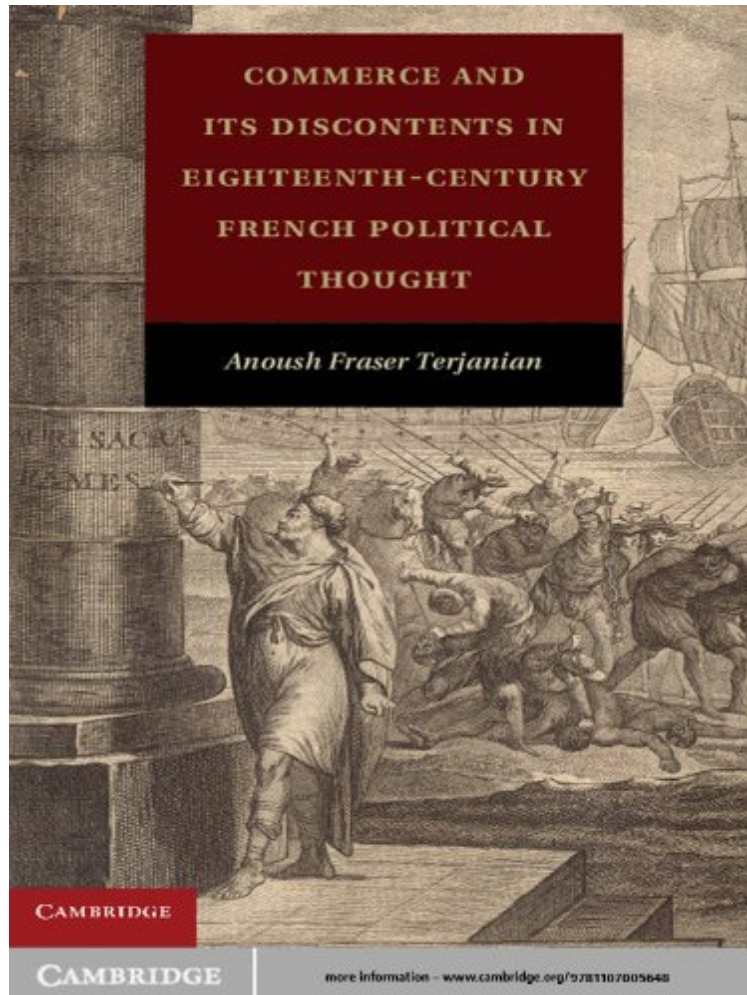


Commerce and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought

Anoush Fraser Terjanian

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Anoush Fraser Terjanian : Commerce and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Commerce and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought:

Histories of economics tend to portray attitudes towards commerce in the era of Adam Smith as celebrating what is termed *doux commerce*, that is, sweet or gentle commerce. *Commerce and Its Discontents in Eighteenth-Century French Political Thought* proposes that reliance on this *doux commerce* thesis has obscured our comprehension of the theory and experience of commerce in Enlightenment Europe. Instead, it uncovers ambivalence towards commerce in

eighteenth-century France, distinguished by an awareness of its limits - slavery, piracy and monopoly. Through a careful analysis of the *Histoire des deux Indes* (1780), the Enlightenment's best-selling history of comparative empires, Anoush Fraser Terjanian offers a new perspective on the connections between political economy, imperialism and the Enlightenment. In discussing how a 'politics of definition' governed the early debates about global commerce and its impact, this book enriches our understanding of the prehistory of globalisation.

"... [this book] enhances our understanding of late eighteenth-century debates over the place of commerce in state and society. In an erudite and theoretically sophisticated account, Anoush Terjanian breaks with a long historiographic tradition that has emphasized the Enlightenment's favorable attitude to 'sweet commerce'. Focusing on Abbeacute; Raynal's best-selling, multivolume *History of the Two Indies* - a work that is shown to have been every bit as important as *The Wealth of Nations* - Terjanian uncovers the deep ambivalence attached to practices such as monopoly, slavery and piracy ... Thoughtful and elegantly written ... a major reference for scholars of Enlightenment, empire and political economy." Madeleine Dobie, Columbia University

"Terjanian's argument proceeds from a brilliant insight - namely, that ambivalence actually defined the eighteenth century's attitude toward commerce and all that it brought in its wake ... [This] is a smart, engagingly written and indisputably important book." Jay M. Smith, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"Terjanian's main argument - that eighteenth century writers had complex and nuanced views about commerce - is certainly compelling. Her research is meticulous, her argument well stated, and the scholarship she cites the very best." Helena Rosenblatt, *The Journal of Modern History*

About the Author
Anoush Fraser Terjanian is Assistant Professor of History at East Carolina University.