This major work of academic reference provides a comprehensive overview of the development of Western political thought during the European Enlightenment. Written by a distinguished team of international contributors, this Cambridge History is the latest in a sequence of volumes that is now firmly established as the principal reference source for the history of political thought. Every major theme in eighteenth-century political thought is covered in a series of essays at once scholarly and accessible, and the essays are complemented by extensive guides for further reading, and brief biographical notices of the major characters featured in the text, including Rousseau, Montesquieu, Kant, and Edmund Burke. Of interest and relevance to students and scholars of politics and history at all levels from beginning undergraduate upwards, this volume chronicles one of the most exciting and rewarding of all periods in the development of Western thinking about politics.

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Citations and abbreviations

All quotations (except for poetry) have been modernised. Phrases and book titles in foreign languages are provided with English-language translations, except where the meaning will be readily understood by Anglophone readers. All citations of texts published in the series Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought are to the editions in that series. The following abbreviations are used throughout this volume.


Citations and abbreviations


**TTG** John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*. Cited by treatise and section number, and page references to the edition by P. Laslett (Cambridge, 1988). 1st publ. 1689 (but bearing date 1690).