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 vii

Introduction 1
Glenn Burgess

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

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

3 Radicalism and the English Revolution 62
   Glenn Burgess

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Afterwords 309

Radicalism revisited
   *Conal Condren* 311

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

Index 373
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