"Local France, these words long evoked a story of neglect, coercion, nostalgia, and reaction. The neglect and coercion were those of a state that, since the Bourbons, stifled expressions of local autonomy and individuality." 539

Local history survived as nostalgia and myth "underlaying French civilization" however the nation alone innovated and therefore created the modern country.

the hierarchical and "deceiving embrace of decentralization" (540) in the 1970s also has a role to play in the organization of French archaeology as it is practiced.

"Over the past twenty years...Commentators speak of a vast "return to the local in contemporary France, a diverse phenomenon that ranges from gastronomy and archeology" 541

"Carbonell's research agenda--the professionalization of history--led him, however, to dismiss the "flightiness" of many provincial amateurs." 542

"Den Boer cannot muster much enthusiasm for amateurs--and provincials, he contends, professionalized at a slower pace than their Parisian counterparts. Local history, he argues after Carbonell (but over a longer period), fell under the helm of nobles, clergymen, and disgruntled legitimists." 552

"...while nobles and clergymen dominated in some areas, professional bourgeois (magistrates, lawyers, notaries) were most prominent. Erudition, a new interest in origins, and--in the Artois--ardent defenses of political and fiscal privileges combined in the late eighteenth century to boost provincial history." 552

"Local history acquired new material supports (from the administrative annuaire the to archeological commission) and gravitated toward the Middle Ages, all the more so from the 1830s on. Suffice it to say that the selective rehabilitation of the Middle Ages was at once "historical," "documentary" (publications of recovered documents), and "monumental" (defining a period with a distinct archaeological style)." 552-3

"turned the Middle Ages into a key political stake." 553