

CROS Lauriane, “Freemasonry, Masonry networks and dynamics of Bordeaux 18th century”, Ph. D. of modern history, directed by François Cadilhon, university Bordeaux-Montaigne, 2018.

The freemasonry movement that developed in France throughout the 18th century is defined by the *Encyclopédie* as a « gathering of chosen people bound together by an obligation to love each other like brothers, to help each other in need, and to maintain an inviolable silence about anything related to the order ». Then, Bordeaux was - behind Paris - a major French Masonic center experiencing particular dynamics resulting from the city's geographic position. As a trade, diplomatic city as well as the first French port of the Age of Enlightenment, Guyenne's capital city was characterized by a plural identity within which was incorporated a Masonic movement benefitting from a human and social diversity and a remarkable economic growth. This major 18th- century trade port was intertwined with a national, European as well as Atlantic space, throughout the West Indies – especially Saint-Domingo. It thus played a central part in communications, where were expressed interconnections associated with Masonic sociabilities.

During the last century of the Ancient Regime, several Masonic lodges were born within the city and they had an important role to play in the local life, following the foundation of the first lodge in 1732. These Masonic lodges both reflected the dynamism of Bordeaux and part of the reality of its elites. Consequently, these elites, took part in the Masonic sociability which helped shape the city's identity. The latter cannot be grasped without taking into account the Masonic interface and the economic, political, cultural and social networks associated with it. The dynamics of Bordeaux and of freemasonry were part of human and territorial logics, incorporated within the timeframe starting with a long 18th century till the revolutionary era. The latter witnesses the adaptation of masonry in a political framework that needs to be questioned as far as breaks and continuities are concerned.