

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456994303321
Autore	Tocqueville Alexis de <1805-1859, >
Titolo	Tocqueville : the Ancien Regime and the French Revolution // translated by Arthur Goldhammer ; edited with an introduction by Jon Elster [[electronic resource]]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge : , : Cambridge University Press, , 2011
ISBN	1-107-21940-X 1-139-06268-9 1-283-19321-3 9786613193216 1-139-07481-4 0-511-97711-5 1-139-08162-4 1-139-06904-7 1-139-07706-6 1-139-07934-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xxxii, 280 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Cambridge texts in the history of political thought
Disciplina	944.04
Soggetti	France History Revolution, 1789-1799 Causes
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 01 Feb 2016).
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contradictory judgments of the Revolution at its inception --That the fundamental and final purpose of the Revolution was not, as some have thought, to destroy religious authority and weaken political authority -- How the French revolution was a political revolution that proceeded in the manner of religious revolutions, and why -- How almost all of Europe had exactly the same institutions, and how those institutions were crumbling everywhere -- What was the essential achievement of the French Revolution? -- Why feudal prerogatives had become more odious to the people in France than anywhere else -- Why administrative centralization is an institution of the Ancien Regime and not, as some say, the work of the revolution or empire -- How what today is called administrative tutelage is an institution of the Ancien

Regime -- How administrative justice and the immunity of public officials were institutions of the Ancien Regime -- How centralization was thus able to insinuate itself among the old powers and supplant them without destroying them -- On administrative mores under the Regime -- How France, of all the countries of Europe, was already the one in which the capital had achieved the greatest preponderance over the provinces and most fully subsumed the entire country -- That France was the country where people had become most alike -- How men so similar were more separate than ever, divided into small groups alien and indifferent to one another -- How the destruction of political liberty and the separation of classes caused nearly all the maladies that proved fatal to the Regime -- On the kind of liberty to be found under the Regime and its influence on the Revolution -- How, despite the progress of civilization, the condition of the French peasant was sometimes worse in the eighteenth century than it had been in the thirteenth -- How, toward the middle of the eighteenth century, men of letters became the country's leading politicians, and the effects that followed from this -- How irreligion was able to become a general and dominant passion in eighteenth-century France, and how it influenced the character of the revolution -- How the French wanted reforms before they wanted liberties -- That the reign of Louis XVI was the most prosperous era of the old monarchy, and how that very prosperity hastened the Revolution -- How attempts to relieve the people stirred them to revolt -- On some practices that helped the government complete the people's revolutionary education -- How a great administrative revolution preceded the political revolution, and on the consequences it had -- How the Revolution emerged naturally from the foregoing -- Appendix: on the Pay d'etat, and in particular Languedoc.

---

## Sommario/riassunto

This translation of an undisputed classic aims to be both accurate and readable. Tocqueville's subtlety of style and profundity of thought offer a challenge to readers as well as to translators. As both a Tocqueville scholar and an award-winning translator, Arthur Goldhammer is uniquely qualified for the task. In his Introduction, Jon Elster draws on his recent work to lay out the structure of Tocqueville's argument. Readers will appreciate *The Ancien Regime and the French Revolution* for its sense of irony as well as tragedy, for its deep insights into political psychology and for its impassioned defense of liberty.

---