## Contents

_Preface_  page xi  
_Acknowledgments_  xiii  

1  Religion, politics, and theatre: Cortés greets the twelve Franciscans  1  
2  Church, colonialism, and theatre in Latin America  36  
3  Homegrown empire: the contradictions of an emerging region  63  
4  Religion, politics, and theatre: the twentieth century and the return of ritual  94  
5  Liberation theology and liberation theatre: the convergence of parallel lines  152  

_Conclusion_  192  

_Appendix: Latin American playwrights_  197  
_Notes_  200  
_Bibliography_  214  
_Index_  224