chronology and Key References**

1793  
(21 January)  
Louis XVI is guillotined in the Place de la Révolution; the Louvre Palace is opened to the public as a permanent museum, ‘le tutoiement’ (the use of the ‘informal’ pronoun ‘tu’) is decreed obligatory in Paris, and all churches are closed.

1794  
Robespierre takes control of the city; the months of June and July are marked by an exacerbation of the Terror; Robespierre is guillotined on 28 July (10 Thermidor).

1795  
The last uprising in the eastern Faubourgs; the rule of the Directory begins.

1799  
Bonaparte overthrows the Directory in the Coup d’État of the 18 Brumaire.

1800  
Paris loses its single mayor and is organised under twelve mayors, two prefects and forty-eight police commissioners; the Passage des Panoramas, one of the most popular shopping arcades of the nineteenth century, opens on the boulevard Montmartre.

1800  
Madame de Staël publishes her ‘manifesto’ for romanticism *De la littérature*.

1802  
Chateaubriand publishes his *Génie du christianisme*, having returned from his exile in England.

1804  
Bonaparte is crowned Napoleon I, Emperor of France.

1806  
Napoleon I lays the first stone of the Arc de Triomphe.

1810  
The Vendôme Column is finished.

1814  
Siege of Paris by the English, Germans, Austrians and Russians.

1814  
The Municipal Council forces Napoleon to abdicate and Louis XVIII returns to the capital, which is occupied by the coalition armies.

1820 (13 February)  
Assassination of the Duc de Berry at the Opéra.

1822  
Géricault paints the ‘Radeau de la Méduse’.

1824 (16 September)  
Louis XVIII dies; (27 September) Charles X, brother of Louis XVI and Louis XVIII, arrives in Paris.
### Chronology and Key References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 1824 | Delacroix paints ‘Massacre à Scio’.
| 1825 | The Canal Saint-Martin is linked to the Villette port enabling easier shipping access to the city.  
| 1827 | Violent street-fighting and barricades in the rue Saint-Denis; the first giraffe arrives in Paris, a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to Charles X.  
| 1827 | Victor Hugo publishes his Preface to the historical drama *Cromwell*.  
| 1829 | Gas-lighting is turned on for the first time in Paris.  
| 1830 | ‘Les Trois Glorieuses’, a popular uprising lasting three days against Charles X, who abdicates and retreats to Saint-Cloud. Louis-Philippe d’Orléans is declared King of France by eighty-nine votes against ten in the Chamber of Lords.  
| 1830 | First performance of Hugo’s *Hernani* which sparks the ‘battle’ between the adepts of romanticism and the proponents of classicism.  
| 1830 | Berlioz’s *Symphonie fantastique* is performed for the first time, issuing in a new era in French music.  
| 1830 | Auguste Comte begins publishing his *Cours de philosophie positive*.  
| 1831 | Balzac publishes *La Peau de chagrin*.  
| 1835 | Tocqueville begins publication of *De la démocratie en Amérique*.  
| 1836 | Musset publishes his autobiographical *Confessions d’un enfant du siècle*.  
| 1836 | The obelisk from Luxor is installed in the Place de la Concorde.  
| 1837 | The first train line between Paris and Saint-Germain-en-Laye opens on the site that will become the Saint-Lazare Station.  
| 1838 | Stendhal publishes his *Memoires d’un touriste* after a stay in the capital.
CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1840
Napoleon’s coffin is transferred to the Invalides and the monument to the fallen of the 1830 uprising is inaugurated on the Place de la Bastille.

1842
Balzac regroups his novels into La Comédie humaine, which will ultimately comprise ninety novels; Eugène Sue begins his Mystères de Paris.

1843
Train travel is developing fast: a new line is opened to Orléans and Rouen. The first experiments in electric lighting are carried out at the Place de la Concorde.

1845
The construction of the fortifications around Paris, known as the Thiers Wall and later as ‘les fortifs’, is completed.

1848
A popular uprising forces Louis-Philippe to abandon the throne; the Second Republic is declared.

1848
The chemical processes enabling reinforced concrete are developed in France, enabling the construction of much higher buildings in future decades.

1850
Courbet’s painting of a rural funeral, ‘Un enterrement à Ornans’, creates a scandal when it is exhibited at the Salon.

1851
President of the Republic, Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, declares himself Emperor Napoleon III; the Second Empire begins (2 December 1852).

1855
The first department store in Paris, Au Louvre, opens for business.

1857
Baudelaire publishes the first edition of Les Fleurs du mal; Flaubert publishes Madame Bovary. Both works are incriminated by the State censor along with Eugène Sue’s Les Mystères du peuple.

1858
The boulevard de Sébastopol is inaugurated, followed three years later by the boulevard Malesherbes. Work has begun on the future avenue de la République and the boulevard Voltaire.

1860
The thirteen suburban communes are absorbed within the administrative structure of the city, which rises to twenty arrondissements.
Chronology and Key References

1861 Nadar takes some of the first photographs using artificial light in the catacombs of Paris.

1862 The long construction of Garnier’s Opéra begins; it will open for business in 1875. Victor Hugo publishes Les Misérables while still in exile on the island of Guernsey.

1863 Daumier paints ‘La Blanchisseuse’, part of a long series of depictions of everyday life in the city.

1865 Manet’s painting ‘Olympia’ causes a huge outcry at the Salon.

1867 Opening of the Universal Exhibition in Paris with a bateaux mouche service inaugurated to transport visitors to the site on the Champ-de-Mars.

1870 France defeated by the Prussian army at Sedan; Paris under siege.

1871 (March) The Prussian army marches up the Champs-Élysées.

1871 (18 March) Declaration of the Paris Commune.

1871 (May) The Tuileries Palace and the Hôtel de Ville are burned to the ground in the last stand of the Commune known as the ‘semaine sanglante’ [bloody week], 21–7 May.

1871 Thiers becomes the first President of the Third Republic

1871 Zola begins the Rougon-Macquart series on the ‘natural and social history of a family under the Second Empire’.

1872 Monet paints ‘Impression, soleil levant’, which will prompt the designation of a new school of painting, impressionism, in 1874.

1872 Sarah Bernhardt rises to prominence on the Parisian stage in Victor Hugo’s Ruy Blas.

1873 The project to build a basilica on the hill of Montmartre is approved by Parliament.

1873 Rimbaud publishes Une Saison en enfer.

1876 Degas paints ‘L’Absinthe’, a picture of a woman sitting alone in a Parisian café.
CHRONOLOGY AND KEY REFERENCES

1881  The Chat Noir nightclub opens on the boulevard Rochechouart.

1884  The first public swimming pool opens on the rue Château-Landon in the 10th arrondissement.

1885  Victor Hugo’s funeral, for which the church Sainte-Geneviève is renamed the Panthéon, dedicated to ‘the great men’ of the nation.

1889  Opening of the Universal Exhibition in Paris and inauguration of the Eiffel Tower.

1890  Van Gogh paints the church at Auvers-sur-Oise.

1894  Durkheim publishes his Règles de la méthode sociologique.

1894  The beginning of the Dreyfus Affair.

1895  The Lumière brothers reveal the first machine enabling the projection of films; the first public cinema screening takes place in the basement of the Grand Café, boulevard des Capucines.

1897  Rodin’s sculpture of Balzac is revealed to the public, provoking mixed reactions.

1898  Zola publishes ‘J’accuse’ in defence of Dreyfus.

1900  The first metro line is opened between Vincennes and Maillot for the Universal Exhibition, which receives over 50 million visitors; the Pont Alexandre III and the Gare d’Orsay, later to become the Musée d’Orsay, are built for the occasion.

1902  First production of Debussy’s Pelléas et Mélisande at the Opéra-Comique; first projections of Méliès’s Voyage dans la Lune.

1907  Picasso paints ‘Les Demoiselles d’Avignon’ in the artists’ community of the Bateau-Lavoir established up in Montmartre.

1910  The Ballets Russes (the Russian National Ballet) are at the Théâtre du Châtelet under the direction of Diaghilev, with Nijinsky delighting the audiences.

xx
1913 Proust begins the long composition of À la recherché du temps perdu.

1914 (31 July) Jean Jaurès is assassinated on the rue Montmartre.

1914 (August) War is declared; the government leaves the capital for Bordeaux only to return two weeks later.

1916 Chinese labourers arrive in Paris to work in the Renault factories where the first armoured tanks are being built.

1918 (11 November) The Armistice is signed; the war is over and people celebrate in the streets.

1919 (14 July) The Marshalls of France lead the Victory parade from the Porte Maillot to the Place de la Concorde; the first commercial airline opens between Paris and Brussels.

1921 The first refrigerators are installed in Les Halles, the central Parisian market.

1922 Man Ray starts producing ‘surrealist’ photographs and Max Ernst depicts the ‘surrealist’ coterie in his painting ‘Au rendez-vous des amis’. The first traffic lights are introduced on the crossroads between the rue de Rivoli and the boulevard de Sébastopol.

1925 The Decorative Arts Exhibition opens and the Eiffel Tower is lit up with adverts for Citroën cars for the occasion; Le Corbusier exhibits his first major plan for Paris, Le Plan Voisin, which projected the wholesale demolition of Le Marais.

1927 Lindbergh crosses the Atlantic to arrive in Paris.

1930 The military zone ringing Paris is decommissioned and absorbed within the city boundaries.

1931 The Colonial Exhibition takes place in the Vincennes forest, attracting 8 million visitors; the Surrealists stage their counter exhibition in opposition to colonialism.

1934 (6 February) Right-wing riots in the Place de la Concorde.
Chronology and Key References

1936 Victory of the Popular Front in the legislative elections followed by a massive strike movement which obtains significant reductions in the working week and paid holidays for salaried employees.

1937 International Exhibition of Arts and Technology, which attracts 34 million visitors; the Chaillot and Tokyo Palaces at the Trocadéro are built for the occasion.

1938 Sartre publishes his first novel, La Nausée.

1939 Hitler declares war.

1940 (14 June) The German army occupies Paris.

1942 (18 July) 12,884 Jewish people of all ages are arrested all across Paris and transferred to the Vélodrome d'hiver in Paris before being deported.

1944 (19 August) The people of Paris rise up against the occupying army; (26 August) de Gaulle marches triumphantly down the Champs-Élysées.

1945 (29 April) Municipal elections and French women vote for the first time.

1946 The Fourth Republic is declared.

1949 Piaf entrances her audiences with her inimitable brand of popular Parisian song; Simone de Beauvoir publishes Le Deuxième sexe.

1953 Beckett’s En attendant Godot is performed for the first time.

1954 War begins in Algeria; Abbé Pierre launches his appeal in the name of the massive homeless population, many living in shanty towns in the outskirts of Paris.


1957 Work on the boulevard périphérique, the high-speed ring road around Paris, begins, and prefabricated concrete starts to be used massively in the construction of housing.
### Chronology and Key References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>De Gaulle returns to power at the height of the Algerian War; beginning of the Fifth Republic; the business district La Défense is inaugurated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>La Nouvelle Vague in cinema begins to transform the way the city is filmed, starting with Truffaut’s <em>Les Quatre cents coups</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>The ‘Battle of Paris’ takes place between Algerian demonstrators and police, resulting in the death by drowning of tens of Algerian protestors, if not more.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Student uprising in the Latin Quarter followed by mass strikes.</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>The central market, Les Halles, closes and is transferred to Rungis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Work begins on the controversial Tour Montparnasse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Jacques Chirac is elected mayor of Paris, the first single mayor for the whole of Paris since 1871 when Jules Ferry and Étienne Arago had briefly governed the city in the wake of the collapse of the Second Empire; the Centre Pompidou opens its doors and the metro-RER station Châtelet-les Halles is inaugurated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>The Socialist Party comes to power for the first time since the Popular Front; the first TGVs appear on French railways, reducing travel times between Paris and other major cities such as Lyons, Tours and Bordeaux.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>The Louvre Pyramid is inaugurated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Beginning of a series of scandals surrounding the attribution of social housing in fashionable districts to members of the political class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>France wins the World Cup; huge crowds celebrate on the Champs-Élysées.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Three weeks of rioting in the Parisian suburbs spreading to other major French cities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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