

Contents

| | Chronology | page ix |
|---|--|---------|
| | Preface | xv |
| I | The ancien régime | I |
| | Feudalism Fiefs and feudalism: a debate. The originality of the French system. The network of seigneurial rights. Landed society: distribution of property. Forms of cultivation. The world of the peasants: collective life. Peasant society. A world ruled by tradition? Technology and production. Tensions in rural society. | ī |
| | A society of orders A current controversy. The nobility. The noble reaction. The clergy: structures and functions. The world of the clerics: diversity. Crisis in the French clergy? Is the third estate an order? Corporations. From fraternities to unions. | 13 |
| | Absolutism Controversies: absolutism French-style. The king and his court. The royal government. Local administration. The army justice and taxation. Incoherence: the weight of the past. Social limits: the world of privilege. The debate over absolutism. | 24 |
| 2 | Conflict and change | 38 |
| | The 'glorious' eighteenth century The towns. The 'Atlantic' France of the merchants. The structures of French industry. Change in the rural world. Population growth. Price movements. The problem of French economic 'take-off'. 'Prosperity Revolution' or 'poverty Revolution'? | 38 |



| VI | Contents | |
|----|--|-----|
| | The bourgeoisie: myth or reality? The controversy over the 'bourgeois' Revolution. Financiers, businessmen, bosses. Mixed types: rentiers and professional men. The other revolt. The multiplicity of urban society. The 'workshop' and the 'stall'. | 49 |
| | An enlightened Revolution? The diffusion of the Enlightenment. The culture of the popular classes. Popular religious practice. Between illiterates and élites. A debate over the élite. The culture and the structures of the élite. A turning-point in sensibility. Was the élite revolutionary? | 59 |
| 3 | Birth of a Revolution (1787 to May 1789) | 73 |
| | Aristocratic revolt or pre-Revolution (summer 1786 to summer 1788) A mediocre monarch. Political crisis: the deficit. Calonne and the notables. The Brienne ministry. The 'Revolution of the notables'. The example of Dauphiné. Was a compromise possible? | 73 |
| | Crisis and revolution An 'intercycle of recession'. The economic crisis. The social crisis. Risings in the town and in the countryside. | 83 |
| | From complaints to demands New problems, old-fashioned spokesmen. 'Patriotic party' or 'national party'. The cahiers de doléances. Content of the cahiers. The elections to the Estates General. The deputies. | 89 |
| 4 | The constitutional Revolution | 99 |
| | Three Revolutions? Or one Revolution? | |
| | (5 May to 6 October 1789) A single or multiple Revolution? The Revolution at the top (May to July 1789). Disturbances in the towns. Paris, the centre of the Revolution. The 'municipal Revolution'. Rural risings. The Grande Peur. Reaction to the Grande Peur. The night of 4 August. The difficulties of the Revolution of the parlements. The 'days' of October 1789. | 99 |
| | The false respite Was there a 'fortunate year'? The organisation of political life. The Constituent Assembly: factions and individuals. La Fayette: a new Caesar? The Festival of the Federation. The geography of the counter-revolution. The attempt to regain | 118 |



| | Contents | vii |
|---|--|-----|
| | control. The financial crisis and the birth of the assignat. The religious problem. | |
| | The hardening of political attitudes (summer 1790 to summer 1791) Politics. Clashes at the base. The counter-revolution. The religious schism. The Revolution and Europe. The émigrés. The flight to Varennes and its aftermath. The Champ-de-Mars massacre. | 131 |
| 5 | Revolutionary France (1789–92) | 146 |
| | A new France: institutions in 1791–2 Revolutionary proclamations. Equality. Liberty. Property and economic freedom. France reconstructed. The constitutional monarchy. The legislative power. Local government. The judicial system and the army. Financial reforms. The Church and the State. The consequences of the schism. | 146 |
| | A new equilibrium or a boiling point? Economic pressures. Population movements. A redistribution of roles? Redistribution of the biens? | 162 |
| | The revolutionary dynamic The Assembly and its deputies. Local political life. Revolutionary practice. The revolutionary 'days'. The revolutionary crowds and action in the countryside. Ideas and actions. The sociology of the participants. The clubs. The national guards. The birth of the section movement. Public opinion. The revolutionary press. The revolutionary festival. Revolutionary symbols. A new aesthetic sensibility. | 171 |
| | Obstacles: an ignorant or hostile France Ignorance. A map of rejection. Who are the aristocrats? The ideas of the counter-revolutionaries. New revolutionary proclamations. | 199 |
| 6 | The second Revolution | 210 |
| | From the crisis at home to the foreign war (October 1791 to April 1792) The Legislative Assembly. The counter-revolutionary peril. An economic and social crisis. The sans-culottes. The coming of war. The Jacobin ministry. | 211 |
| | From war to the fall of the monarchy (20 April to 10 August 1792) The period of setbacks. The failure of the Girondins. The | 223 |



viii Contents

'day' of 20 June. The eve of 10 August. Patriotic and democratic movements. The fall of the monarchy.

Glossary 233
Bibliography 238
Index of names 244