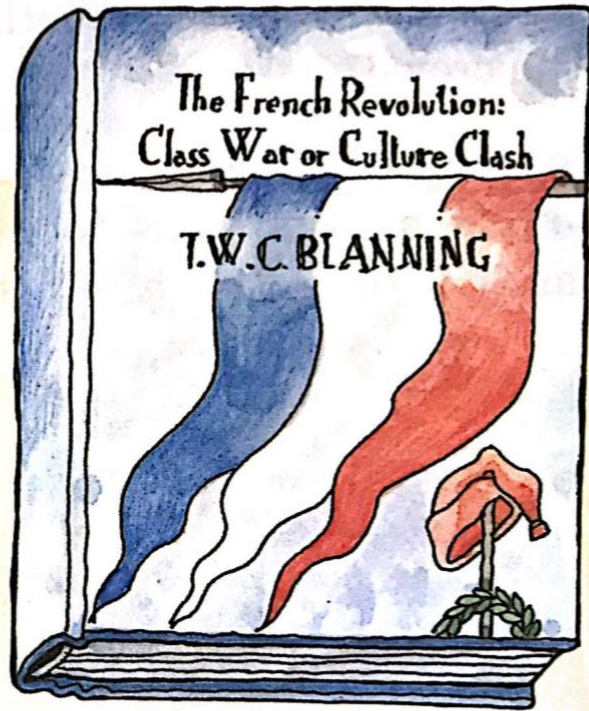
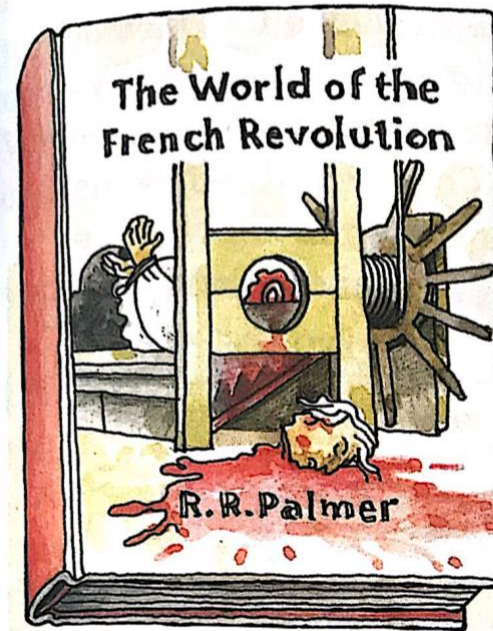


Professor T.C.W. Blanning reached this conclusion when he was writing a book about the French Revolution in 1998:

When the revolutionary crowd attacked the Bastille, they were not seeking to liberate political prisoners or to destroy a symbol of the old regime, they were looking for arms and ammunition with which to equip their new military force, the National Guard. That is the true importance of 14 July 1789 – it marked the collapse of the regime's most valuable asset: its control of disciplined armed force. Once that had been broken, the Revolution had come to stay.



R. R. Palmer, writing in 1971, summed it up like this:



Paris became very restless at the news that troops were concentrating about the city. Actually, the

troops had no definite orders. No one knew what to do, and Louis XVI was not the sort of man to shoot down his own subjects. From July 12 (1789) there were clashes between parties of soldiers and gatherings of civilians. Groups under unplanned leadership began to search for arms... Word spread that arms were stored at the Bastille ... the crowd that swarmed about the Bastille on the 14 July was not concerned with the prisoners but in general was protesting against dark and unknown forces threatening the people and in particular was asking for weapons.