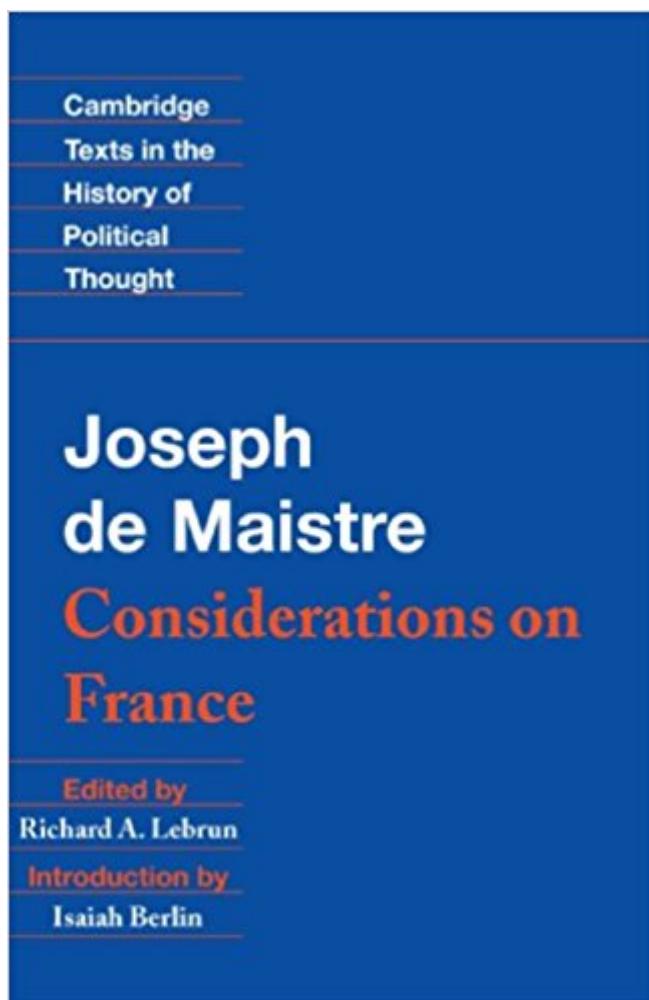


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# Maistre: Considerations On France (Cambridge Texts In The History Of Political Thought)



## Synopsis

Joseph de Maistre's *Considerations on France* (1797) is the best known French equivalent of Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. The work of the self-exiled Maistre presents a providential interpretation of the French Revolution and argues for a new alliance of throne and altar under a restored Bourbon monarchy. Although Maistre's influence within France was delayed until the Restoration, he is now acknowledged as the most eloquent spokesperson for continental conservatism. This edition features an Introduction by Isaiah Berlin.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Maistre's austere, cutting ideas might even be seen by some as having acquired an increased sense of immediacy." Mark Wegierski, *The Review of Metaphysics*

Text: English, French (translation) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

It is interesting to learn from the other side of the French Revolution. Maistre had a mind of his own. His point of view was unique to the time, but much of what he says holds truths that are for all time.

It is very interesting and full of information. It is not easy to read.

The book itself is great, but shame on the publisher for the introduction. A 23-page manifesto

warning you against Conservatism, and even comparing de Maistre to Faust. Disgusting. You could tell the person writing the introduction wrote it with a sneer on their face.

Joseph de Maistre is one of the harshest counter-revolutionary critics of the French Revolution. He calls for a return to traditional Catholicism and the Restoration of the monarchy. The book *Considerations on France* takes a look at his arguments for that tradition and his understanding of the dark side of human existence through his unique Christian perspective. De Maistre was both a Freemason and a Roman Catholic, an arch-conservative traditionalist, and a strong believer in the primacy of papal authority in the secular and spiritual realms. In this book, he criticizes those eighteenth century philosophers and their belief in progress and the "social contract" ideal. He explains why the traditional development of society is more appropriate, given the rootedness of man in sin. This is an important work to understand the thought of De Maistre, a Catholic reactionary.

The Frenchman Joseph de Maistre published this counter-revolutionary political manifesto, *Considerations on France*, as a protest against the chaos unleashed on Europe following the French Revolution. De Maistre is credited for setting the tone for the conservative, pro-monarchist political right in Catholic and Continental Europe for the subsequent nineteenth century, as a sort of French contemporary of the esteemed British conservative, Edmund Burke. De Maistre glorifies war and violence as rooted in mankind's primordial fall from divine grace. De Maistre even goes so far as to view the executioner and the soldier as human agents of divine wrath against those who transgress the higher realm. Attempts to improve the human condition through revolutionary politics and high-blown rhetoric regarding "democracy" and "equality" are cursed to fail. These revolutionary movements will only collapse because of their disconnection with reality and their inability to comprehend the dark side of human nature. Instead, political change must be brought about through a gradual process. Traditions that go beyond human memory into the obscure mists of history have a quality of the a-rational, or the divine, about them. The sacred altar and the crown may be defended by force if necessary. It is curious that de Maistre, writing in the 1790s and early 1800s, predicted the restoration of the Bourbon family to the French monarchy after the military defeat of Napoleon.

This book may be helpful for every person interested in the French Revolution. It shows a "reactionary" vision of the Revolution, and describes all the human right violations done by the

revolutionaries. In de Maistre's view, the French Revolution is a divine punishment for France. France had not follow its special vocation: to be a stronghold of the christian faith, and therefore came the Revolution. Perhaps the most interesting thing is that all De Maistre's predictions became true, specially the Restauration of Monarchy. Most books about the French Revolution are pure apologies. If you want to read something very different, read this book.

Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin didn't have s\*\*\* on de Maistre. Anyone looking for an excellent read on why democracy and republicanism are shit need look no further than this book. An excellent exposition on why Monarchism and Fascism are the only way forward in a degenerate and decaying West.

I'm seldom creeped out by a book or even an author but this one managed to make me laugh in disbelief and recoil in horror at the same time. Being closer to the left myself I am not in the habit of reading reactionary, anti-freedom, religious screeds like this one, so when I did (back in 2009 in uni) I was perplexed at how someone can be so wrong. But de Maistre was an effective writer and my blood boiling in indignation is good evidence of that.

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