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The aftermath of the Popish Plot and the subsequent succession crisis of the years 1678 to 1681 are the context of this new study. It asks two key questions: Was there an exclusion crisis? and, Did these years witness the birth of modern political parties? Through a detailed analysis of Parliament, the court and the country, the author argues that the unrest was not simply due to a centrally organised party machine based around the single issue of exclusion, but was a broad-based controversy about the succession, fears of popery and arbitrary government which produced ideological polarisation and political sophistication. Part I examines central politics to explore the succession crisis within the context of the court and an emergent fluid but partisan political structure. Part II explores public opinion in the country as a whole, and argues that propaganda, electioneering, religious conflict and petitions and addresses committed men to organised networks of belief, but also ensured a struggle about the representation of the will of the people.

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POLITICS AND OPINION IN CRISIS, 1678–81

MARK KNIGHTS

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The place of publication is London, unless otherwise stated.

<i>Ailesbury Memoirs</i>	<i>The Memoirs of Thomas Bruce, Earl of Ailesbury</i> , ed. Buckley, W.E. (The Roxburghe Club, 1890)
AO	Archive Office
BIHR	<i>Bulletin of the Institute for Historical Research</i>
BL	British Library
Bod.	Bodleian Library
Bulstrode newsletter	Newsletters sent to Sir Richard Bulstrode, now in the Harry Ransome Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin
<i>Burnet Letters</i>	<i>Some Unpublished Letters of Gilbert Burnet</i> , ed. Foxcroft, H.C. (Camden Miscellany, third series, xi, 1907)
<i>Cal. Treas. Bks.</i>	<i>Calendar of Treasury Books</i>
Congress newsletter	London newsletters (MF.18,124), at the Library of Congress, Washington
CJ	<i>Journal of the House of Commons</i>
CHJ	<i>Cambridge Historical Journal</i>
CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i>
<i>Dering Diaries</i>	<i>The Diaries and Papers of Sir Edward Dering Second Bart 1644–84</i> , ed. Bond, M.F. (House of Lords Record Office Occasional Publications 1976)
<i>Diary of Henry Sidney</i>	<i>The Diary of the Times of Charles II by Henry Sidney</i> , ed. Blencowe, R.W. (1843)
<i>Domestick Intelligence</i>	The newspaper of this title, including those issues under the amended title of <i>The Protestant Domestick Intelligence</i>

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<i>EHD</i>	<i>English Historical Documents 1660–1714</i> , ed. Browning, A. (1953)
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>Grey, Debates</i>	<i>A. Grey Debates of the House of Commons 1667–1694</i> (1769)
<i>Halifax Letters</i>	‘Some Unpublished Letters of George Savile, Lord Halifax’, ed. Poole, D.L, <i>EHR</i> xxvi (1911), 535–42.
<i>Hatton Corresp.</i>	<i>The Correspondence of the Hatton Family</i> , ed. Thompson, E.M. (Camden Society, new series, xxii, 1878)
<i>History of Parliament</i>	<i>The History of Parliament : The House of Commons 1660–1690</i> , ed. Henning, B.D. (1983)
<i>HJ</i>	<i>Historical Journal</i>
<i>HLQ</i>	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
<i>HMC</i>	Historical Manuscripts Commission
<i>Hyde Corresp.</i>	<i>The Correspondence of Henry Hyde, Earl of Clarendon and his brother Lawrence Hyde, Earl of Rochester</i> , ed. Singer, S.W. (1828)
<i>JBS</i>	<i>Journal of British Studies</i>
<i>LJ</i>	<i>Journal of the House of Lords</i>
<i>Loyal Protestant</i>	<i>The Loyal Protestant and Domestick Intelligence</i>
<i>Luttrell, Brief Relation</i>	<i>A Brief Historical Relation of State Affairs</i> (Oxford, 1857)
<i>Newdigate newsletter</i>	Newsletters addressed to Sir Richard Newdigate, now in the Folger Shakespeare Library
<i>NLS</i>	National Library of Scotland
<i>NLW</i>	National Library of Wales
<i>Original Papers</i>	<i>Original Papers; containing the Secret History of Great Britain</i> , ed. MacPherson, J. (1776)
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
<i>POAS</i>	<i>Poems on Affairs of State</i> , ed. Mengel, E.F. (New Haven 1965–6), vol. ii
<i>Popish Plot Catalogues</i>	<i>Narcissus Luttrell’s Popish Plot Catalogues</i> , ed. Francis, F.C. (1961)
<i>Prideaux Corresp.</i>	<i>The Letters of Humphrey Prideaux to John Ellis</i> , ed. Thompson, E.H. (Camden Society, new series, xv, 1875)
<i>PRO</i>	Public Record Office

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Reresby, <i>Memoirs</i>	<i>The Memoirs of Sir John Reresby</i> , ed. Browning, A. (1936)	
RO	Record Office	
<i>Russell Letters</i>	<i>The Letters of Rachel Lady Russell</i> , ed. Russell, R. (1853)	
<i>Savile Corresp.</i>	<i>The Savile Correspondence: Letters to and From Henry Savile</i> , ed. Cooper, W.D. (Camden Society, lxix, 1858)	
<i>Sidney Letters</i>	<i>Discourses Concerning Government by Algernon Sidney with his letters, trial, apology and some memoirs of his life</i> , ed. Hollis, T. (1763), letters appended in final section of volume	
<i>Somers Tracts</i>	<i>A Collection of Scarce and Valuable Tracts [belonging to Lord Somers]</i> , ed. Scott, W. (1809-15)	
<i>State Trials</i>	<i>A Complete Collection of State Trials</i> , ed. Howell, T.B. (1816)	
TRHS	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>	
UCNW	University College of North Wales, Bangor	
Van Prinsterer, <i>Archives</i>	<i>Archives ou Correspondance inédite de la Maison d'Orange-Nassau</i> , ed. Van Prinsterer, G. Groen (Utrecht 1861), v (1650-88)	
<i>Williamson Letters</i>	<i>Letters ... to Sir Joseph Williamson</i> (Camden Society, new series, viii and ix, 1874)	
Wing	<i>Short Title Catalogue 1641-1700</i> (second edition, 1972-88), ed. Wing, D.	
Wing Index	<i>An Index to Wing's Short Title Catalogue</i> , compiled by Morrison, P. G. (Virginia, 1955)	

NOTES ON DATES AND STYLE

Dates are given according to the old style calendar, but the beginning of the year is considered to have been 1 January rather than 25 March. Letters and dispatches written abroad, or sent abroad, have the new style date given after that of the old style.

Contractions have usually been extended, superscriptions ignored, and ‘ye’ and ‘yt’ transcribed as ‘the’ and ‘that’, but spelling has otherwise only been altered where the original version would have impeded understanding.