



[Biographical information on Condorcet from vendor].

Condorcet, Jean-Antoine-Nicolas de Caritat, marquis de,
1743-1794

[Paris]: [s.n.], 1792

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CONDORCET, MARIE JEAN ANTOINE NICOLAS CARITAT, MARQUIS DE (1743-1794) French mathematician and philosopher, educated at Rheims and Paris. A brilliant mathematician, he became a member of the Académie de Sciences in 1769 and of the Académie Française in 1782. His essay on probability published in 1785 was a most noteworthy contribution to mathematics.

Condorcet espoused the cause of the Revolution with enthusiasm, as a disciple of Voltaire, whom he adored, and of whom he wrote a biography. However, like so many other philosophes he opposed the extremists of the period of the Reign of Terror, men of the stamp of Hebert, Collot d'Herbois and Billaud-Varenne and was thus tried and imprisoned, dying in prison, in 1794.

His most famous work was his Esquisse d'un tableau historique des progrès de l'esprit humain in which he traces human development through nine epochs down to the outbreak of the Revolution in 1789 and foretells the abolition of all inequalities and the ultimate perfection of mankind in the tenth epoch of human progress. His ideas were of considerable use to H.G. Wells in The Outline of History.