

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Note on Sources</i>	xiii

Introduction: Narrating the Nation – From the Nineteenth to the Eighteenth Century	I
The Nation and Its Past(s)	6
Historians and the Making of National Narratives	11
Shaping a ‘French’ Past	15
Distinctions: Races, National Characters, and Classes	22

PART I

1 Race, Blood, and Lineage: The Nobility’s National Narrative and the History of France	29
Eighteenth-Century Notions of Race	29
The Royal Race and the Duke de Saint-Simon’s Nobility of Blood	41
Time, Education, and Sacrifice: From Noble Lineages to Bourgeois Ethnicities	53
2 History and Race: The Subject of Boulainvilliers’s National Narrative	66
Boulainvilliers’s Seditious Historiography	66
‘Boulainvilliers’s Transformation’: Anti-histories, Politics, and Anthropology	76
The Nation and Hierarchical Opposition	87
3 Debating the Nation’s History: From Royal(ist) to Ethnic Origins	96
Nicolas Fréret, the Père Daniel, and the Contested Origins of the French Nation	96
Rethinking the Past: The ‘Science of Our Social Origins’	107
Contesting Boulainvilliers: The Abbé Trianon, Foncemagne, and Dubos	115

PART II

- | | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 4 | Thinking the Nation's Character: At the Crossroads of Literature, Anthropology, and History | 129 |
| | Defining a <i>Caractère</i> and Telling Its Story | 129 |
| | Individual and National Character | 137 |
| | Social Distinctions: Embodying the Nation's Character | 154 |
| 5 | Moral and Physical Causes: Montesquieu's History of Nations | 168 |
| | National Character and Moral and Physical Causes: Montesquieu and (a Few of) His Predecessors | 168 |
| | Montesquieu on Freedom: History and the Nation's <i>Moeurs</i> | 182 |
| | Montesquieu, the Franks, and the Gallo-Romans | 199 |
| 6 | Debating the Nation's History: Franks, Gauls, and the French Character | 214 |
| | The Franks, Their Character, and Their Freedom | 214 |
| | Germanic Freedom(s) and Myths of Regeneration: Mably and Lézardière | 224 |
| | On Romans, Celts, and Gauls | 234 |

PART III

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 7 | Classifying the Nation: The Past(s) of 'Social Classes' before and after the Revolution | 249 |
| | Thinking about Classes before 1789 | 249 |
| | Sieyès and the Third Estate/Nation | 266 |
| | From Sieyès to the Count de Saint-Simon: Rethinking the History of Classes | 277 |
| 8 | A Bourgeois National Narrative: On Augustin Thierry's <i>Réforme Historique</i> | 291 |
| | The Nation's History and the Biography of Power | 291 |
| | <i>Narration Complète</i> and the Politics of History | 299 |
| | The Perennial Subject(s) of the Nation's History | 311 |
| 9 | Debating the Nation's History: Restoring to the Bourgeoisie its Lost Past | 322 |
| | Burghers, Bourgeois, and Classes: de Bréquigny, Le Gendre, d'Argenson, and Mably (Again) | 322 |
| | Classes and the French Constitution in the Pre-revolutionary and the Early Revolutionary Years | 334 |
| | In the Wake of the Revolution: Montlosier, Guizot, and Mignet | 344 |
| | Conclusion: About Renan – Deciding the Nation's Identity | 359 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 369 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 447 |