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R. R. Palmer

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R. R. Palmer : The Age of the Democratic Revolution: A Political History of Europe and America, 1760-1800 (Princeton Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Age of the Democratic Revolution: A Political History of Europe and America, 1760-1800 (Princeton Classics):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The lesser revolutionsBy Benjamin TrovatoThis is a reprint of the first two volumes of a longer work that was never completed. Many people have compared the French and American Revolutions. Palmer had the wit to see these as the most extreme parts of a larger process taking place in the West as a whole. There were other near-revolutions and other similar political contests that did not go to completion. These need to be part of any comparative study. He implicitly rejects the simple monarchy-aristocracy-democracy model. Real power was in the hands of landowners, rich merchants and officials. Their power was exercised through many institutions that were complex, traditional and local. Above them were kings who sought to impose uniform laws and below them less powerful men who wanted more power. The common people only appear when they riot. The men of the enlightenment appear as advisors to kings, propagandists for those out of power and free-floating thinkers and politicians who seized power then they could. Palmer spends so much time discussing that he sometimes loses track of the history of events which is the necessary basis for any interpretation. Because he confines himself to a few decades he cannot explain why the changes happened when and where they did. It is useful to be reminded of the lesser revolutions.0 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A massive tome with some errors and he conveniently leaves ...By Ethan G.A massive tome with some errors and he conveniently leaves out women. But on the whole, he was doing Atlantic history before it was a thing.

For the Western world, the period from 1760 to 1800 was the great revolutionary era in which the outlines of the modern democratic state came into being. Here for the first time in one volume is R. R. Palmer's magisterial account of this incendiary age. Palmer argues that the American, French, and Polish revolutions and the movements for political change in Britain, Ireland, Holland, and elsewhere were manifestations of similar political ideas, needs, and conflicts. Palmer traces the clash between an older form of society, marked by legalized social rank and hereditary or self-perpetuating elites, and a new form of society that placed a greater value on social mobility and legal equality. Featuring a new foreword by David Armitage, this Princeton Classics edition of *The Age of the Democratic Revolution* introduces a new generation of readers to this enduring work of political history.

Praise for the previous Volume 1 edition: "Robert Palmer possesses the combination of patient scholarship and broad philosophical inquiry the task demands. . . . This book will enlarge and clarify our understanding of modern Western history. It will do more than that. It will re-emphasize the strength and vitality of the roots that supported the growth of democracy in the Old and New Worlds."--Geoffrey Bruun, *The New York Times*
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Praise for the previous Volume 2 edition: ". . . A work of historical synthesis that has no equal."--Maurice Dolbier, *New York Herald Tribune*
About the Author R. R. Palmer (1909-2002) was professor emeritus of history at Yale University and a guest scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. His books include *Twelve Who Ruled: The Year of the Terror in the French Revolution* (Princeton). The first volume of *The Age of the Democratic Revolution* won the Bancroft Prize in 1960. David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University.