Erotic Liberalism: Women And Revolution In Montesquieu's Persian Letters

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Montesquieu was born and educated during the repressive monarchy of King Louis XIV. After the monarch’s death in 1715, France became increasingly burdened with governmental and ecclesiastical abuses. Disputes between the monarch, the legislature, and the Church broke down the efficiency of the machinery of suppression. In this atmosphere, Montesquieu began his criticism of French politics, society, and religion. In 1721 he anonymously published the Persian Letters, easily avoiding French restrictions by publishing the volume in Amsterdam. Schaub, Diana J. Erotic Liberalism: Women and Revolution in Montesquieu’s ‘Persian Letters’. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 1995.