

1974-03-10b [DYNASTIC OFFICIALDOM] Stages in the History of Dynastic Officialdom

--The incunabula stage, in the sixteenth century, Mastellone's thesis of the paradox of venality and morality, and the special horror of venal justice; have passed to stage of administrative governance whether accepted in public mind or not. Office creating must be done.

--The vigorous growth, in the seventeenth century until Louis XIV checks it (in some respects only): Mousnier's era, as the dynastic element appears in use of Paulette; the period of families on the way to nobility by birth; families making the leap (Porchnev);

--The golden years of Dynastic Officialdom: the first 2/3 of eighteenth century, Franklin Ford. The families now fully noble, sense of official power is more horizontally integrating, as against the king, than vertically from the king from whom the office is held. Parlement as the guardian of constitution.

--The crisis and demise, in the last third of the century. The change of pace, the acceleration of criticism and social malaise, is one of the most elusive things to consider here. The dynastic officialdom is not per se dysfunctional, but bureaucratic possibilities have at last become visible and so venal office has to go sooner or later. Its main failure, always, was not to have got a solid political basis to implement its administrative governance of the land. The creation of that political basis, in 1789, brought about the destruction of dynastic officialdom itself.