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## THE IMPACT OF FRENCH REVOLUTION ON SECULARIZATION OF ITS SOCIETY

This paper work elaborates one of the brightest stage of French society as well as the socio-historical bloody stage of it, with a special emphasis on religion and French religious clergy. Besides the King and the society of nobility, the medieval church was the most important factor of feudal society in terms of political, social, cultural and economic relations. This affected the French Revolution itself and the future social-political system.

The first part of this paper defines the meaning of “secularization” term. The process of French society secularization has gone through several phases, from medieval times to modern times and up to date. However, it cannot yet be considered a completed process. In the second part, the paper describes the social, political, historical, economic and cultural conditions that have contributed to the secularization of French society. The process itself was very complex and difficult, taking into account the mutual report and antagonism of revolutionaries and clergy, more precisely expressed the innovative ideas of the enlightened thinkers that didn’t correspond to ecclesiastical dogmas.

After French revolution, the position and the role of religion in Western societies was generally changed, particularly in France. Religious institutions lost the means of social control, while religion passed into the private sphere. The French secular state was born, which shared religious and political authority. This state was represented as the guarantor of freedom of religion at the level of private law, as the defender of ideological neutrality, but also as a particularism in itself and in several phases as an open opponent of religion.