



Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution

By Ruth Scurr

Download now

Read Online 

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr

"Judicious, balanced, and admirably clear at every point. This is quite the calmest and least abusive history of the Revolution you will ever read."

?Hilary Mantel, London Review of Books

Since his execution by guillotine in July 1794, Maximilien Robespierre has been contested terrain for historians. Was he a bloodthirsty charlatan or the only true defender of revolutionary ideals? The first modern dictator or the earliest democrat? Was his extreme moralism a heroic virtue or a ruinous flaw?

Against the dramatic backdrop of the French Revolution, historian Ruth Scurr tracks Robespierre's evolution from provincial lawyer to devastatingly efficient revolutionary leader, righteous and paranoid in equal measure. She explores his reformist zeal, his role in the fall of the monarchy, his passionate attempts to design a modern republic, even his extraordinary effort to found a perfect religion. And she follows him into the Terror, as the former death- penalty opponent makes summary execution the order of the day, himself falling victim to the violence at the age of thirty-six.

Written with epic sweep, full of nuance and insight, *Fatal Purity* is a fascinating portrait of a man who identified with the Revolution to the point of madness, and in so doing changed the course of history.

 [Download Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution ...pdf](#)

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution

By Ruth Scurr

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr

"Judicious, balanced, and admirably clear at every point. This is quite the calmest and least abusive history of the Revolution you will ever read."

?Hilary Mantel, London Review of Books

Since his execution by guillotine in July 1794, Maximilien Robespierre has been contested terrain for historians. Was he a bloodthirsty charlatan or the only true defender of revolutionary ideals? The first modern dictator or the earliest democrat? Was his extreme moralism a heroic virtue or a ruinous flaw?

Against the dramatic backdrop of the French Revolution, historian Ruth Scurr tracks Robespierre's evolution from provincial lawyer to devastatingly efficient revolutionary leader, righteous and paranoid in equal measure. She explores his reformist zeal, his role in the fall of the monarchy, his passionate attempts to design a modern republic, even his extraordinary effort to found a perfect religion. And she follows him into the Terror, as the former death- penalty opponent makes summary execution the order of the day, himself falling victim to the violence at the age of thirty-six.

Written with epic sweep, full of nuance and insight, *Fatal Purity* is a fascinating portrait of a man who identified with the Revolution to the point of madness, and in so doing changed the course of history.

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #414657 in Books
- Published on: 2007-04-17
- Released on: 2007-03-29
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x .4" w x 5.50" l, .95 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages



[Download Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution ...pdf](#)



[Read Online Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The short, violent life of Maximilien Robespierre was a mass of contradictions crowned with a supreme irony: this architect of the French Revolution's Reign of Terror would in July 1794 be executed by the same guillotine to which he had consigned so many others. Cambridge University historian Scurr says she has tried to write a biography that expresses "neither partisan adulation nor exaggerated animosity," but even she must conclude that with the Terror, he "kept moving through that gory river, because he believed it necessary for saving the Revolution. He can be accused of insanity and inhumanity but certainly not of insincerity." Robespierre can also be accused of being a revolutionary fanatic who hated atheists, and "became the living embodiment of the Revolution at its most feral"; a dedicated upholder of republican virtues whose hands were smothered in blood; a fierce opponent of the death penalty who helped send thousands to their deaths; and a democratic tribune of the people who wore a sky-blue coat and embroidered waistcoats so aristocratic they wouldn't have been out of place at the court of the Sun King. Scurr's first book scores highly in unraveling not only her subject's complexities but those of his era. 2 maps. (Apr. 29)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

The name Maximilien Robespierre seems to embody the excesses that contributed to the deterioration of the French Revolution; his name is synonymous with the expression "Reign of Terror." Born in the provincial city of Arras, the lawyer Robespierre carved a significant place for himself in the destruction of the ancien régime, but in 1794 he fell under the machine of terror he had greatly contributed to creating and was himself guillotined. Scurr is to be applauded--and read, of course--for bringing the intricacies of the revolutionary philosophies and actions to a readily comprehensible level; as this author maintains, "To understand [Robespierre] is to begin to understand the French Revolution." Robespierre was a peculiar personality, distinctive in ways that were not all positive, and here he is as accurately assessed as hindsight permits. For the general reader, then, this is not simply a well-balanced, evenly shaded portrait of the man and his motivations, mistakes, and achievements but also a helpful explanation of an event that makes our American Revolution seem straightforward and of undeniable good sense. *Brad Hooper*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"Ruth Scurr does for Robespierre and the French Revolution what Quentin Bell did for Virginia Woolf and Bloomsbury: she apprehends the complete personality of the man, the moment, and the movement. A work of genuine scholarship and political literature, *Fatal Purity* is an electrifying biography of an epoch's vaulting ambitions and wounded pride, radical vision and terrifying uncertainty, bracing heroism and decimating energies." ?Corey Robin, author of *Fear: The History of a Political Idea*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Corey Ison:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book entitled Fatal Purity:

Robespierre and the French Revolution? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have various other opinion?

Margie Sutton:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the subject Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution suitable to you? The book was written by well known writer in this era. The particular book untitled Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolutionis the main one of several books this everyone read now. This specific book was inspired a number of people in the world. When you read this e-book you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, and so all of people can easily to know the core of this book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you to see the represented of the world on this book.

Larry Parker:

Are you kind of occupied person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your day time to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book compared to can satisfy your short time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find reserve that need more time to be read. Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution can be your answer given it can be read by you actually who have those short free time problems.

Kayla Congdon:

Is it an individual who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution can be the response, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are thus out of date, spending your time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Download and Read Online Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr #9VOY0XBQ3ZR

Read Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr for online ebook

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr books to read online.

Online Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr ebook PDF download

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr Doc

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr MobiPocket

Fatal Purity: Robespierre and the French Revolution By Ruth Scurr EPub