The study of Ireland in the explosive decade of the 1790s has probably been the fastest-growing area in Irish history writing in the 1990s. The focus has been on the radical and revolutionary United Irish movement, popular politics and the lower-class secret society, the Defenders.

This volume of essays explores United Irish propaganda and organisation, and looks at the forces of revolution before and during the 1798 rebellion. It also begins to redress imbalances in the historiography of the period by turning to the face of counter-revolution – examining the crisis in law and order, the role of the magistrates, the strengths and weaknesses of the state, and the scope and character of the repression following the rebellion. Other essays consider the short-term and longer-term consequences of these momentous events, including their impact upon the churches, the Act of Union, and the politics of early nineteenth-century America.

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The essays in this volume are revised versions of papers delivered to a conference on the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland held at the University of Notre Dame in March 1998. I wish to thank all those who took part in and supported that conference and in particular Harriet Baldwin, Chris Fox and Bill Miscamble CSC. Stephen Smyth provided invaluable computer assistance, while Katie Shott at the Notre Dame–Keough Centre in Dublin negotiated the usual word-processing crises with skill and patience. I also appreciate the help, and confidence in this project, of Ray Ryan and William Davies at Cambridge University Press.
Abbreviations

BL British Library
BNL Belfast NewsLetter
HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission
HO Home Office Papers (100 series, Ireland)
IHS Irish Historical Studies
NAI National Archives, Ireland
NLI National Library of Ireland
OP Official Papers (NAI)
PRO Public Record Office (London)
PRONI Public Record Office Northern Ireland
Reb. Papers Rebellion Papers (620/–)