The history of British political thought has been one of the most fertile fields of Anglo-American historical writing in the last half-century. David Armitage brings together an interdisciplinary and international team of authors to consider the impact of this scholarship on the study of early modern British history, English literature and political theory. Leading historians survey the impact of the history of political thought on the ‘new’ histories of Britain and Ireland; eminent literary scholars offer novel critical methods attentive to literary form, genre and language; and distinguished political theorists treat the conceptual and material relationships between history and theory. The outstanding examples of critical practice collected here will encourage the emergence of new research on the historical, critical and theoretical study of the English-speaking world in the period c. 1500–1800. This volume celebrates the contribution of the Folger Institute to British studies over many years.

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