Pierre Jean de Béranger (1780–1857) was descended from artisans and innkeepers and raised largely by his aunt, a devoted republican. During the Directory, he tried unsuccessfully to make his name as a man of letters and was saved from penury when he received patronage from Lucien Bonaparte. He started to gain prominence as a songwriter toward the end of the Empire, but it was during the Restoration that he became famous. Politicized by the events of 1815, Béranger began attacking the regime from the left and circulated in liberal salons, most notably that of the wealthy banker Jacques Laffitte. He was imprisoned in 1821 and 1828 for publishing seditious songs, and reached the height of his fame and popularity toward the end of the Restoration. During the July Monarchy, he was critical of the regime from the left although largely disengaged from political affairs. In 1848, he was elected to the Constituent Assembly but quickly stepped down. He died nine years later in poverty but surrounded by friends—much as he had lived his life.

Hortense Allart de Méritens (1801–79) was raised in a Bonapartist milieu and moved in oppositional circles during the Restoration, where she became friends with Béranger. A feminist and noted novelist, she was on the left in both the Restoration and July Monarchy, although skeptical about the desirability of democracy. In 1826 she moved to Italy; when in Rome in 1829 she began an affair with Chateaubriand, who was there as the French ambassador. Both returned to Paris later that year and continued their affair until 1830; it was she who introduced Chateaubriand and Béranger to each other, and facilitated contact between Chateaubriand and her liberal friends at the end of the Restoration. During the July Monarchy, she remained close to both Chateaubriand and Béranger.
Appendix A

Jacques Charles Dupont (1767–1855) was known as “Dupont de l’Eure” to distinguish himself from another politician named “Dupont.” A judge during the revolutionary and Napoleonic eras, he was elected to the Council of Five Hundred in 1798 and served in the Corps législatif during the Empire and the Chamber of Deputies during the Hundred Days. He was also a member of the Chamber of Deputies from 1817 until 1848, and during the Restoration he was on the far-left with his friend Manuel. After the Revolution of 1830, he served briefly as minister of justice, but quickly came to oppose the regime. During the Revolution of 1848, he was president of the Provisional Assembly.

Jacques Antoine Manuel (1775–1827) entered into the revolutionary army in 1793 and served under Napoleon in the Italian campaign. A lawyer, he became a deputy in 1818 and was one of the foremost orators among the liberal camp. In February 1823, he was expelled from the Chamber of Deputies for a speech that appeared to condone regicide. He tried but failed to get reelected to the Chamber in 1824. He died in 1827 surrounded by his friends, including his best friend, Béranger, to whom he left a considerable legacy in his will.

Adolphe Thiers (1797–1877) was born in Marseille to a modest family. He came to Paris in 1821 and worked as a liberal journalist. Beginning in 1829, he started advocating for the overthrow of the Bourbon monarchy and the ascension of the duc d’Orleans to the throne. In the 1830s he served as a deputy and a minister in a number of different cabinets. He was leader of a center-left faction that advocated a bellicose foreign policy, and was head of a government in 1840 that almost led France to war with the rest of Europe. After this government fell, Thiers entered into the opposition.

Chateaubriand’s Circle

François René de Chateaubriand (1768–1848) was an émigré during the French Revolution and returned to France in 1800. He served in the diplomatic corps during the Consulate, but resigned after the duc d’Enghien was executed. During the first decade of the nineteenth century he became famous for his literary works, and he is remembered as one of the founders of French Romanticism. With the advent of the Restoration, he served in the Chamber of Peers and in the early years of the regime was an outspoken ultra. When the
ultras came to power in the 1820s, he held a number of diplomatic postings and was the ambassador to Prussia in 1821, Great Britain in 1822, and Rome in 1828. In large measure, these positions were given to him to keep him out of France, for he had difficulties getting along with other politicians both inside and outside the ultra camp. However, he was minister of foreign affairs from 1822 to 1824. When Joseph de Villèle, the head of the government and leader of the ultras, removed him from office, he began a political vendetta against Villèle. He also moved toward the political center in the mid-1820s and was leader of a center-right faction made up of former ultras who often worked with the left. After the Revolution of 1830, he refused to swear an oath of loyalty to the new regime and supported the duchesse de Berry’s attempted uprising. Although a legitimist during the July Monarchy, he had some personal and political affinities with radicals and republicans. During the 1830s and 1840s, he primarily devoted himself to writing his memoirs and was increasingly withdrawn from society.

Claire Louisa Rose Bonne Lechal de Kersaint, duchesse de Duras (1777–1828) maintained one of the most prominent salons of her day. She was also an author and is best known for her novel Ourika. An émigré during the Revolution, she met Chateaubriand when the two were in London and was his best friend, confidante, and political adviser for many years; she was also a tireless advocate for him in politics. It is generally thought that she was in love with him but that he did not reciprocate her feelings, and their relationship was strained when he began his affair with Mme Récamier.

Jean Guillaume Hyde de Neuville (1776–1857) was a royalist conspirator during the Revolution. Exiled under Napoleon for his monarchist activities, he moved to the United States and returned to France in 1814. During the early years of the Restoration, he was an ardent ultra known for his fiery temper. Despite this, he had some moderate views and worked with Mme de Montcalm to reconcile ultras and center-right moderates. He served as ambassador to the United States and to Portugal and was also minister of the navy from 1828 to 1829. Close to Chateaubriand both personally and politically, he was opposed to the far-right Polignac government of 1829–30, but like Chateaubriand he did not support the Revolution of 1830. After the advent of the July Monarchy, he largely stayed aloof from politics.
Armande Marie Antoinette de Vignerot du Plessis de Richelieu, marquise de Montcalm-Gazon (1777–1832) was the half sister of the duc de Richelieu, who was head of the government from 1815 to 1818 and then from 1820 to 1821. A noted salonnière, she had been close to Chateaubriand during the Empire, but their relationship was deeply troubled by political differences, for she supported the moderate politics of her brother. She was, however, close to Hyde de Neuville, and their friendship was forged out of a desire for political reconciliation. Ill for much of her adult life, she died of cholera.

Juliette Récamier (1777–1849) was one of the most famous women of her day and a celebrated salonnière from the Consulate until the July Monarchy. During the Napoleonic era, she was active in the opposition. Indeed, Napoleon closed her salon and exiled her from Paris because of her friendship with Mme de Staël. When she returned to Paris at the beginning of the Restoration, she received artists, scholars, and politicians on both the left and the right. After 1830, her salon was somewhat less prominent, although it was a center for legitimism and liberal Catholicism. Récamier was known for inspiring passion in the men around her, including Benjamin Constant, Prosper de Barante, and Mathieu de Montmorency, but her only consummated affair was with Chateaubriand.

GUIZOT’S CIRCLE

François Guizot (1787–1874) was born into a bourgeois and Protestant family in Nîmes. His father was guillotined during the Terror, so he was raised largely by his mother in Geneva and came to Paris in 1805. In 1812 he married Pauline de Meulan, a noted author, and began teaching at the Sorbonne. He first held political office during the first Restoration, but he resigned during the Hundred Days and went to Ghent in an effort to win Louis XVIII over to the cause of liberalism. After Napoleon’s fall, he held a number of positions within the government, and was a particularly important adviser to Élie Decazes when the latter was head of the government from 1819 to 1820. When Decazes fell from power in 1820, Guizot, too, was removed from his position on the Conseil d’État; two years later, he lost his post at the Sorbonne. During the 1820s, he was an activist on the center-left and involved in many journalistic
projects. Elected to the Chamber of Deputies in 1830, he served in a number of ministries in the first decade of the July Monarchy and became a leader of the conservatives in the Chamber during this decade. From 1840 to 1848, he was minister of foreign affairs and effective head of the government. He fled to Britain in 1848, from whence he tried to make a political comeback, an effort in which he failed. Increasingly withdrawn from politics from the 1850s until his death, he devoted himself to his scholarly pursuits.

Prosper de Barante (1782–1866) was from a family of minor nobility and held a number administrative, prefectorial, and diplomatic posts under Napoleon; he was also a member of the Coppet circle during the Empire and friends with Mme de Staël and Benjamin Constant. During the Restoration, he served in the Chamber of Deputies and the Chamber of Peers from 1819 on. He was also a member of the Conseil d’État until 1820, when a more conservative government pushed him out of office. During the July Monarchy, he remained in the Chamber of Peers and was also ambassador to Piedmont–Sardinia and to Russia.

Albertine Ida Gustavine de Staël Holstein, duchesse de Broglie (1797–1838) was Mme de Staël’s daughter and Victor de Broglie’s wife. She had a passionate disposition and by all accounts her marriage was a mismatch. She was devoted to the doctrinaire cause and a close friend of Guizot and Barante, as well as a celebrated salonnière in the Restoration and July Monarchy. In her last years, she was increasingly depressive, and her early death devastated those around her.

Victor de Broglie (1785–1870) was from one of the great aristocratic families of France. Like Guizot, his father was guillotined in the Terror. A diplomat during the Empire, he was a republican in the early years of the Restoration, but quickly moved to the center-left position of the doctrinaires. Broglie was a member of the Chamber of Peers in both the Restoration and the July Monarchy, and he served as head of the government twice during the 1830s. Known for being somewhat of a cold fish, he was nevertheless close to both Barante and Guizot from the 1810s to his death.

Dorothée de Courlande, duchesse de Dino (1793–1862) was a member of the Baltic German aristocracy. In 1809 she married one of Talleyrand’s nephews; the marriage was unhappy but she eventually became Talleyrand’s mistress and
companion. She maintained a salon in Paris and assiduously cultivated allies on behalf of her uncle-in-law. After Talleyrand’s death in 1838, she spent more and more time outside of France, although she maintained close connections to her French friends, including Guizot and Barante.

Gabrielle Henriette Catherine Laure de Daunant de Gasparin (1790–1864) was from a family of Protestant aristocrats from Nîmes and was the sister of Guizot’s childhood friend Achille de Daunant. She was married to Auguste de Gasparin, a politician during the July Monarchy. From the mid-1830s to her death she was a close friend and confidante of Guizot, although consistently to his left in political terms.

Princesse Dorothea von Lieven, née Benckendorff (1785–1857) was born into the Baltic German aristocracy and raised at the Russian court. Her husband was the Russian ambassador to Berlin and then to London from 1812 to 1834, although it was widely understood that she was the real diplomat of the two and she achieved considerable influence over foreign policy in her years in Britain. In 1834, she and her husband were recalled to Russia, but after her two youngest sons died of scarlet fever, she fled to Paris against the wishes of her husband and the tsar. In Paris, she opened a salon that attracted politicians, diplomats, and foreigners, and at a dinner party in 1837 she and Guizot fell in love. Their liaison would last until her death, and she served as an important diplomatic adviser to Guizot in the 1840s.

Charles de Rémusat (1797–1875) was born into a family that served the Empire and the Restoration successively. Introduced into the doctrinaire circle by Barante, he quickly became very close to Guizot and his first wife during the 1820s. He served as Guizot’s deputy on a number of journalistic projects during the Restoration. In 1830 he was elected to the Chamber of Deputies, and during that decade he balanced an attachment to the doctrinaires with one to Thiers and the men of the center-left. In 1840, after he was minister of the interior in a left-leaning cabinet led by Thiers, he broke off relations with Guizot and entered into the opposition.