
Susan Dalton
What the editors have produced is an amazing tool for anyone interested in the French Revolution. The wealth of information is evident in the relation between this volume and the rest of the series. As a reference guide, the atlas should appeal to a wide audience, ranging from first-year undergraduates to specialists in the field. For those just beginning their university careers, the editors have thought to include classic graphs showing the depreciation of the assignat (p. 43), the spike in death sentences during the Great Terror (p. 71), and the rise in the price of grain before the outbreak of the Revolution (p. 65). As for more advanced researchers, the atlas should be of particular interest to those in urban history. More specifically, the chapter on “le cadret urbain” shows road development, the evolution of public services, and construction and architecture in the city. Some of the graphs take a good deal of concentration to penetrate, and at times the editors may have been overly ambitious in attempting to include too much information in a single graphic. For example, the representation of the division of social hierarchies in the city (p. 31) could certainly have been presented more clearly. At other times, not enough information has been included, such as time periods covered by salaries and rents (p. 41, p. 30). North American audiences should also be aware that the bibliography has significant omissions of English-language literature, especially concerning work on women and gender, an important sub-field in North-American research. The editors have included gender as a category of analysis in many of the sections, often based on the work of Dominique Godineau. However, masterful, Godineau’s research does not cover all the bases on this issue and editors could have easily included the work of Harriet Branson Applewhite and Darline Gay Levy, and Lynn Hunt, all immensely influential scholars. Despite any deficiencies, however, I am sure that this is a collection that all researchers interested in the Revolution should consult.

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Consecrating spaces for historical commemoration, a practice that has lately received a great deal of scholarly attention in the United States and Europe, is also emerging as a distinct field of study in Canada as well. Some earlier work in this country had dealt with crowd and mob action, parades and commemorations, and public holidays and ethnic- or class-centered activities, mostly conducted on city and town streets. But this work was generally without a developed theoretical framework for considering the state’s role in control of public space, or in historical commemoration and the consecration of public spaces as...