Contents

Acknowledgements \hspace{1cm} page x
Note on usage \hspace{1cm} xi
List of abbreviations \hspace{1cm} xii
Introduction \hspace{1cm} 1

Prelude: the varieties of early modern historiography \hspace{1cm} 7

Part I Constructing the enlightened narrative

Section I Giannone: jurist and libertin in the central Mediterranean

1 Civil and ecclesiastical history \hspace{1cm} 29
2 Popes and emperors: from the Isaurians to the Hohenstaufen \hspace{1cm} 42
3 Angevins, Spaniards and Gallicans: to the brink of Enlightenment \hspace{1cm} 58
4 Gibbon and Giannone: narrative, philosophy, erudition \hspace{1cm} 65

Section II Voltaire: neo-classicist and philosophe in the enlightened world-picture

5 On the horizons of Europe: the kings of the north \hspace{1cm} 72
6 Courtly monarchy as the instrument of Enlightenment: the Siècle de Louis XIV \hspace{1cm} 83
7 Asia and the dechristianisation of history: the Siècle and the Essai sur les Moeurs \hspace{1cm} 97
8 The Christian millennium in Europe: the Essai sur les Moeurs \hspace{1cm} 120
## Contents

9  The recovery of civil government, the rebirth of fanaticism and the return to the Siècle 137

10  Voltaire: the exasperating predecessor 153

**PART II  THE HISTORICAL AGE AND THE HISTORICAL NATION**

**SECTION III  DAVID HUME AND THE PHILOSOPHICAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND**

11  The problems of history in the Hanoverian kingdoms 163

12  David Hume: the *Essays* as contemporary history 177

13  *The History of Great Britain*: Hume’s modern history 199

14  *England under the House of Tudor*: monarchy, Europe and enthusiasm 222

15  Hume’s *History of England*: the Enlightened narrative in retrospect 241

**SECTION IV  WILLIAM ROBERTSON AND THE HISTORY OF EUROPE**

16  The problems of historiography: the Scottish perspective 258

17  Scotland and the progress of society 268

18  The *Reign of Charles V* and the emergence of the European states 289

19  Robertson: histories written and unwritten 300

**PART III  THE PROGRESS OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

**SECTION V  ADAM SMITH: JURISPRUDENCE INTO HISTORY**

20  Moral philosophy and the stages of society 309

21  Smith’s Glasgow lectures: narrative and philosophical history 319
## Contents

### Section VI  Adam Ferguson: The Moderate as Machiavellian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ferguson’s <em>Essay</em>: Siberia as the cradle of world history</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>The <em>Mémoires littéraires</em> and the <em>Remains of Japhet</em></td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Scottish narrative: theoretical and civil history</td>
<td>362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Part IV  Intending the Decline and Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>The Enlightened narrative and the project of 1776</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>‘Gibbon’s dark ages’: the writings of 1765–1772</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Construction of a narrative: the evidence of the <em>Memoirs</em></td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*List of References*  
403

*Index*  
414