

Précis du siècle de Louis XV (I-III)

Introduction, chapters 1-43, Appendices,
Représentation des Etats de l'empire
Histoire de la guerre de 1741

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The *Précis du siècle de Louis XV* is an account of Voltaire's own world. His sources are the memoirs of leading military or political figures, many known to him personally, the wide range of archives and state papers to which he had access as *historiographe de France*, what he reads in the press, and what he picks up in conversation. We have moved from Voltaire historian to Voltaire the shrewd eye-witness, writing with vivacity of what he has seen and heard.

In this edition, the editors present a comprehensive introduction to the work, detailing the genesis and evolution of the text through its many iterations. The introduction is followed by the 43 chapters of the *Précis*, continuing the story from the death of Louis XIV, through the Regency, the War of Austrian Succession, and the Seven Years War, Voltaire finally turning his attention to French domestic politics and the attempted assassination of the king by Damiens, in the context of the struggle between the crown and the parlement.

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Table of Contents:

I: Introduction, chapters 1-16 (OCV, vol.29A, 2019)

II: Chapters 17-43, Appendices, *Représentation des Etats de l'empire* (OCV, vol.29B, 2019)

III: *Histoire de la guerre de 1741* (OCV, vol.29C, 2020)
