

Cambridge University Press

0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen

Frontmatter/Prelims

[More information](#)

This book makes a comprehensive reassessment of the relationship between Enlightenment and religion in England. Recently, the debate about an 'English' Enlightenment has centred on the role of religion, especially the relationship between the established Anglican Church and the Dissenting confessions. It has long been accepted that liberal Rational Dissenters developed an Enlightenment agenda, but most literature on this topic is quite out of date. These interdisciplinary essays provide a fresh analysis of Rational Dissent within English Enlightenment culture. Equally, they contribute to the current debate over eighteenth-century religion and its social, political and intellectual meaning, focusing on the Irish and Scottish contributions to English Dissent. Its wide perspective and new research make *Enlightenment and Religion* an important and original contribution to eighteenth-century studies.

Cambridge University Press

0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen

Frontmatter/Prelims

[More information](#)

IDEAS IN CONTEXT

ENLIGHTENMENT AND RELIGION

Cambridge University Press
0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen
Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

IDEAS IN CONTEXT

Edited by QUENTIN SKINNER (*General Editor*)
LORRAINE DASTON, WOLF LEPENIES and J.B. SCHNEEWIND

The books in this series will discuss the emergence of intellectual traditions and of related new disciplines. The procedures, aims and vocabularies that were generated will be set in the context of the alternatives available within the contemporary frameworks of ideas and institutions. Through detailed studies of the evolution of such traditions, and their modification by different audiences, it is hoped that a new picture will form of the development of ideas in their concrete contexts. By this means, artificial distinctions between the history of philosophy, of the various sciences, of society and politics, and of literature may be seen to dissolve.

The series is published with the support of the Exxon Foundation.

A list of books in the series will be found at the end of the volume.

Cambridge University Press

0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen

Frontmatter/Prelims

[More information](#)

ENLIGHTENMENT AND RELIGION

Rational Dissent in eighteenth-century Britain

EDITED BY

KNUD HAAKONSEN

Professor of Philosophy, Boston University



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
 Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen
 Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1996

First published 1996

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data

Enlightenment and religion: rational dissent in eighteenth-century
 Britain / edited by Knud Haakonssen.

p. cm. - (Ideas in context : 41)

Includes index.

ISBN 0 521 56060 8 (hardcover)

1. Dissenters, Religious - Great Britain - History - 18th century.
2. Rationalists - Great Britain - History - 18th century.
3. Enlightenment - Great Britain. 4. Great Britain - Intellectual
 life - 18th century. 5. Great Britain - Church history - 18th century.

I. Haakonssen, Knud, 1947- . II. Series.

BX5203.2.E55 1996

941.07 - dc20 95-31226 C1P

ISBN 0 521 56060 8 hardback

Transferred to digital printing 2003

Contents

| | |
|--|----------------|
| <i>List of contributors</i> | <i>page</i> ix |
| <i>Acknowledgements</i> | xii |
| | |
| 1. Enlightened Dissent: an introduction <i>Knud Haakonssen</i> | I |
| 2. The emergence of Rational Dissent <i>R. K. Webb</i> | 12 |
| 3. Rational Dissent in early eighteenth-century Ireland <i>M.A. Stewart</i> | 42 |
| 4. The Enlightenment, politics and providence: some Scottish and English comparisons <i>Martin Fitzpatrick</i> | 64 |
| 5. The contribution of the Dissenting academy to the emergence of Rational Dissent <i>David L. Wykes</i> | 99 |
| 6. ‘A set of men powerful enough in many things’: Rational Dissent and political opposition in England, 1770–1790 <i>John Seed</i> | 140 |
| 7. Law, lawyers and Rational Dissent <i>Wilfrid Prest</i> | 169 |
| 8. The nexus between theology and political doctrine in Church and Dissent <i>A.M.C. Waterman</i> | 193 |
| 9. Anglican latitudinarianism, Rational Dissent and political radicalism in the late eighteenth century <i>John Gascoigne</i> | 219 |

Cambridge University Press
0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen
Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| viii | <i>Contents</i> | |
| 10. | The State as highwayman: from candour to rights <i>Alan Saunders</i> | 241 |
| 11. | Priestley on politics, progress and moral theology <i>Alan Tapper</i> | 272 |
| 12. | Rational piety <i>R. K. Webb</i> | 287 |
| 13. | New Jerusalems: prophecy, Dissent and radical culture in England, 1786–1830 <i>Iain McCalman</i> | 312 |
| | <i>Index of names</i> | 336 |

Cambridge University Press
 0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
 Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen
 Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

Contributors

MARTIN FITZPATRICK is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is editor and co-founder of *Enlightenment and Dissent* and is the author of numerous articles relating to the world of Rational Dissent. He has edited the early political writings of William Godwin, the first of seven volumes of *Political and Philosophical Writings of William Godwin*. He is currently working on a short study of the Enlightenment.

JOHN GASCOIGNE is a Senior Lecturer in the School of History at the University of New South Wales. He is the author of *Cambridge in the Age of the Enlightenment: Science, Religion, and Politics from the Restoration to the French Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, 1989) and of *Joseph Banks and the English Enlightenment. Useful Knowledge and Polite Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 1994). He is at present completing *Science in the Service of Empire. Joseph Banks, the British State and the Uses of Science in the Age of Revolution*.

KNUD HAAKONSEN is Professor of Philosophy at Boston University. His books include *The Science of a Legislator: The Natural Jurisprudence of David Hume and Adam Smith* (Cambridge University Press, 1981), *Natural Law and Moral Philosophy: From Grotius to the Scottish Enlightenment* (Cambridge University Press, 1995) and, as editor, *Traditions of Liberalism* (CIS, 1988), Thomas Reid, *Practical Ethics* (Princeton University Press, 1990), (with M. Lacey) *A Culture of Rights* (Cambridge University Press, 1991), David Hume, *Political Essays* (Cambridge University Press, 1994). He is currently editing the *Cambridge History of Eighteenth-Century Philosophy*.

IAIN McCALMAN is Professor and Director of the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University. His books include *Radical Underworld: Prophets, Revolutionaries and Pornographers in London*,

List of contributors

1795–1838 (Cambridge University Press, 1988) and, as editor, *Horrors of Slavery. The Life and Writings of Robert Wedderburn* (Edinburgh University Press, 1991). He is currently editing *The Age of Romanticism and Revolution: An Oxford Companion to British Culture, 1776–1832*.

WILFRID PREST is Professor of History in the University of Adelaide. His books include *The Inns of Court under Elizabeth I and the Early Stuarts 1590–1640* (Longman, 1972), *The Rise of the Barristers: A Social History of the English Bar 1590–1640* (Clarendon Press, 1986; rev. edn., 1991) and, as editor, *Lawyers in Early Modern Europe and America* (Croom Helm, 1981), *The Professions in Early Modern England* (Croom Helm, 1987), and *The Diary of Sir Richard Hutton 1614–1639 and Related Documents* (Selden Society, 1991). He is now completing *Albion Ascendant: England 1660–1815* (Short Oxford History of the Modern World).

ALAN SAUNDERS is a Producer in the Science Unit of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Radio National. He has been a Frances A. Yates Research Fellow at the Warburg Institute, University of London, and he wrote a doctoral dissertation on Joseph Priestley in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University. He is the author of *A is for Apple* (Reed Books Australia, 1995), a collection of essays about food, and he is currently working on a history of British food culture in the eighteenth century.

JOHN SEED teaches history at Roehampton Institute in London, and from 1982–95 he was Review Editor of *Social History*. He has published essays and articles on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British history including *The Culture of Capital* (ed. with Janet Wolff, Manchester University Press, 1988), and on twentieth-century politics, including *Cultural Revolution* (ed. with Bart Moore-Gilbert, Routledge, 1992), and on twentieth-century poetry, including studies of Basil Bunting and George Oppen.

M. A. STEWART is Professor of the History of Philosophy at Lancaster University. He is General Editor of the Clarendon Edition of the Works of John Locke. He has edited *Selected Philosophical Papers of Robert Boyle* (Manchester University Press, 1979), *Law, Morality and Rights* (Kluwer, 1983), *Studies in the Philosophy of the Scottish Enlightenment* (Clarendon Press, 1990), and co-edited *Hume and Hume's Connexions* (Edinburgh University Press, 1994). In 1994 he delivered the Robert Allen Memorial Lecture to the Presbyterian Historical Society of

List of contributors

xi

Ireland, and in 1995 the Gifford Lectures on ‘“New Light” and Enlightenment’ at the University of Aberdeen.

ALAN TAPPER is Lecturer and Head of the Department of Philosophy at Edith Cowan University in Perth, Western Australia. He is the author of *The Family in the Welfare State* (Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1990).

A. M. C. WATERMAN is a Fellow of St John’s College, Winnipeg, and Professor of Economics and Director of the Institute for the Humanities in the University of Manitoba. He studies the relation between political economy and Christian theology in the construction of normative social theory. His *Revolution, Economics and Religion 1798–1833* (Cambridge University Press, 1991) was awarded the Forkosch Prize for intellectual history in 1992. He recently co-edited (with H.G. Brennan) *Economics and Religion. Are They Distinct?* (Kluwer, 1994).

R. K. WEBB is Professor of History, emeritus, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. His books include *The British Working-Class Reader, 1790–1848* (Allen and Unwin, 1955); *Harriet Martineau, a Radical Victorian* (Heinemann, 1960); and *Modern England: From the Eighteenth Century to the Present* (Harper Collins, 1980). He is completing three studies of English Unitarianism – of the ministry, of the Necessarian tradition, and a general history of the denomination.

DAVID WYKES is Research Lecturer in History at the University of Leicester. He has published on late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century dissent, and late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Unitarianism, particularly dissenting academies. He is currently working on a new edition of the 1669 Conventicle Returns for the Church of England Record Society.

Cambridge University Press
0521560608 - Enlightenment and Religion: Rational Dissent in Eighteenth-Century
Britain - Edited by Knud Haakonssen
Frontmatter/Prelims
[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

On behalf of all the contributors to this volume I warmly thank Elizabeth Y. Short for her superb copy-editing and Norma Chin for her expert computer work.

Knud Haakonssen
Canberra, December 1994