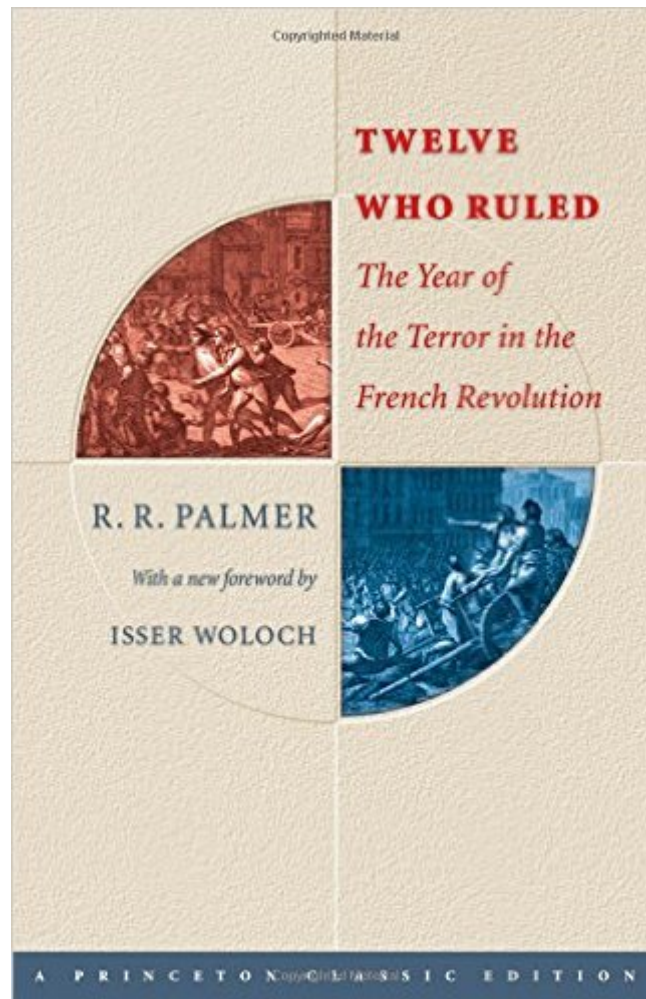


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Twelve Who Ruled: The Year Of The Terror In The French Revolution (Princeton Classic Editions)



Synopsis

In its fifth year (1793-1794), the French Revolution faced a multifaceted crisis that threatened to overwhelm the Republic. In response the government instituted a revolutionary dictatorship and a "reign of terror," with a Committee of Public Safety at its head. R. R. Palmer's fascinating narrative follows the Committee's deputies individually and collectively, recounting and assessing their tumultuous struggles in Paris and their repressive missions in the provinces. A new foreword by Isser Woloch explains why this book has been, and deserves to remain, an enduring classic in French revolutionary studies.

Book Information

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One of the defining moments of the French Revolution was the crisis of Year II of the Revolutionary Calendar. When counter-revolutionary armies held sway over vast areas of France, royalists were gaining ground in the Vendee & the Federalist revolt was in full swing, key ports were falling to the powerful British navy and everything pointed to the inevitable overthrow of the young Republic, and with it the ideals of the Revolution, and the return of Bourbon despotism. It was at this point in time that the "twelve" who were destined to successfully guide the revolutionary machinery including the "Terror" for the crucial year (July 1793 - July 1794) of the Revolution were elected to the Committee of Public Safety. R.R. Palmer has created almost life-like portraits of those twelve men and their activities which led to the victory of Fleurus and put the European Counter-Revolution on the defensive for the next twenty-odd years and gave the Revolution breathing space. One encounters

fascinating characters including lesser known revolutionaries such as the two Prieurs, the aristocratic Herault de Seychelles, and the more well-known, such as the beautiful & terrifying Louis Antoine Saint-Just, who was the feared spokesman of the Montagnards in the Convention, and the author of the Laws of Ventôse.

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