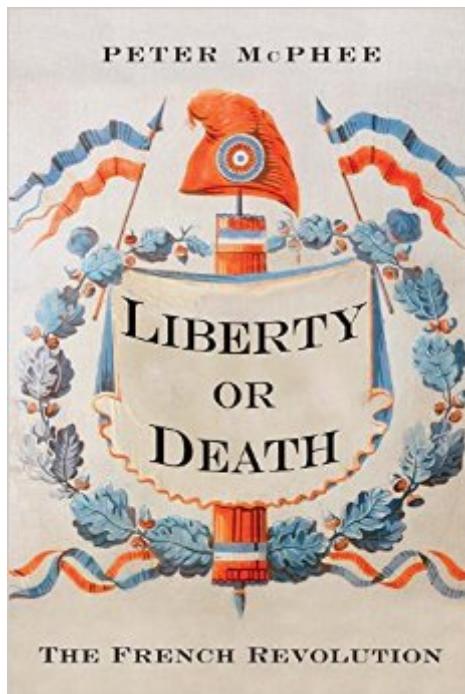


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Liberty Or Death: The French Revolution



Synopsis

A strikingly new account of the impact of the French Revolution in Paris, across the French countryside, and around the globe. The French Revolution has fascinated, perplexed, and inspired for more than two centuries. It was a seismic event that radically transformed France and launched shock waves across the world. In this provocative new history, Peter McPhee draws on a lifetime's study of eighteenth-century France and Europe to create an entirely fresh account of the world's first great modern revolution—its origins, drama, complexity, and significance. Was the Revolution a major turning point in French—and world—history, or was it instead a protracted period of violent upheaval and warfare that wrecked millions of lives? McPhee evaluates the Revolution within a genuinely global context: Europe, the Atlantic region, and even farther. He acknowledges the key revolutionary events that unfolded in Paris, yet also uncovers the varying experiences of French citizens outside the gates of the city: the provincial men and women whose daily lives were altered—or not—by developments in the capital. Enhanced with evocative stories of those who struggled to cope in unpredictable times, McPhee's deeply researched book investigates the changing personal, social, and cultural world of the eighteenth century. His startling conclusions redefine and illuminate both the experience and the legacy of France's transformative age of revolution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Liberty or Death: The French Revolution by Dr. Peter McPhee is a well written vivid account of the French Revolution. The book is good in setting the scene for the storming of the Bastille Prison in July 1789 by irate starving Parisians. The book explains how the nation was in deep financial

trouble due to the losses incurred in the Seven Years War and the vast amount of money used to support the fledgling United States in the American Revolution. Louis XVI was a basically good man but was incapable of wise rule while his wife Marie Antoinette was hated due to her Austrian birth, the Affair of the Necklace and her reputed amorous affairs. The book makes the salient point that while Paris was the focus of the Revolution the French countryside was in flames due to Civil War in the Vendee monarchist area of the nation and the invasion by Austrian troops on the borders. This is a good introductory and understandable to the layperson account of the momentous event which could be used a good textbook in a course on the French Revolution, European and eighteenth century history or world history. Good period illustrations, maps and extensive footnotes are included.

Though I have only had time so far to read the first two and the last chapter, this is a very enjoyable, clear, and readable account of the French Revolution -- what preceded it, what happened during those crucial years, and what the consequences were afterwards. Highly recommended.

To my mind, one of the best overviews of the grand event and its nearly overwhelming complexity.

Well written

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