Subject matter
This index is a comprehensive guide to the text of this book, covering names, places, and subject matter. Both detailed and more general information are listed in the index. Users should look up material under the most specific heading desired. For instance, readers searching only for material about Parc Monceau, Paris, should look up Parc Monceau, not Paris; but those looking for more general information about Paris, or Paris during particular historical periods, should look under Paris. Material in the notes is covered when it is substantive rather than referential. Glossary entries are indexed; the bibliography is not indexed. Scholars are listed in the index when their work is discussed in the text, but not when it is provided chiefly as a reference. Titles of published works, poems, and literary works are indexed when discussed in the text, but not when provided chiefly as references. Such titles are indicated by italic typeface.

Page references
In entries with subheadings, page references immediately following the main heading indicate general information and the chief areas of discussion for this topic. Where practicable and useful, bold page references indicate the most important section on the referenced topic in a string of locators. Illustrations and their captions are indicated separately from textual page references by italic typeface. If the topic occurs in both illustration/caption and text, both will be referenced (e.g., “286, 286”).

Dates
Dates for historical figures are given in parentheses following their names as main entries in the index, when these dates are available from the text. Dates without notations are birth and death dates (“1727-1788”). If only the birth date is known (or if the person is still living), this will be indicated with a b. (“b. 1724”). If only the death date is known, this will be indicated with a d. ( “d. 1832”). The abbreviation c. (for circa) indicates the date is an approximation. The abbreviation r. indicates a ruler’s reigning dates. The abbreviation fl. stands for “flourished,” indicating a centralized date of activity for the person in question. The abbreviations “b.c.e.” and “c.e.” indicate “before common era” and “common era” dates.

Alphabetization
The index is alphabetized using “word-by-word” conventions instead of “letter-by-letter.” This means that individual words are given their full weight. In word-by-word alphabetization, the proper order of the following terms would be: New England towns; New York state parks; Newburgh, NY; Newton, Isaac. (In letter-by-letter, the order would be: Newburgh, NY; New England towns; Newton, Isaac; New York state parks.) The particles “the” and “a” in English, “die” in German, “i” in Italian, and “le” in French, are sometimes retained as the initial word for purposes of sense, but such entries are always alphabetized under the second word (thus, The Bronze Horseman will be found under “Bronze”).

Proper names
Alphabetizing conventions for compound proper names (Madame de la Valliere, Le Prestre de Vauban, Soria y Mata) are complex, and vary depending upon country of origin. To make things easier for the user, in this index proper names containing such particles as La/la, Le/le, De/de, Van/van and Von/von are alphabetized under both the particle and the main portion of the name (thus, Le Prestre de Vauban will be found under Le, Prestre, de, and Vauban.) Proper names of medieval persons and royal personages without true last names are alphabetized under both their first names and, where appropriate, their title or nomenclature (Thomas Aquinas, for instance, is found under both Thomas and Aquinas).

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