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978-0-521-45191-8 - Elections in the French Revolution: An Apprenticeship in Democracy, 1789–1799

Malcolm Crook

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This is the first book in the English language to explore the vital but neglected issue of elections in the French Revolution. Based on extensive research in different regions of France, it is the only general survey to examine the full range of local and national contests, from the Estates General of 1789 to the advent of Napoleon a decade later. Focusing on electoral behaviour, it reveals a fascinating experiment with a quasi-universal suffrage, which established some enduring features of French elections, from the multiple ballot to the use of referenda. The retention of the traditional practice of voting in assemblies, together with a dogged refusal to acknowledge candidates, canvassing and competing political parties, inhibited the emergence of a pluralistic electoral culture. None the less, frequent polling offered an unprecedented political opportunity to the millions who took part. This revolutionary apprenticeship in democracy left a lasting imprint upon the development of modern citizenship in France.

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Abbreviations

<i>Actes con. nat.</i>	<i>Actes du congrès national des sociétés savantes</i>
AD	Archives départementales
<i>AhRf</i>	<i>Annales historiques de la Révolution française</i>
AM	Archives municipales
AN	Archives nationales
<i>Annales ESC</i>	<i>Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations</i>
<i>Ann. Midi</i>	<i>Annales du Midi</i>
<i>AP</i>	<i>Archives parlementaires</i>
BL	British Library
BN	Bibliothèque nationale
<i>Comm. hist. éc. soc.</i>	<i>Commission d'histoire économique et sociale de la Révolution française</i>
<i>FHS</i>	<i>French Historical Studies</i>
<i>Moniteur</i>	<i>Réimpression de l'ancien Moniteur</i>
Pv.	Procès-verbal
<i>Rf</i>	<i>La Révolution française</i>
<i>Rhmc</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine</i>