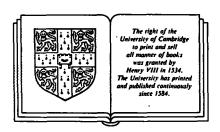
QUIET DAYS IN BURGUNDY

A study of local politics

MARC ABÉLÈS

Translated from the French by Annella McDermott



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

New York Port Chester Melbourne Sydney
EDITIONS DE
LA MAISON DES SCIENCES DE L'HOMME
Paris

Contents

	Preface to the English edition	page xi
	Preface to the French edition	xv
	List of abbreviations	xxii
	A note on French elections	xxv
	Map of the department of the Yonne	xxvii
1	Who is eligible?	1
	The story of a local notable	1
	A distinguished family line	5
	Getting elected	11
	Some historical landmarks	19
	Two notorious affairs	23
	Some key figures	28
	Eligibility and networks	34
2	Dynasties	37
	Roots	38
	A 'moderate' republican	40
	Prodigal sons	44
	The Ribières	46
	A new generation	50
	Campaigning in the Yonne	53
	Flandin as Prime Minister	58
	Spring-time	60
	Back to the Morvan	63
	Politicians on the move	66
3	Ups and downs in politics	71
	Scenes from political life	72
	The heights of Auxerre	74
	Friends of friends	82
	A disruptive element?	90

4	The new deal: decentralisation	104
	Origins of the departments: dividing to unite	106
	Not one centre, but many: the real meaning of boundaries	109
	First steps towards reform	114
	Representing and administering: guardians and messengers	119
	The General Council as a meeting of notables	126
	'Power to elected representatives'	128
	In word and deed	131
	King Jean	135
	The end of a tradition	139
5	Parachuting in	141
•	A republican banquet	141
	Grey spring	146
	Local objections	150
	'We could do with a few local notables!'	153
	Reconciling party and local interests	157
	From the top down: chronicle of a parachute landing	161
	How the seed was sown	165
	Spadework	169
	Lessons to be learned	173
_		177
6	The communist party and real life 'You seem to be forgetting the capture of the Bastille, Your	177
	Grace!'	177
	Théo	180
		187
	Epineuil wine	195
	Laroche-Migennes A militant mayor	193
	In the shadow of the council blocks	205
	The social and cultural role of the party	208
7	Deputy and mayor	212
	An embarrassing situation	214
	Industrialists and Radicals	217
	The middle way: from the Popular Front to Vichy	222
	'Independence' and legitimacy	225
	Not such a drama after all	232
	Heir to a name	235
	Governing from the centre	239
	Undivided power	243
	Politics and pragmatics	247
	Discrepancy and interaction: the local and the national	248
	Conclusion	252
	Point of view in anthropology	252
	Aspects of a political culture	261

	Contents	ix
Future developments		269
'What is politics like in your country?'		272
Notes		273

.

.

.