**Pol Sci 110c**

**Spring 2011 – Strong**

**BURKE,**

***REFLECTIONS ON THE REVOLUTION IN FRANCE***

***FRANCE: OUTLINE***

***Pagination to Hackett edition – note that this is not a***

***Substitute for reading the text***

*(Hackett edition)*

# Pp. 3-12: Introduction: critique of posture of Revolution Society

## Clubs in GB

### Constitutional Club

#### Not really imp (5)

### Revolution Society (5)

#### Adopted by French NA

##### They are in effect engaging in diplomatic relations

#### Not I (7) (Manly moral regulated liberty)

##### Importance of circumstances in evaluated what something is

###### What should liberty be and what is it in France? (8)

#### List of elements of government (armies, revenue, morality, religion, property, peace and order) (8) ORG OF BOOK

### The astonishing chaos of the FR (9)

#### The chaos of Price’s sermon (10)

##### The pulpit style (11)

# Pp. 12-33: English institutions REBUTTAL OF PRICE

## 12-29: Refutation of 3 claims made by Price about the rights of the English people  under their country's constitution as asserted by the "Revolution Society":

### 12-24: Right "to choose our own governors"

#### what are the principles of the Revolution of 1688 (15)

##### the politic well wrought veil about the succession of William and Mary (17)

##### importance of change and extraordinary circumstances (19)

###### experience and choices (23)

### 24-27: Right "to cashier them for misconduct"

#### James I was more than “misconduct” –breaking of contract

##### Kings are servants but not ordinary (26)

### 27-29: Right "to frame government for ourselves"

#### ancient constitution (27) –where you find it

#### an ‘entailed inheritance”

## 29-33: Proper mode of reform: link to "ancient institutions"

### what we are (30)

#### nature not speculation; breasts not inventions

#### French want to start over (31) despite ancient advantages

# Pp. 33-73: French actions contrasted with English policy

## France has corrupted itself (33)

### Elements in which this shows –34 (cf 8)

## 35-38: Composition of Assembly

### men of theory (35)

### low grade lawyers (37)

#### men not taught habitually to respect themselves

### country clergy (40)

## 38-59: Proper criteria of just government

### contrast with GB (39)

### great men (42)

### property (44)

### what is liberty for (47)

#### practice of ancestors, fundamental laws, fixed form of constitution, (50-1)

### the real rights of men (51) (equal rights but not to equal things)

### a kind of state of nature escaped from (52)

### what government is for (to provide for human wants) (52)

#### who can deal with wants (53)

### metaphysical rights (false) (54)

### rights of men versus his nature (56)

## 59-73: Horrors perpetrated by the Revolution

### 66 the age of chivalry

#### 67 king vs man; queen vs woman; woman vs animal

##### this is a drama and m reaction is the natural one (70-71)

###### the king and queen were not tyrants

# Pp. 73-90: English institutions/ popular character

## 73-79: People's conservatism, attachment to inherited institutions

### We have made no moral discoveries and we know it (75)

### You think permanence is bad (77)

## 79-90: Importance of religion

### who is the “we” (80)

### our prejudices (80)

#### need for a wholesome awe (81)

#### need for shame (82)

##### chain and continuity of the commonwealth (83)

##### Hobbesian anxiety (84)

### Society is indeed a contract (84)

### How are Chruch funds used (90-91)

# Pp. 92-216: Critique of policies of the Revolution NOTE HOW HE GOES THROUGH EACH STRATUM

## 92-108: Critique of confiscation of Church property due to two groups

### the monied interests

### the men of letters (97)

#### revolution in property ()101)

#### 102 Henry VIII: a homage was paid by despotism to justice (NB CONFISCATION)

#### what about taxes for the nobles (105)

#### France was despotism in appearance not reality (112)

## 108-22: Defense of old French regime, especially the nobility; aims to show the regime was susceptible of reform without revolution

## 122-44: Defense of clergy under old regime (139ff.: How Church might have been used as instrument of reform,  rather than being destroyed).

## 144-51: Proper method of political reform, vs. the French revolutionaries' way

### FR comes from the vices that destroy society (145)

## 151-216: Examination of institutions established by the Revolutionaries

### 151-67: Legislative assembly

#### French will be strangers to each other (161)

### 167-202: 3 kinds of "cement" of the new regime:

#### 167-72: Confiscations/ compulsory paper currency

#### 172-3: Dominance of Paris over the nation

#### 173-84: what's lacking/ defective in governmental institutions established by the Assembly: (needs a revolution in nature (177))

##### A senate (174)

##### An adequate executive (174-80)

##### An independent judiciary guided by settled law, and having authority over governmental officials themselves (180-84)]

#### 184-202: Army

#### 202-16: Revenue/ finance

# Pp. 216-18: Conclusion

## Reparation in the style of building