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978-0-521-83706-4 - People and Politics in France, 1848–1870

Roger Price

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PEOPLE AND POLITICS IN FRANCE,
1848–1870

This book is about politicisation and political choice in the aftermath of the February Revolution of 1848, and the emergence of democracy in France.

The introduction of male suffrage both encouraged expectations of social transformation and aroused intense fear. In these circumstances the election of a ‘saviour’ as President of the Republic, in the person of Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, and his subsequent *coup d’état* were the essential features of a counter-revolutionary process which involved the creation of a system of directed democracy as the basis of regime legitimacy and as a prelude to greater liberalisation once social order had been restored. The State positively encouraged the act of voting.

But what did it mean? How did people perceive politics? Although denied the vote, what roles did women play? How were political ideas diffused and how were they received? What forms of political organisation can be identified? How did communities and groups participate in political activity? These and many other questions concern the relationships between local issues and personalities, and the national political culture, all of which increasingly impinged on communities as a result of substantial social and political change.

ROGER PRICE is Professor of History, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. His many publications include *A Concise History of France* (1993) and *The French Second Empire: An Anatomy of Political Power* (2001), both published by Cambridge University Press.

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Abbreviations

AHG	Archives historiques du Ministère de la Guerre
AN	Archives nationales
APP	Archives de la Préfecture de Police
BN	Bibliothèque nationale
DM	Division militaire
(G)OC	(General) Officer Commanding
jp	juge de paix
MI	Minister of the Interior
MJ	Minister of Justice
PG	procureur général
PI	procureur impérial
PR	Procureur de la république