



Presse et pouvoir politique sous la Convention nationale (1792-1795) / Die Pressepolitik unter dem Nationalkonvent (1792-1795)

English summary

The Revolution changed the legal status of the press by ending the system of censorship and privileges of the Old Regime, while at the same time imposing new limits on the transmission of information and opinions. These rapid developments led to new problems for the authorities. The government and its institutions had to position themselves in relation to the press, interact with it, and learn how to utilize it for their own purposes. There were two fields of action in the relations between political actors and the press: firstly, the deliberate distribution of information and propaganda, and secondly, repression and the interruption of the circuit of information. The ways in which information and propaganda were distributed varied: new newspapers were founded, and existing papers received financial aid. Mass subscriptions to newspapers were particularly common. Censorship was never reintroduced during the Revolution, but 'unofficial' measures were taken to suppress information. These included the banning of newspapers, the imprisonment of journalists, printers, or booksellers, the interception of newspapers sent by post, repression against street vendors of prints, or legal proceedings against journalists, editors, booksellers, or printers.