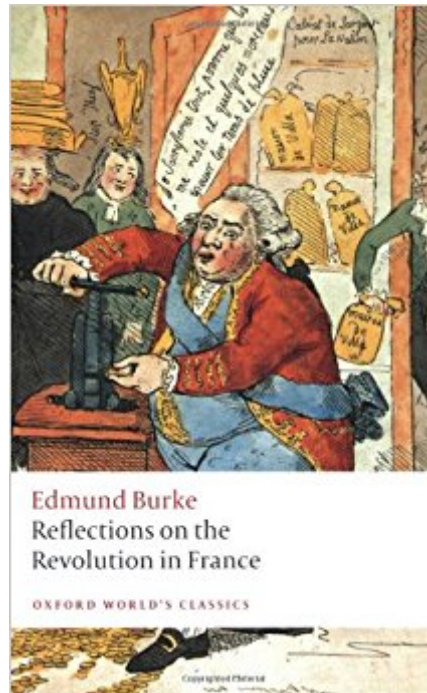




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# Reflections On The Revolution In France (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

This new and up-to-date edition of a book that has been central to political philosophy, history, and revolutionary thought for two hundred years offers readers a dire warning of the consequences that follow the mismanagement of change. Written for a generation presented with challenges of terrible proportions--the Industrial, American, and French Revolutions, to name the most obvious--Burke's *Reflections of the Revolution in France* displays an acute awareness of how high political stakes can be, as well as a keen ability to set contemporary problems within a wider context of political theory.

About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Oxford does the student and scholarly world a service by making *Reflections* available in an affordable edition."--Barbara B. Davis, Antioch College  
"Print is clear and the price is right."--Dr. V. Lyle Haskins, Northeastern State University  
"Burke's views are as pertinent today as they were 200 years ago. His comments and criticisms of the French Revolution can be applied to 20th century revolutions. It is interesting that his reflections are echoed by so many revisionist French Revolution

historians in the past several years. This work allows students to evaluate the events of the revolution from a different perspective."--Professor Jeanne A. Ojala, University of Utah"I have hoped someday to find a "Reader's Digest" version of Burke. You have produced one, a real service to the profession! Great introduction and bibliography."--Professor Brian E. Strayer, Andrews University"The annotation of this text will be a great help to students. Mitchell's introduction is likewise clear and to the point."--Marilyn Morris, University of North Texas

Rethinking the Western Tradition Series --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Edmund Burke, politician, philosopher and historian, known as the father of conservatism. When the revolution in France broke out with the death of the King and the revolution being led by sidelined liberal radicals, Burke was horrified. In his reflections he shows just that, his horror and critique of where the revolution went wrong. Burke is a classic figure in the late 18th and early 19th century. Although not in opposition to the basic revolutionary principles, he disliked how the revolution was going about bringing in its ideas of liberty and equality, out with the old and in with the new. Burke was more of a gradualist, believing in growth of kingdoms, nations, and politics among other things. To paraphrase Burke's own words in the book that we must take to heart, what is a tree without its roots?

I've always heard of Burke, but never had occasion to read him until my book club decided to read *Reflections*. Now you do have to slow down to read it to an 18th century pace; you'd miss the beauty of the language and the fascinating details of life in England and France if you tried to speed read. It's worth the time. Hard to believe how relevant it is to many of today's issues!

Burke is a master of philosophy, religion, history, literature and rhetoric, and such is reflected in his holistic approach to civics. The first half of his work elaborates on the faulty principles of the Jacobins, while the second deals primarily with their naive reliance on these false principles in the face of various practical difficulties. Though still one of the best explications of traditional conservatism, Burke's writing is often tedious and hampered by the epistolary format of his work.

Apart from aspects of style - a function of the times - Burke articulates the argument against revolution of any kind with brilliant clarity. Nothing worthwhile was ever built by tearing something else down. Except when the perversion is so repugnant it must be replaced. NB. Replaced - not

simply torn down. Almost without exception revolution succeeds only in making matters worse. Lincoln and the Civil War is one magnificent exception. Slavery was replaced with emancipation - and still today Lincoln's genius reaches out from 1865, as does Burke's from even earlier.

Classic work of political philosophy that remains relevant two centuries later. A must read in a well annotated edition

I never really appreciated Edmund Burke historically but after encountering a reference to this book, I read it and I really can appreciate his monarchical view and why he was appalled at what happened in France. If we look at current events, destroying a system of government because you don't like a particular individual does not lead to a better government when you have to start over . . . Historically this always leads to chaos . . . and aren't we there now?

Needed for a class. Got it real quick. Donated to local library when I was done with it. Makes for a great read for those interest in Political Science.

All the other reviews I've read have reviewed the book in isolation. It's better read with (either after or before) Thomas Carlyle's The French Revolution, both are deservedly classics.

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