This fourth volume in John Pocock's great sequence on Barbarism and Religion focuses on the idea of barbarism. Barbarism was central to the history of western historiography, to the history of Enlightenment, and to Edward Gibbon himself: as a concept it was central to understanding its converse, civility, and deeply problematic to enlightened historians seeking to understand their own civil societies in the light of exposure to newly discovered civilisations hitherto beyond the reach of history. The troubled relationship between philosophy and history is addressed squarely in this fourth volume, and as before John Pocock grounds his arguments in intensive analyses of a number of major texts by which Gibbon was particularly influenced; those of Goguet, de Guignes, Robertson and Raynal in particular. As Barbarism and Religion develops, its full stature becomes apparent: in the end, it will stand not just as a remarkable analysis of the making of Gibbon's Decline and Fall, but as the definitive history of history-writing in what David Hume famously called 'the historical age'.

J. G. A. POCCOCK was born in London and brought up in Christchurch, New Zealand, and educated at the Universities of Canterbury and Cambridge. He is now Harry C. Black Emeritus Professor of History at the Johns Hopkins University. His many seminal works on intellectual history include The Ancient Constitution and the Feudal Law (1957, second edition 1987), Politics, Language and Time (1971), The Machiavellian Moment (1975, second edition 2003), Virtue, Commerce and History (1985) and four volumes in an ongoing sequence, initiated in 1995, on Barbarism and Religion. He has also edited The Political Works of James Harrington (1977) and Burke's Reflections on the Revolution in France (1987), as well as the collaborative study The Varieties of British Political Thought (1995). A Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society, Professor Pocock is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Philosophical Society. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of New Zealand Merit in 2002.
BARBARISM AND RELIGION

Volume Four

Barbarians, Savages and Empires

J. G. A. POCOCK
Sans doute il est importante aux générations futures de ne pas perdre le tableau de la vie et des moeurs des sauvages. C'est peut-être à cette connaissance que nous devons tous les progrès que la philosophie morale a faits parmi nous.

Denis Diderot [?] in the Histoire des deux Indes
Contents

Acknowledgements xi
List of abbreviations x

Introduction 1

PART I THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF BARBARIISM

1 Introducing the barbarian: problems of barbarism and religion 11
2 Anquetil-Duperron: despotism and prophecy in Sassanid Persia 17
3 Antoine-Yves Goguet: the Confusion of Tongues and the origins of civility 37
4 Thomas Carte: Japhetic settlers in the western islands 65
5 The forest Germans: lethargy and passion in a transhumant culture 79

PART II JOSEPH DE GUIGNES AND THE DISCOVERY OF EURASIA

6 Gentile history in the further Asia 99
7 The many faces of Fo: the problem of religion in Eurasian history 110
8 Hans, Huns and Romans: the rhythms of barbarism and empire 133
## Contents

### Part III The New World and the Problem of History

9. The invention and discovery of savagery | 157
10. Robertson's *America*: the Scottish theoretical encounter with the New World | 181
11. The universe of savagery and the search for history | 192
12. Ancient history for modern colonists: the reception of Robertson | 205

### Part IV The Crisis of the Seaborne Empires

13. European history and the global ocean | 229
14. The antiquity of Asia: priests, legislators and the tragedy of history | 246
15. American savages and European barbarians: the invasion of the natural world | 269
16. Slaves and settlers: the sugar islands in the new geopolitics | 294
17. Utopia and revolution: the northern continent in history | 313

### Conclusion

18. Gibbon and the empires | 331

Envoi | 340

*Bibliography of works cited* | 343

*Index* | 351
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Baltimore, Maryland
November 2004
The following abbreviations have been used in this book. For other references, by author's name and date of publication, the Bibliography of works cited should be consulted.


List of Abbreviations


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