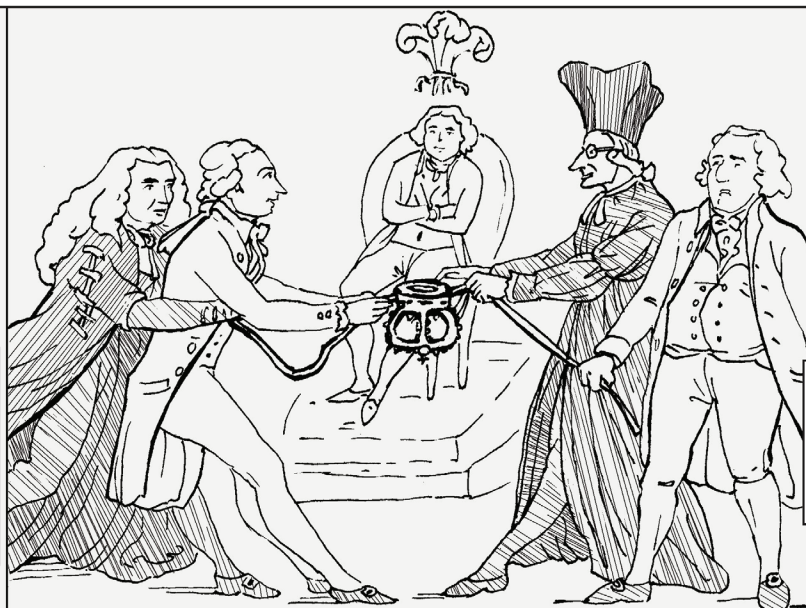


# Edmund Burke (1727-1797)

THE "FATHER OF MODERN CONSERVATISM" WAS ALSO A LEADING LIBERAL PHILOSOPHER. THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE HE COMBINED A LOVE OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY WITH A BELIEF IN THE NEED FOR LAW AND ORDER. THE WAYS IN WHICH HE COMBINED THESE IDEAS LED BOTH LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES IN LATER CENTURIES TO CLAIM HIM AS A HERO OF THEIR CAUSE, BUT HIS IMPACT ON AMERICAN CONSERVATISM IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT.

Author: Trevor R. Getz  
Artist: Liz Clarke

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BRITAIN WAS POLITICALLY SPLIT. ON THE ONE SIDE WERE LIBERALS - MOSTLY PROTESTANT, SUPPORTERS OF A STRONG PARLIAMENT AND RAPID CHANGE.



ON THE OTHER SIDE WERE CONSERVATIVES - INCLUDING MANY CATHOLICS, MOSTLY SUPPORTERS OF A STRONG KING, OPPOSED TO RAPID CHANGE.

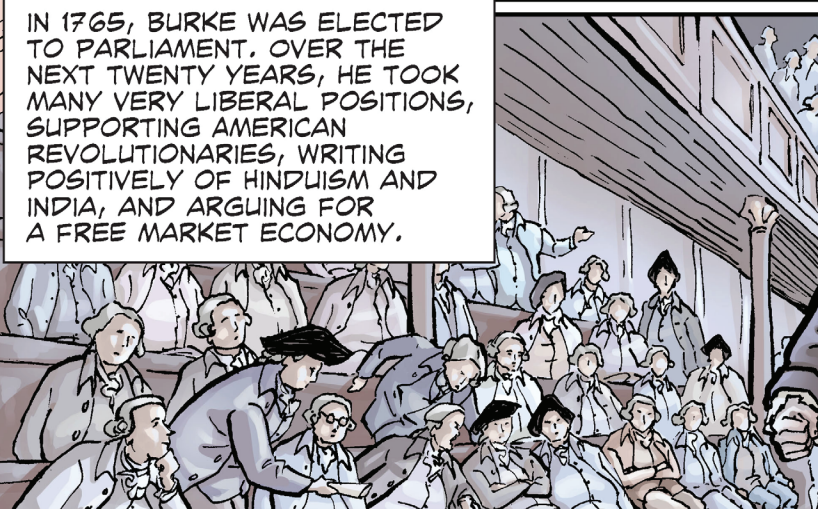
EDMUND BURKE SEEMS ALMOST DESTINED TO FACE BOTH WAYS. BORN IN IRELAND, THEN UNDER BRITISH RULE, HE HAD A CATHOLIC MOTHER AND A PROTESTANT FATHER.

The Tories and the Whigs

Pulling for a Crown.

AS A YOUNG MAN, HE STUDIED HISTORY AND LAW. AS AN ENLIGHTENMENT PHILOSOPHER, HE WROTE IN DEFENSE OF RELIGION AS WELL AS FREEDOM.

IN 1765, BURKE WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT. OVER THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS, HE TOOK MANY VERY LIBERAL POSITIONS, SUPPORTING AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARIES, WRITING POSITIVELY OF HINDUISM AND INDIA, AND ARGUING FOR A FREE MARKET ECONOMY.



Edmund Burke Protesting in Parliament against the coercion of the American Colonies.

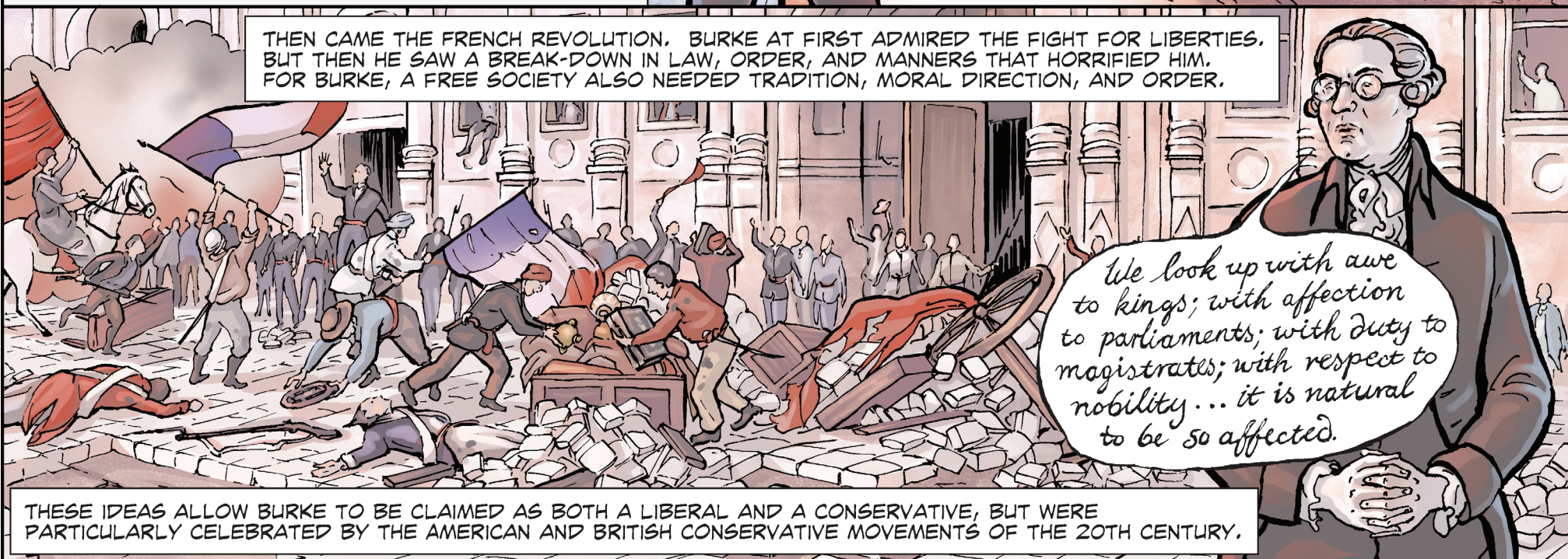
BUT BURKE ALSO BELIEVED IN STRONG RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS. FROM 1780, HE ALSO BEGAN TO ARGUE FOR A STRONG KING AND ROYAL GOVERNMENT. IN THAT YEAR, LONDON MOBS ATTACKED CATHOLICS, AND ONLY ROYAL FORCES COULD PUT THEM DOWN. HE CALLED THE MOBS:



A swinish multitude.

Gordon Riots

THEN CAME THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. BURKE AT FIRST ADMIRERD THE FIGHT FOR LIBERTIES. BUT THEN HE SAW A BREAK-DOWN IN LAW, ORDER, AND MANNERS THAT HORRIFIED HIM. FOR BURKE, A FREE SOCIETY ALSO NEEDED TRADITION, MORAL DIRECTION, AND ORDER.



We look up with awe to kings; with affection to parliaments; with duty to magistrates; with respect to nobility... it is natural to be so affected.

THESE IDEAS ALLOW BURKE TO BE CLAIMED AS BOTH A LIBERAL AND A CONSERVATIVE, BUT WERE PARTICULARLY CELEBRATED BY THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.



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# EDMUND BURKE