

WILKES AND LIBERTY

A Social Study of
1763 to 1774

BY
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PREFACE

THE present volume owes a great deal to the patience, forbearance and generous help afforded me over a number of years by archivists, librarians and assistants in the British Museum, the Public Record Office, the Guildhall Library, the Corporation of London, Middlesex and Surrey Record Offices, and a number of other libraries and archives in London, the Home Counties, the north and the west country. Among them, I am indebted, above all, to Miss E. D. Mercer, F.S.A., County Archivist of Middlesex, and to Dr. A. E. J. Hollaender, F.S.A., Archivist at the Guildhall Library: in fact, the researcher could not hope to find a more faithful friend and a wiser counsellor than I have found in Dr. Hollaender in the course of my various incursions into London's eighteenth-century history in recent years.

Among other scholars whose advice I have sought, I should like to acknowledge a particular debt to Mr. Ian Christie of University College, London, and to Professor Thomas Copeland and Dr. John Woods for helping me to gain such easy and agreeable access to the Wentworth Woodhouse MSS. in the Sheffield Central Library. In this respect, my thanks are due to Earl Fitzwilliam and the Trustees of the Wentworth Woodhouse Settled Estates for allowing me to publish certain extracts from the Burke and Rockingham MSS. in that collection. I also wish to thank the Librarian of the University of Edinburgh Library for permission to refer to Dr. D. G. D. Isaac's unpublished Ph.D. thesis, 'A Study of Popular Disturbance in Britain, 1714-1754', in chapter I, and the Editor of *The English Historical Review* for allowing me to reproduce in chapter v the substance of my article of October 1960, entitled 'The Middlesex Electors of 1768-1769'.

Adelaide,
May 17th, 1961.

G. R.

THE CROWD IN HISTORY

*A Study of Popular Disturbances
in France and England
1730-1848*

GEORGE RUDÉ

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16.5.68

THE CROWD IN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

BY
GEORGE RUDÉ

OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

PREFACE

THIS book is the outcome of frequent visits to Paris and to Parisian archives and libraries during the past nine years. I should like, therefore, to express my warmest appreciation to the archivists and staff of the Archives Nationales, Archives de la Préfecture de Police, the departmental archives of the Seine, Seine-et-Oise, and Seine-et-Marne, and of the Bibliothèque Nationale and Bibliothèque Historique de la Ville de Paris for their never-failing co-operation, sympathetic interest, good humour, and goodwill.

More particularly my thanks are due to my friends and collaborators, Richard Cobb and Albert Soboul, who have always been lavish with ideas, advice, and information and generous in putting at my disposal the fruits of their own researches. Our collaboration has, indeed, been so close in recent years that it is difficult to determine precisely, in the present instance, where their particular contribution ends and my own begins. In a real sense, therefore, this book is an expression of collective, rather than of purely individual, enterprise. And by no means least has been the contribution made to it by Professor Georges Lefebvre, whose example, wise counsel, and friendly encouragement have placed me, as countless other students of the French Revolution, deeply in his debt.

I also wish to thank Professor Alfred Cobban for his help and guidance over a number of years, and Mr. Alun Davies for much helpful advice and for sharing with me the ungrateful task of proof-reading. And finally, my special gratitude is due to my wife, whose patience, understanding, and concern for my well-being have made the writing of this book a pleasure rather than a burden.

G. R.

15 June 1958

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16.5.68
REVOLUTIONARY
EUROPE
1783-1815

GEORGE RUDÉ

COLLINS
ST JAMES'S PLACE
LONDON

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50-1897

Preface

This book attempts to present a picture of France and Europe before, during and immediately after the French Revolution. The literature in this field is immense and is rapidly becoming more so. During the past fifteen months, at least half-a-dozen major studies relating to the Revolution, in both its French and European contexts, have been published in France, the United States and England; and no doubt several more are on the stocks. Which is merely another way of saying that the Revolution remains an ever-open field of enquiry, and a short book like this can hope to do little more than present its many unsolved problems to wider groups of readers and whet their appetites for more discussion.

Of these problems, none has perhaps, in recent years, been so warmly debated as the significance of the French Revolution in its European (or world) context. How far was the revolution in Europe a projection of the French, and how far was it the product of its own internal development? It is a knotty question that allows of varying interpretations. It is one, however, that has been sharply posed only in the last ten years, and here, at least, the literature is still comparatively meagre. All the more credit is, therefore, due to Professor Palmer (late of Princeton) and Professor Godechot of Toulouse for opening up the question; and even those of us who cannot accept their view of a "Western" or "Atlantic" Revolution will applaud their pioneering efforts.

In writing a volume of this kind it is impossible to pay due regard to all who, in one form or another, have contributed to its making. Like many others working in this field, I should like to pick out for special mention the name of the late Georges Lefebvre, who has not only inspired all who have attempted to treat the Revolution "from below" but whose works include the best general comprehensive treatment of

both the French Revolution and Napoleon. To him, more than to any other, all recent studies on the Revolution, the Consulate and Empire and their repercussions across France's borders owe a debt. In addition, I wish to thank Mr. Richard Ollard of William Collins for his patience, good humour and vigilance in steering my manuscript towards the press; and Mr. William A. Cowan, Librarian of the Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, for consenting to read the proofs. Finally, my thanks are due to the University of Adelaide and, in particular, to my colleague, Professor Hugh Stretton, for making it possible for teaching historians to write books.

GEORGE RUDÉ

Adelaide,
1 October 1963