A Socialist History of the French Revolution

Jean Jaurès, edited by Mitchell Abidor

Introduction by Henry Heller

- The classic guide to political activism from the French Revolution rediscovered and published in English for the first time

- Extracts and companion pieces in the broadsheets

- Simultaneously a guide to activism and a historical document: will appeal to students and the radical book-buying public alike

'Every revolutionary party, every oppressed people, every oppressed working class can claim Jaurès, his memory, his example, and his person, for our own' Leon Trotsky

Jean Jaurès was the celebrated French Socialist Party leader, assassinated at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Published just a few years before his death, his magisterial A Socialist History of the French Revolution, has endured for over a century as one of the most influential accounts of the French Revolution ever to be published.

Mitchell Abidor’s long-overdue translation and abridgement of Jaurès’s original 6-volumes brings this exceptional work to an Anglophone audience for the first time.

Written in the midst of his activities as leader of the Socialist Party and editor of its newspaper, L'Humanité, Jaurès intended the book to serve as both a guide and an inspiration to political activity; even now it can serve to do just that. Abidor’s accomplished translation, and Jaurès’s verve, originality and willingness to criticise all players in this great drama make this a truly moving addition to the shelf of great books on the French Revolution.

Jean Jaurès (1859 – 1914) was a French socialist who became the leader of the French Socialist Party, which opposed Jules Guesde's revolutionary Socialist Party of France. An antimilitarist, Jaurès was assassinated at the outbreak of WWI, and remains one of the main historical figures of the left to this day.

Mitchell Abidor's books include anthologies of the anarchist writings of Victor Serge, on the propagandists of the deed, the Paris Commune, the left of the French Revolution, and French anarchist individualists.
Introduction by Henry Heller

Translator’s preface

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