

Précis du siècle de Louis XV (I)

Introduction, Chapters 1-16

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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 volume, 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 first sixteen chapters of the *Précis*, continuing the story from the death of Louis XIV, through the Regency and into the midst of the War of Austrian Succession, culminating in the iconic French victory at the Battle of Fontenoy.

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List of manuscripts, editions and translations

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