ECONOMISTES AND THE REINVENTION
OF EMPIRE

Exploring the myriad efforts to strengthen colonial empire that unfolded in response to France’s imperial crisis in the second half of the eighteenth century, Pernille Røge examines how political economists, colonial administrators, planters, and entrepreneurs shaped the recalibration of empire in the Americas and in Africa alongside the intensification of the French Caribbean plantation complex. Emphasising the intellectual contributions of the Economistes (also known as the Physiocrats) to formulate a new colonial doctrine, the book highlights the advent of an imperial discourse of commercial liberalisation, free labour, agricultural development, and civilisation. With her careful documentation of the reciprocal impacts of economic ideas, colonial policy and practices, Røge also details key connections between Ancien Régime colonial innovation and the French Revolution’s republican imperial agenda. The result is a novel perspective on the struggles to reinvent colonial empire in the final decades of the Ancien Régime and its influences on the French Revolution and beyond.

PERNILLE ROGE is Assistant Professor of History and convener of the Early Modern Worlds Initiative at the University of Pittsburgh. She is author of numerous articles and book chapters on the eighteenth-century French, Danish, and British colonial empires. She is also co-editor of The Political Economy of Empire in the Early Modern World (2013), with Sophus Reinert, and of the International Review of Social History’s special issue on Free and Unfree Labor in Atlantic and Indian Ocean Port Cities, 17th-19th Century (2019), with Pepijn Brandon and Niklas Frykman.
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ECONOMISTES AND THE REINVENTION OF EMPIRE

France in the Americas and Africa, c. 1750–1802

PERNILLE RØGE

University of Pittsburgh
For Anders,
Oskar Emil and Otto
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Acknowledgements

This book has been long under way and is, like the history it narrates, shaped by numerous people, institutions, and places. It is therefore a privilege to be able to express my deep gratitude to all those who have supported me from its earliest inception to its completion. My first thanks go to Terence Murphy and Laurence Brown, my two undergraduate mentors at the American University of Paris, France. Terence Murphy’s sharp wit drew me to Ancien Régime France and the French Revolution while Laurence Brown’s passion for Caribbean history introduced me to a world of historical inquiry far beyond Europe. It was their classes that allowed me to see the contours of a possible research project on the eighteenth-century French colonial empire, just like it was their encouragements that led me to apply to the MPhil in Modern European History at the University of Cambridge.

As a graduate student in Cambridge, I was fortunate to have T.C.W. Blanning as my MPhil thesis advisor. His experienced hand and English humour guided me through my first year of graduate studies. Bernhard Fulda, Christopher Clark, Richard Evans, Hubertus Jahn, and Robert Tombs offered additional intellectual support. Maike Thier, Ruadhán Mac Cormaic, Kevin Quinlan, Jan Hennings, Jonathan Silverstein-Loeb, and Jonathan Goldberg helped me balance life as a budding historian. So did students, staff, and fellows at Queens’ College, Cambridge, though no one more so than Louise Cowen, Adrien Vigier, Joseph Sandham, Miguel Ley Pineda, Natalie Evans, and Panagiotis Georgiadis. As my research interests moved towards imperial and intellectual history, I was blessed to have Richard Drayton as my supervisor and Emma Rothschild as my advisor. I could not have wished for a better team. Richard’s intellectual creativity and his unrivalled ability to see the value of a rough research project, Emma’s sharp eye, her kindness, and her profound knowledge of early modern France helped steer my doctoral dissertation towards
completion. They taught me what it means to be a supportive mentor. I am forever in their debt.

As a Mellon Prize student at the Centre for History and Economics, Cambridge, I benefitted from insights and advice from Gareth Stedman Jones, William O’Reilly, Tim Harper, as well as the centre’s students and fellows. Inga Huld Markan, my friend, my marathon partner! I was fortunate to enter my doctoral studies right as David Todd and Gabe Paquette finished theirs. Gabe’s work inspired me to place my work within a larger transimperial framework. David read my drafts at various stages and offered invaluable comments at every turn. Conversations with Michael Sonenscher, Istvan Hunt, Christopher Bayly, Shruti Kapila, and Emma Spary helped further my project. Numerous doctoral students and research fellows at Cambridge inspired my work in direct and indirect ways. I profited enormously from the reading group on French empires organised by David Todd and William Nelson that also included Anne-Isabel Richard, Isabel Noronha-DiVanna, Thomas Jones, and Tom Hopkins. Weekly seminars and workshops in World History, Modern European History, and the History of Political Thought allowed me to learn from Carrie Gibson, Elise Juzda Smith, Andrew Arsan, Tom Stammers, Catherine Bosley, Matthew Butler, Stefanie Ganger, Tom Neuhaus, Andrew Jarvis, Claire Levenson, Hester Vaizey, Jasper Heinzen, Michael Frisch, Victoria Harris, Emile Chabal, Dawn Dodds, Alois Maderspacher, David Motadel, Su Lin Lewis, D’Maris Coffman, and Jennifer Regan. Sophus Reinert shared my interest in the political economy of empire and collaborated with me on my first edited volume. When I defended my dissertation, Megan Vaughan and Keith Michael Baker offered fantastic advice on how to transform a PhD thesis into a book manuscript.

My doctoral research was supported by Det Obelske Famillefond, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK, the Prince Consort Fund and the Ellen McArthur Fund at the University of Cambridge, and by the Centre for History and Economics, Cambridge. I was able to explore the Gustave Gimon Collection on French Political Economy at Stanford University as a visiting fellow in 2007. During this visit, I benefitted from my conversations with Keith Michael Baker, Dan Edelstein, Richard W. Lyman, and the history department’s graduate students. Sarah Sussman helped me settle in. Nathalie and Ken Auerbach opened their home to me. During my numerous visits to French archives, Sofiane, Amine, and Zineb Bou-Salah always welcomed me with open arms. I am forever grateful to them. Archivists at the Archives nationales, the
Acknowledgements

Bibliothèque nationale, and the Ministère des affaires étrangères in Paris, the Archives départementales de la Gironde in Bordeaux, the Archives nationales d’outre-mer and the Musée Arbaud in Aix-en-Provence, the Archives départementales de la Martinique, the British National Archives in Kew, and librarians in Cambridge University Library’s rare books room have helped me get to my requested sources and suggested new ones.

My visits to France allowed me to learn from numerous historians. Marcel Dorigny has supported this project since the first day I met him. Much of this book is in dialogue with his and Bernard Gainor’s scholarship on the Société des amis des noirs and the French Revolution. Their encouragements have been vital to the evolution of this book. Allan Potofsky, François-Joseph Ruggiu, Paul Cohen, Bertie Mandelblatt, Loïc Charles, Paul Cheney, Cécile Vidal, Marie-Jeanne Rossignol, Pierre Singaravélou, and Manuel Covo were generous and insightful interlocutors as I developed my ideas. Right as I finished my doctoral research, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, appointed me to a three-year college lectureship/research fellowship. My time at Corpus allowed me to start transforming my dissertation into a book. I am grateful to its fellows, staff, and history students. A special thanks to Keith Seffen, Sarah Fine, James Warren, Elizabeth Winter, Marina Fresca-Spada, Juliet Foster, Andrew Spencer, and Michael Sutherland whose company enriched my three years at Corpus.

In 2012, I moved to the University of Pittsburgh to take up an Assistant Professorship in History. My colleagues in the Department of History, and our graduate and undergraduate students, have provided me with a stimulating intellectual home to complete my research for this book and move it towards production. The European Studies Center awarded me a research grant to go to Martinique and Guadeloupe. In 2015, my chair, Lara Putnam, organized a manuscript workshop for me. I am grateful to her for her mentorship, and to everyone who participated in the workshop. A special thanks to Brett Rushforth, who came to Pitt and carefully engaged with my manuscript. Marcus Rediker, Rob Ruck, Niklas Frykman, Victoria Harms, Evelyn Rawski, Seymour Drescher, Holger Hoock, Gregor Thum, Mari Webel, Laura Gotkowitz, Molly Warsh, and Pepijn Brandon offered additional written comments and feedback. Amir Syed provided helpful comments on Chapter 4.

While at Pitt, I have also received advice and support from George Reid Andrews, Michel Gobat, Maurine Greenwald, Laurence Glasco, Bernard Hagerty, Lannie Hammond, Diego Holstein, Irina Livezeanu, Ruth Mostern, Raja Adal, Keisha N. Blain, Elizabeth Archibald, Jan
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Acknowledgements


As I was getting ready to submit my manuscript, Stuart Schwartz and Steven Pincus offered me an opportunity to share a draft of Chapter 3 at their Early Modern Empires Workshop at Yale University. Catherine Desbarats and Nicholas Dew allowed me to share a draft of the same chapter at their French Atlantic History Group at McGill University. I thank all participants at these two workshops for their wonderful comments and questions. Over the years, numerous colleagues in the field have helped me sharpen my ideas with their questions and observations—some at conferences, some through email correspondence. A special thanks to my co-panelists Alice Conklin, Jenna Nigro, and Bronwen McShea, whose research and comments allowed me to think about the history of French civilising missions in the longue durée. My co-panelists Christopher Hodson, Christopher Leslie Brown, and Gregory O’Malley helped me to think carefully about French activities in Senegambia. John Shovlin, Alexandre Dubé, Jeff Horn, William Doyle, Malik Ghachem, Rafe Blaufarb, and Laurie Wood offered comments or shared their work with me at important junctures. Sue Peabody, Christian Crouch, and Gillian Weiss gave good advice. Arad Gigi helped me in the archives. Michael Kwass and Michael Ledger Lomas provided generous feedback as I was making final revisions.

At Cambridge University Press several people helped me carry this project to completion. Michael Watson was patient and supportive, Liz Friend-Smith, Atifa Jiwa, Swati Kumari, and Holly Monteith lend their support at various stages. James B. Collins and two anonymous readers carefully read my manuscript. Their generous engagement with my work
Acknowledgements

and invaluable feedback saved me from numerous mistakes and made the manuscript better. I am grateful to them all, and solely responsible for any remaining errors.

My greatest debt is to my extended family. Without their love and support I would not have finished this book. Inge Lise Jensen, Annich Michelle Bislev, Anne Kristine Helledi, Ewa Otulak, and Molly Warsh you are female power houses and a part of my family. My four goddesses – Lene, Mia, Laila, and Line – you spread sisterly laughter and support whenever I see you. My aunts and uncle, Aase, Magda, and Johan jumped on a plane to visit us in Pittsburgh. Mette, Jens Ole, Matias, Nanna, Ellen, Iben, Nikolai, Andreas, and Frida, you put a smile on my face. My grandparents, Inger and Børge, my uncle Niels Erik, and my father, Ole Jensen, I miss you and I look up to you. My family-in-law, Karen, Erik, Kristine, Søren, Andrea and Rebekka agreed to spend their summer holidays in Aix-en-Provence and Paris so that I could complete my research. My brothers, Jakob, Mads, and Peter keep me grounded with their humour and talents. Anders Jørgen has provided me with unconditional love since I was three. My mother, Birthe, is the strongest and wisest woman I know. The two of them have taught me to fight for my dreams, for my family, and to meet the world with an open mind. Anders Kloch Jeppesen, Oskar Emil, and Otto, you are my world. I dedicate this book to you.
Note on the Text

Throughout the text, I refer to the Secrétariat and Secrétaire d'État de la Marine during the Ancien Régime as the Ministry and the Minister of the Marine. Similarly, I refer to the Secrétariat and Secrétaire d'État des Affaires étrangères as the Ministry and Minister of Foreign Affairs. While researching this book, the Archives nationales d'outre-mer in Aix-en-Provence made the Correspondance à l’arrivée de la Martinique, Sous-série C8 and the archive on Personnel colonial ancien, Série E, XVIIe-XVIIIe available online. I have added their ‘Référence Internet’ for those documents in these two series that I consulted online but also preserved the archival reference.
Abbreviations

ADG Archives départementales de la Gironde
ANOM Archives nationales d'outre-mer, Aix-en-Provence
ANPMP Archives nationales, Paris, Mirabeau Papers
FM Musée Arbaud, Aix-en-Provence, Fonds Mirabeau
MAE Ministère des affaires étrangères, Paris
NAK National Archives, Kew