Contents

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS xi

1 The Forbidden Books of Pre-revolutionary France 1
   ROBERT DARNTON

2 The French Revolution or Pure Democracy 33
   FRANCOIS FURET

3 The Heavenly City of the French Revolutionaries 46
   NORMAN HAMPSON

4 Bourgeois Revolution Revivified: 1789 and Social Change 69
   COLIN JONES

5 The Revolution: Catastrophe or New Dawn for the French Economy? 119
   LOUIS BERGERON

6 The Adventures of Reason, or From Reason to the Supreme Being 132
   MICHEL VOVELLE

7 Regionalism and Counter-Revolution in France 151
   ALAN FORREST

8 The French Revolution and Europe 183
   T. C. W. BLANNING

INDEX 207
The French Revolution continues to generate historical controversy. During the last thirty years, consensus on its meaning has disappeared. Scholarship and debate constantly reinterpret both the event as a whole and its constituent parts, changing our perceptions and understanding of it. Today the French Revolution is still being rewritten as history. In this volume, eight of the most distinguished scholars in the field present new interpretations of major themes in the history of the French Revolution. They explore areas of intellectual, political, religious, and social development. Two hundred each age, we are often told, rewrites the past in its own image. In the case of the French Revolution, this is an understatement. In the second half of this century the scholarship has seemed to be in a state of almost permanent revolution as historians have taken up one interpretative or methodological approach after another. Some of the story of this historiographical roller-coaster ride may be known to readers, thanks to William Doyle's best-selling text book Origins of the French Revolution, which begins with a long and detailed survey 'Writings on Revolutionary Origins since 193