

ORDER FOR SUPPRESSING THE NEWSPAPERS—EXCERPTS

(17 JAN, 1800—27 NIVOSE, YEAR VIII)

The consuls of the Republic, considering that a part of the newspapers which are printed in the department of the Seine are instruments in the hands of the enemies of the Republic; that the government is particularly charged by the French people to look after their security, orders as follows:

1. The minister of police shall permit to be printed, published, and circulated during the whole course of the war only the following newspapers: [names of 13 newspapers], and newspapers devoted exclusively to science, arts, literature, commerce, announcements and notices.
2. The minister of the general police shall immediately make a report upon all the newspapers that are printed in the other departments.
3. The minister of the general police shall see that no new newspaper be printed in the department of the Seine, as well as in all the other departments of the Republic.
4. The proprietors and editors of the newspapers preserved by the present order shall present themselves to the minister of the police in order to attest their character as French citizens, their residences and signatures, and they shall promise fidelity to the constitution.
5. All newspapers which shall insert articles opposed to the respect that is due to the social compact, to the sovereignty of the people and the glory of the armies, or which shall publish invectives against the governments and nations who are the friends or allies of the Republic, even when these articles may be extracts from foreign periodicals, shall be immediately suppressed.

DECREE UPON PRINTING AND BOOKSELLING (5 FEB 1810)—EXCERPTS

TITLE I. OF THE DIRECTORSHIP OF PRINTING AND BOOKSELLING.

1. There shall be a director general charged, under the orders of our minister of the interior, with everything that relates to printing and bookselling.

TITLE II. OF THE OCCUPATION OF PRINTER.

3. Dating from January 1, 1811, the number of printers in each department shall be fixed and that of the printers of Paris shall be reduced to sixty.
5. The printers shall be commissioned and sworn.
9. The commission of printer shall be given by our director general of printing, and shall be subject to the approval of our minister of the interior; it shall be registered at the civil tribunal of the place of residence of the grantee, who shall there take oath not to print anything which is contrary to the duties towards the sovereign and the interest of the state.

TITLE III. OF THE POLICE FOR PRINTING.

10. Printing or causing to be printed anything which may involve injury to the duties of subjects towards the sovereign or the interests of the state is forbidden.
15. Our minister of the general police, and the prefects in their departments, shall cause to be suspended the printing of all works which shall appear to them to be in contravention to article 10: in that case, the manuscript shall be sent within twenty-four hours to the director general, as is said above.
16. Upon the report of the censor, the director general shall indicate to the author the changes or suppressions deemed appropriate, and, upon his refusal to make them, shall forbid the sale of the work, shall cause the forms to be broken, and shall seize the sheets or copies already printed.

TITLE IV. OF BOOKSELLERS.

29. Dating from January 1, 1811, booksellers shall be commissioned and sworn.

33. For the future, commissions shall not be granted to booksellers who shall wish to establish themselves, except after they shall have furnished proof of their good life and morals and of their attachment to the fatherland and the sovereign.

TITLE V. OF BOOKS PRINTED ABROAD.

34. No book in the French or Latin languages printed abroad shall enter France without paying import duty.

35. This duty shall not be less than fifty per cent. of the value of the work.