The Court Nobility and the Origins of the French Revolution.

Abstract
This original volume seeks to get behind the surface of political events and to identify the forces which shaped politics and culture from 1680 to 1840 in Germany, France and Great Britain. The contributors, all leading specialists in the field, explore critically how 'culture', defined in the widest sense, was exploited during the 'long eighteenth century' to buttress authority in all its forms and how politics infused culture. Individual essays explore topics ranging from the military culture of Central Europe through the political culture of Germany, France and Great Britain, music, court intrigue and diplomatic practice, religious conflict and political ideas, the role of the Enlightenment, to the very new dispensations which prevailed during and after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic watershed. The book will be essential reading for all scholars of eighteenth-century European history.

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To historians today, familiar with La Fayette's subsequent role in the French Revolution, his voicing of these sentiments in 1787 may not seem so surprising. Yet as Artois's reply makes clear, to his listeners at the time they were both unexpected and shocking. Recommend this book. Email your librarian or administrator to recommend adding this book to your organisation's collection. Cultures of Power in Europe during the Long Eighteenth Century. Edited by Hamish Scott, Brendan Simms. French Revolution: French Revolution, the revolutionary movement that shook France between 1787 and 1799 and marked the end of the ancien regime in that country. Origins of the Revolution. The French Revolution had general causes common to all the revolutions of the West at the end of the 18th century and particular causes that explain why it was by far the most violent and the most universally significant of these revolutions. The first of the general causes was the social structure of the West. With the French Revolution began the institutionalization of secularized individualism in both social life and politics; individualism and rationality found expression in parliamentary government and written constitutionalism. The revolutionaries attacked the premises and functioning of the international order under the old regime where war was the norm and peace the exception and states recognized no bonds but self-interest. They also critiqued the demonstrable foreign policy failures of Louis XV and Louis XVI which reduced France to a nullity and underscored its impotence. The revolutionaries could draw upon a long tradition of criticism of the diplomatic system. Statesmen, philosophers, and clerics in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including Leibniz, Mably, and Fénélon, critiqued both the system and th...