

The Author

Richard Bourke is Professor of the History of Political Thought in the School of History at Queen Mary University of London. He has written on enlightenment political thought and modern Irish history. His *Empire and Revolution: The Political Life of Edmund Burke* will appear with Princeton University Press early in 2015.

The Paper

Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* proved to be one of the most resilient and controversial interpretations of 1789. By the time it appeared in November 1790, Burke had been wrestling with the significance of those events for just over a year. What does the evidence surviving from this period tell us about the development of his thought on the Revolution? This paper reconstructs Burke's arguments from the pre-*Reflections* period to help us understand the character of what became a classic account of events in France. Towards this end, Burke's views on revolution, religion and reform more generally will be explored, touching on events in Britain, America, India.

Related Literature

Primary

London Chronicle

Annual Register

Diary or Woodfall's Register

World

Gazetteer

The Public Advertiser

Parliamentary History (Cobbett)

Edmund Burke, *Substance of the Speech of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke in the Debate on the Army Estimates* (London: 1790).

Edmund Burke, *Substance of the Speech of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke in the Debate on the Army Estimates* (London: 3rd ed., 1790).

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, ed. J. C. D. Clark (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2001).

The Correspondence of Edmund Burke, eds. Thomas W. Copeland et al. (Chicago, Illinois: The Chicago University Press, 1958–1978), 10 vols.

Correspondence of the Right Honourable Edmund Burke, between the Year 1744 and the Period of his Decease, in 1797, ed. Richard Bourke (London: 1844).

Secondary

Frank O’Gorman, *The Whig Party and the French Revolution* (London: Macmillan, 1967).

L. G. Mitchell, *Charles James Fox and the Disintegration of the Whig Party, 1782–94* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971).

Albert Goodwin, *The Friends of Liberty: The English Democratic Movement in the Age of the French Revolution* (London: Hutchinson, 1979).