Periodicals were an integral part of eighteenth-century European civilisation. This volume brings together original articles in English and French dealing with the press both in the main centres of Enlightenment thought and in such often-neglected countries as Portugal and Sweden. The contributions span the long eighteenth century, from Germany in the 1690s to Britain in the post-Napoleonic era. They cover the full range of the period’s press, including manuscript newsletters, political gazettes, learned journals and revolutionary propaganda sheets.

João Lisboa and Marie-Christine Skuncke show how periodicals allowed the circulation of news and political criticism even in societies such as Portugal and Sweden, where audiences were limited and censorship was severe; Anne-Marie Mercier-Faivre’s study of press coverage of the Ottoman Empire shows that news reports gave a picture of ‘oriental despotism’ very different from the literary construct of Montesquieu’s *Lettres persanes*; Bernadette Fort’s essay on art criticism and Martin Stuber’s analysis of the correspondence of a learned journal’s editor broaden our understanding of the place of periodicals in the period’s high culture.

The revolutionary era brought major innovations in the press although, as Maria Lúcia Pallares-Burke shows, older genres such as the ‘spectator’ were adapted to the new conditions. Political radicals like Jacques Roux (the focus of Eric Négrel’s study) and the German émigré journalists who had fled to France (examined in Susanne Lachenicht’s essay) owed their careers to the press. But the press could also serve conservative ends, as Philip Harling demonstrates in his analysis of Tory journalism in England in the early nineteenth century.

Placed within a broader theoretical and historical context by Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, Jack Censer and Jeremy Popkin, these studies expand our picture of the role of periodicals in the age of Enlightenment and Revolution, and suggest important new directions for further research.
I. Approaches to the periodicals of the eighteenth century / Approches des périodiques du dix-huitième siècle

Jeremy D. Popkin and Jack R. Censer, Some paradoxes of the eighteenth-century periodical

Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, Horizons médiatiques et ouvertures interculturelles dans la presse au dix-huitième siècle

II. Political culture and the communications media / Culture politique et médias de communication

João Luís Lisboa, News and newsletters in Portugal (1703-1754)

Anne-Marie Mercier-Faivre, Une lecture fantasmatique de la Gazette d'Amsterdam au temps des Lettres persanes (1720-1721): le cas du despotisme oriental

Marie-Christine Skuncke, Press and political culture in Sweden at the end of the Age of liberty

Bernadette Fort, Le discours politique dans les Salons des Mémoires secrets

Martin Stuber, Journal and letter: the interaction between two communications media in the correspondence of Albrecht von Haller

III. Transformations: the Revolutionary era / L’époque révolutionnaire

Maria Lúcia G. Pallares-Burke, A spectator of the Spectators: Jacques-Vincent Delacroix

Eric Négrel, Le journaliste-orateur: rhétorique et politique sans-culottes dans Le Publiciste de la République française de Jacques Roux (juillet-octobre 1793)

Susanne Lachenicht, La presse des immigrants allemands en Alsace (1791-1799)

Philip Harling, The perils of ‘French philosophy’: Enlightenment and revolution in Tory journalism, 1800-1832

Index

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