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978-1-107-08279-3 - Non-Violence and the French Revolution: Political Demonstrations in Paris, 1787–1795

Micah Alpaugh

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Non-Violence and the French Revolution

Historians of the French Revolution have traditionally emphasized the centrality of violence to revolutionary protest. However, Micah Alpaugh reveals instead the surprising prevalence of non-violent tactics to show that much of the popular action taken in revolutionary Paris was not in fact violent. Tracing the origins of the political demonstration to the French Revolutionary period, he reveals how Parisian protestors typically tried to avoid violence, conducting campaigns predominantly through peaceful marches, petitions, banquets and mass meetings, which only rarely escalated to physical force in their stand-offs with authorities. Of over 750 events, no more than 12 percent appear to have resulted in physical violence at any stage. Rewriting the political history of the people of Paris, *Non-Violence and the French Revolution* sheds new light on our understanding of Revolutionary France to examine how revolutionary *sans-culottes* played a pivotal role in developing the democratically oriented protest techniques still used today.

MICAH ALPAUGH is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Anthropology at the University of Central Missouri.

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Acknowledgments

What is the most important quality in a revolutionary? Love.
Che Guevara

As this book has taken shape over a decade's time in varied circumstances in Southern California, Paris, the south of France, Atlantic Canada, Philadelphia, and Missouri, it has benefited from the aid of many.

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Marcha, March 12, 1965.

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