The French Revolution Debate In Britain: The Origins Of Modern Politics

Gregory Claeys

powerful influence of the French Revolution can be traced in the reactions. could give way to Napoleon, then might modern revolutions inevitably follow a be at the heart of several different historical and contemporary political debates. In his view, Great Britain did not have a constitution it had only a long history of
Gregory Claeys explores the reception of the French Revolution in Britain through the medium of its leading interpreters. Claeys argues that the major figures--Thomas Paine, Edmund Burke, Mary Wollstonecraft, William Godwin and John Thelwall--collectively laid the foundations for political debate for the following century, and longer. Get A Copy. Kindle Store.
Burk insisted that the problem with France that the Revolution posed the threat of a new form of tyranny, that of a democracy fuelled, like a new religion, by its own sense of infallibility p13: "I hate it most of all where most are concerned in it. The tyranny of a multitude is a multiplied tyranny." 1 - The reflection argues that France in the hands of the revolutionaries was analogous to a madman or highwayman, lacking in government and possessing "liberty" only in the wild and anarchical. The Origins of Modern Politics. Author(s): Gregory Claeys. Features new interpretations of key figures within the French Revolution debate in Britain. An ideal introduction for students includes a helpful Chronology and Reading List to aid study. Acknowledgements: Chronology: Introduction: The Origins of Modern Political Discourse. Edmund Burke: Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) and the Origins of Conservatism. Thomas Paine: Rights of Man (1791-2) and the Origins of Radicalism. Mary Wollstonecraft: Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792) and the Origins of Feminism. The Spectre of 'Levelling': Loyalists and Paineites, c.1791-5. Varieties of Whiggism: Fox Sheridan and the Whig Party (1791-3). William Godwin: The Enquiry Concerning Political Justice (1793) and the Origins of Philosophical Anarchism. John Thelwall: Luxury Property and the Rights of L...