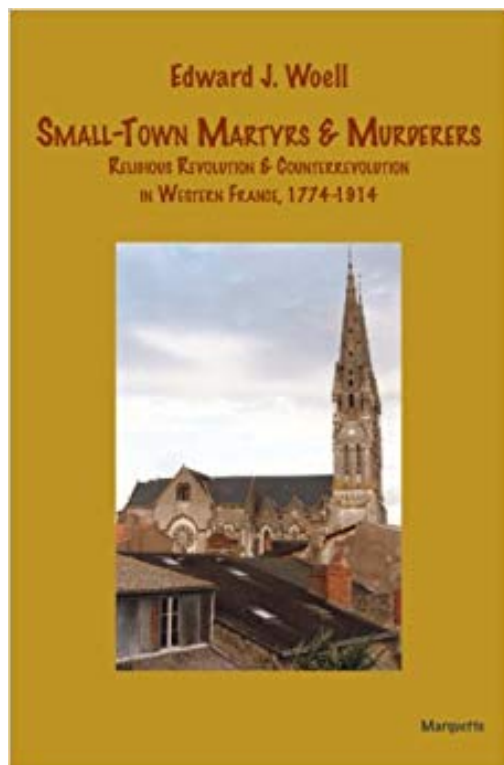


Small-town Martyrs and Murderers: Religious Revolution and Counterrevolution in Western France, 1774-1914 (Marquette Studies in History) by Edward J. Woell



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On March 11, 1793, about a thousand counterrevolutionary rebels converged on the small French town of Machecoul and over the next six weeks killed many of its revolutionary officials and supporters. The massacres at Machecoul marked the beginning of a popular insurgency in western France called the War of Vendee, in turn igniting the ferocious republican response known today as the Terror. This story explores why these small-town massacres occurred, how they may have unfolded, and what the local and national repercussions of the murders were. The author Edward J. Woell argues that more than any other factor, religion stood at the center of the massacres: in their origins during the late Old Regime, in their enactment amid the wider revolutionary tumult, and in their remembrance over the century that followed. Claiming a greater significance to the episode than most historians have acknowledged, Woell shows that the Machecoul massacres "not only raise the most fundamental, profound, and perplexing questions that scholars have sought to answer, but they also embody the quintessential themes of the French Revolution."



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