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0521824435 - From Reich to State: The Rhineland in the Revolutionary Age, 1780-1830

Michael Rowe

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## FROM REICH TO STATE

Napoleon's contribution to Germany's development was immense. Under his hegemony, the millennium-old Holy Roman Empire dissolved, paving the way for a new order. Nowhere was the transformation more profound than in the Rhineland.

Based upon an extensive range of German and French archival sources, this book locates the Napoleonic episode in this region within a broader chronological framework, encompassing the Old Regime and Restoration. It analyses not only politics, but also culture, identity, religion, society, institutions and economics. It reassesses in turn the legacy bequeathed by the Old Regime, the struggle between Revolution and Counter-Revolution in the 1790s, Napoleon's attempts to integrate the German-speaking Rhineland into the French Empire, the transition to Prussian rule, and the subsequent struggles that ultimately helped determine whether Germany would follow its own *Sonderweg* or the path of its western neighbours.

MICHAEL ROWE is a Lecturer at the School of History, Queen's University, Belfast.

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*To my mother*

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## *Preface*

This book has been long in gestation, and in that time I have incurred innumerable debts. My thanks are due in the first instance to the British Academy, whose three-year studentship provided the necessary financial support for my doctoral research completed in Cambridge in 1996, and upon which much of this book is based. A smaller British Academy grant facilitated a subsequent follow-up visit to the Rhenish archives in 1998. Financial support for research in Germany in 1994/5 was provided by the European Commission-administered ERASMUS Inter-University Co-operation Programme, for which I offer my thanks. I must also record my gratitude to Nuffield College, Oxford, for the Prize Research Fellowship they awarded me from 1996 to 1999. This, together with grants from the College, allowed me to conduct additional archival research in Berlin in 1997, and to attend conferences around the world where I benefited from those exchanges that are so essential to academic scholarship. This book has evolved and matured through such exchange and discussion. With this in mind, my greatest debt of all is to Professor Tim Blanning, my doctoral supervisor, whose criticism and encouragement, not to mention practical assistance, has proved invaluable over the last nine years. I am also deeply grateful to Professor Wolfgang Schieder, for the welcome he extended me during my visits to Cologne, and to Dr Geoffrey Ellis and Dr Brendan Simms. Many other individuals, too numerous to mention by name, have assisted along the way – the archivists and librarians in Aachen, Berlin, Cambridge, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Koblenz, London, Oxford and Paris; the participants in the many seminars and conferences where I have presented my findings and floated ideas; and, most recently, my colleagues at the School of History, Queen's University Belfast, and especially Professor Peter Jupp. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, for her unfailing support, which has been moral, practical and professional. It goes without saying, I hope, that the responsibility for the various defects of this work is entirely my own.

*Queen's University, Belfast*  
*July 2002*

MICHAEL ROWE

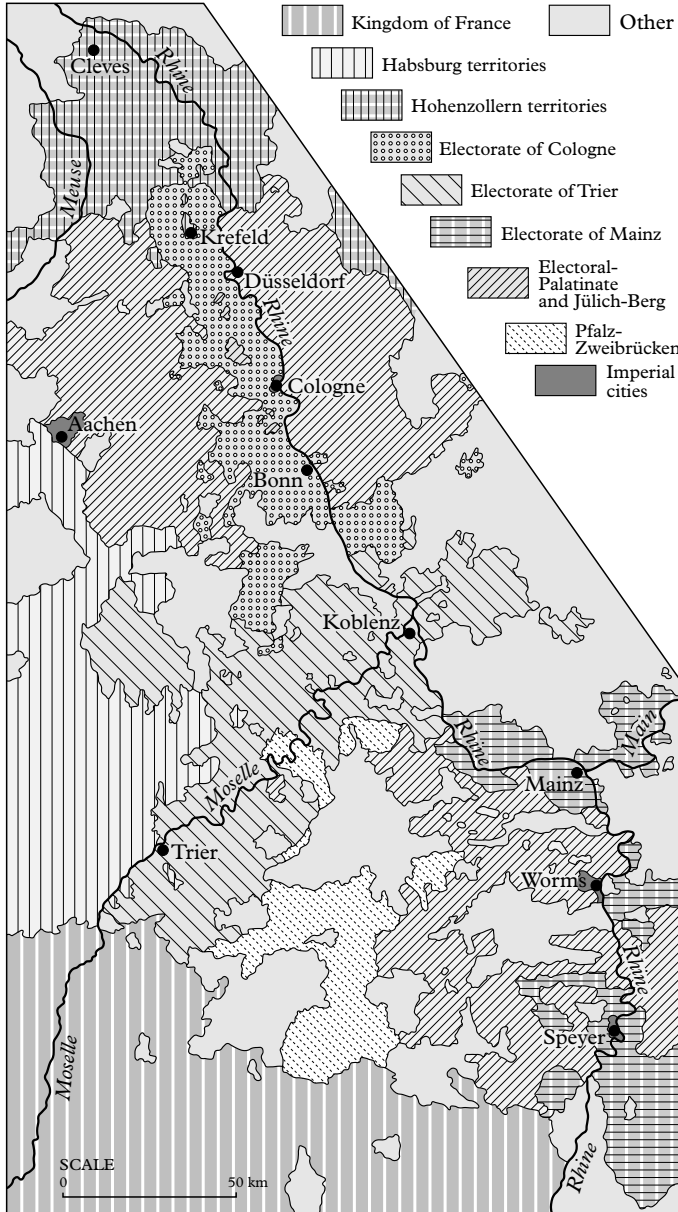
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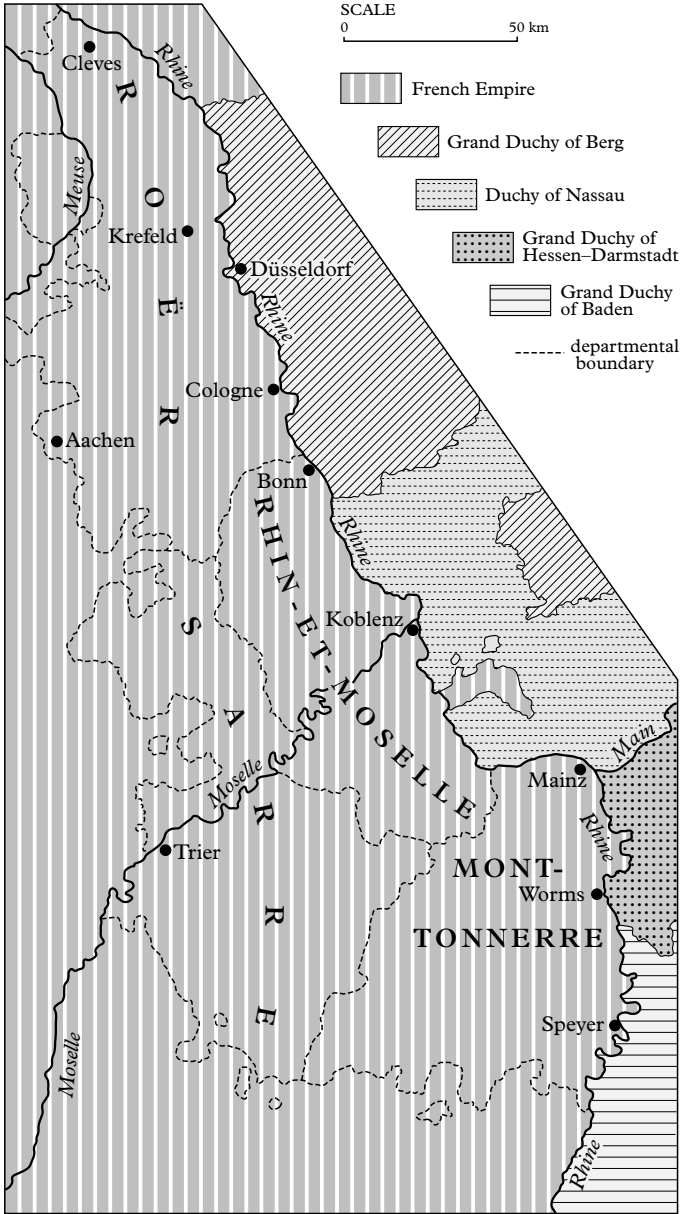
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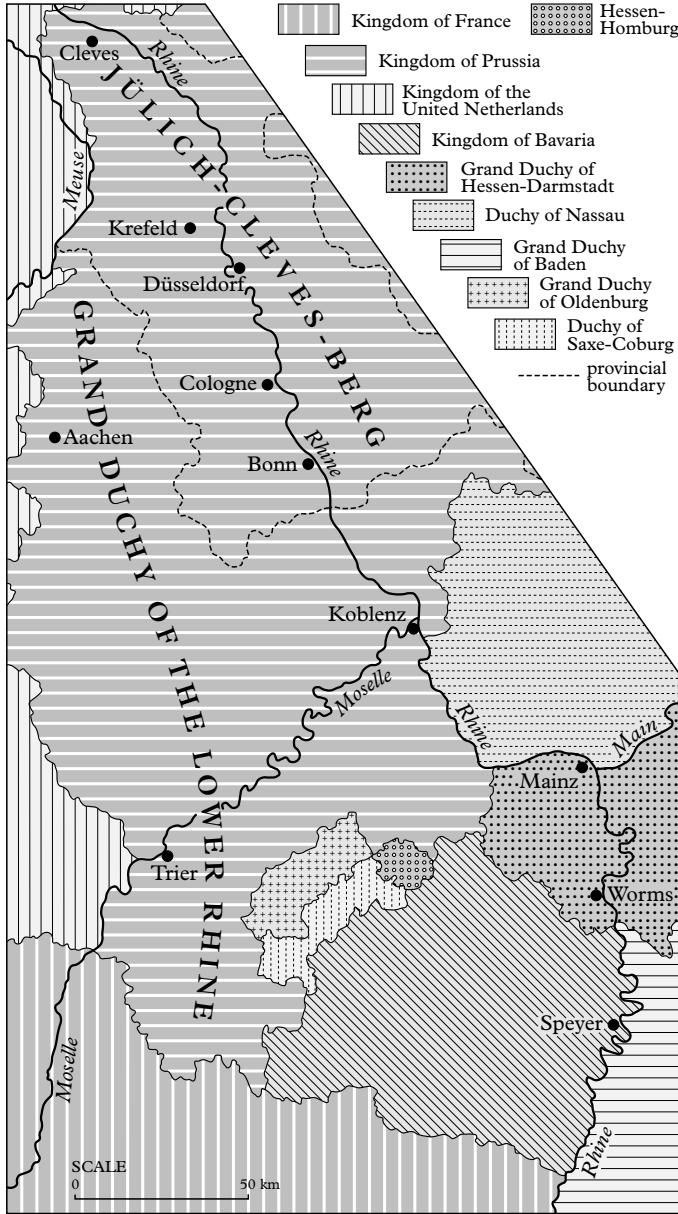


Map 1 The Rhineland in 1789





Map 2 The Rhineland in 1812



Map 3 The Rhineland in 1820