

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-13582-5 - War and Society in the Seventeenth Century

George Clark

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WAR AND SOCIETY IN THE
SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

THE WILES LECTURES
GIVEN AT THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
BELFAST 1956

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BY

SIR GEORGE CLARK

SOMETIME PROVOST OF ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1958

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521135825

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First published 1958
This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-13582-5 paperback

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PREFACE

THE first four lectures in this volume are the Wiles Lectures delivered in the Queen's University of Belfast in October 1956. To the Trustees of this foundation I owe deep gratitude, not only for the opportunity of giving the lectures, but for much kindness and hospitality during my visit. That I found the occasion not only enjoyable but impressive was due to the founder of the Trust, Mrs Austin Boyd, to Sir Eric Ashby, Vice-Chancellor of the Queen's University, and to Professor Michael Roberts, its Professor of Modern History. The last lecture was honoured by the presence of the Governor of Northern Ireland, Lord Wakehurst.

In accordance with the terms of the Trust a number of scholars were invited to the lectures and took part in discussions which followed them. Besides the members of the University History Department and other members of the University staff, there were nine visitors, Professor T. W. Moody, of Trinity College, Dublin; Professor J. Lough of Durham; Professor F. J. Fisher, of the London School of Economics; Dr G. A. Hayes-McCoy, of the National Museum, Dublin; Mr S. H. F. Johnston, of University College, Aberystwyth; Dr F. L. Carsten, of Westfield College; Mr John Ehrman; Mr Peter Laslett, of Trinity College, Cambridge; and Mr H. F. Kearney, of University College, Dublin. The discussions were lively and general; I hope the participants will recognize from the printed text how much I learnt from them, and I must record my sincere thanks.

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To these four lectures I have added two others which have been published previously. The first, on the Barbary Corsairs, illustrates part of the argument of the Wiles Lectures. In its original form it had serious faults, and these were pointed out to me by Sir Godfrey Fisher, whose book *Barbary Legend* is to be published this year. I have tried to express my thanks to him by undertaking the necessary revision. The other lecture, the Creighton Lecture delivered in the University of London in 1948, is of wider scope but on a related subject. It has been out of print for some time. For permission to reprint these two lectures, and to use some passages from an article, I have to thank the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press and the Editor of the *Cambridge Historical Journal*. Finally I owe many thanks to my wife, who has relieved me of the troublesome task of making the index.

G.N.C.

OXFORD
March 1957