Early modern historians have theorised about the nature of the new ‘British’ history for a generation. This study examines how British politics operated in practice during the age of Mary, Queen of Scots, and it explains how the crises of the mid sixteenth century moulded the future political shape of the British Isles.

A central figure in these struggles was the 5th earl of Argyll, chief of Clan Campbell and leading Lowland aristocrat, who was the most powerful magnate not only at the court of Queen Mary, his sister-in-law, but throughout the three kingdoms. His domination of the Western Highlands and Islands drew him into the complex politics of the north of Ireland, while his Protestant commitment involved him in Anglo–Scottish relations. During the British crises of 1559–60, 1565 and 1567–73 his actions also helped determine the Protestant allegiance of the British mainland and the political and religious complexion of Ireland. Argyll’s career therefore demonstrates both the possibilities and the limitations of British history throughout the early modern period.

Jane Dawson is John Laing Senior Lecturer in the History and Theology of the Reformation, University of Edinburgh.
This is a series of monographs and studies covering many aspects of the history of the British Isles between the late fifteenth century and the early eighteenth century. It includes the work of established scholars and pioneering work by a new generation of scholars. It includes both reviews and revisions of major topics and books, which open up new historical terrain or which reveal startling new perspectives on familiar subjects. All the volumes set detailed research into our broader perspectives and the books are intended for the use of students as well as of their teachers.

For a list of titles in the series, see end of book.
THE POLITICS OF RELIGION IN THE AGE OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS

The Earl of Argyll and the Struggle for Britain and Ireland

JANE E.A. DAWSON

University of Edinburgh
For
Marian Dawson
and
in memory of
Norman Dawson
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### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Argyll Transcripts, made by Niall Campbell, 10th duke of Argyll.</td>
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<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library</td>
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Coll. de Rebus Alban Collectanea de rebus Albanicis (Iona Club, Edinburgh, 1847).

CSPSc Calendar of State Papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots, 1547–1603 eds. J. Bain et al. (13 vols., Edinburgh, 1898–1969).


List of abbreviations

**Diurnal**
A diurnal of remarkable occurrents that have passed within the country of Scotland since the death of King James the Fourth till the year MDLXXV ed. T. Thomson (Bannatyne Club, 43, Edinburgh, 1833).

**Donaldson, Queen’s Men**
G. Donaldson, All the Queen’s Men: Power and Politics in Mary Stewart’s Scotland (London, 1983).

**Hayes-McCoy, Scots Mercenary Forces**

**Herries, Memoirs**
Historical Memoirs of the Reign of Mary, Queen of Scots by Lord Herries ed. R. Pitcairn (Abbotsford Club, 6, Edinburgh, 1836).

**Highland Papers**

**Hill, Fire and Sword**

**HMC**
Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission

**Illustrations of the Reign of Queen Mary**
Selections from unpublished manuscripts illustrating the reign of Queen Mary ed. J. Stevenson (Maitland Club, 41, Edinburgh, 1837).

**Keith, History**

**Knox, History**

**Knox, Works**

**Letters to Argyll Family**
Letters to the Argyll Family ed. A. MacDonald (Maitland Club, 50, Edinburgh, 1839).

**MacGregor, ‘MacGregors’**
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<td>NLS</td>
<td>National Library of Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRA(S)</td>
<td>National Register of Archives, Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>Public Record Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSAS</td>
<td><em>Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCAHMS</td>
<td>Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records of Argyll</td>
<td><em>Records of Argyll</em> ed. Lord Archibald Campbell (Edinburgh, 1885).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose of Kilravock</td>
<td><em>A Genealogical Deduction of the Family of Rose of Kilravock</em> ed. C. Innes (Spalding Club, 18, Edinburgh, 1848).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSCHS</td>
<td><em>Records of the Scottish Church History Society</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>SHR</td>
<td><em>Scottish Historical Review</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHS</td>
<td>Scottish History Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TGSI</td>
<td><em>Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness</em></td>
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