ENGLISH RADICALISM, 1550–1850

An exploration of the place of radical ideas and activity in English political and social history over three centuries. Its core concern is whether a long-term history of radicalism can be written. Are the things that historians label ‘radical’ linked into a single complex radical tradition, or are they separate phenomena linked only by the minds and language of historians? Does the historiography of radicalism uncover a repressed dimension of English history, or is it a construct that serves the needs of the present more than the understanding of the past? The book contains a variety of answers to these questions. As well as an introduction and eleven substantive chapters, it also includes two ‘afterwords’ which reflect on the implications of the book as a whole for the study of radicalism. The distinguished list of contributors is drawn from a variety of disciplines, including history, political science and literary studies.

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# Contents

## List of Contributors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributor</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Introduction

### Glenn Burgess

1. A politics of emergency in the reign of Elizabeth I
   *Stephen Alford*
   
   17

2. Richard Overton and radicalism: the new intertext of the civic ethos in mid seventeenth-century England
   *Luc Borot*
   
   37

3. Radicalism and the English Revolution
   *Glenn Burgess*
   
   62

4. ‘That kind of people’: late Stuart radicals and their manifestoes: a functional approach
   *Richard L. Greaves*
   
   87

5. The divine creature and the female citizen: manners, religion, and the two rights strategies in Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindications*
   *Gregory Claeys*
   
   115

6. On not inventing the English Revolution: the radical failure of the 1790s as linguistic non-performance
   *Iain Hampsher-Monk*
   
   135

7. Disconcerting ideas: explaining popular radicalism and popular loyalism in the 1790s
   *Mark Philp*
   
   157
vi

Contents

8 Henry Hunt’s *Peep into a Prison*: the radical discontinuities of imprisonment for debt 190
   *Margot C. Finn*

9 Jeremy Bentham’s radicalism 217
   *F. Rosen*

10 Religion and the origins of radicalism in nineteenth-century Britain 241
   *J. C. D. Clark*

11 Joseph Hume and the reformation of India, 1819–1833 285
   *Miles Taylor*

AFTERWORDS 309

Radicalism revisited 311
   *Conal Condren*

Reassessing radicalism in a traditional society: two questions 338
   *J. C. Davis*

Index 373
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