Questions

What made the French Revolution unjustified, in Burke’s eyes, already by 1790, when he wrote the *Reflections*? What made the English (“Glorious”) Revolution of 1688 justified? Why did he object to any comparison between the two?

What is his problem with natural or human rights? What “real” rights does he concede people do in fact enjoy? Does Burke advocate government only by the propertied and titled?

What is the proper relation between religion and the state, according to Burke?

What would Burke’s top-ten list of favorite political vocabulary words look like (liberty, virtue, honor, manly, rational, nature, prejudice, etc.)?

Why is Burke called the founder of modern conservatism? Is the label justified?

Pay special attention to the long passage, just after Burke’s discussion of the events of 5-6 October 1789 and Marie Antoinette, that begins “The age of chivalry is gone” and ends “Their liberty is not liberal.” What is he saying?

What are Burke’s predictions for the future of the French Revolution? Do they seem reasonable given what had happened in France by 1790?

[What is Burke’s theory as to why the 1789 revolution occurred in France? Could something similar happen in Britain?]

What is his attitude toward the American Revolution? Did it surprise you? Is it consistent, in tone and substance, with his indictment of the French Revolution?