The Gordon riots of June 1780 were the most devastating outbreak of urban violence in British history. For almost a week large parts of central London were ablaze, prisons were destroyed and the Bank of England attacked. Hundreds of rioters were shot dead by troops and for many observers it seemed that England was on the verge of a revolution. The first scholarly study in a generation, this book brings together leading scholars from historical and literary studies to provide new perspectives on these momentous events. The essays include new archival work on the religious, political and international contexts of the riots, and new interpretations of contemporary literary and artistic sources. For too long the significance of the Gordon riots has been overshadowed by the impact of the French Revolution on British society and culture; this book restores the riots to their central position in late eighteenth-century Britain.

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In July and August 1780 over twenty Gordon rioters were executed close to the sites where their offences against property were committed (the sites are marked by the dots). This map therefore indicates the geographical spread of the riots across central London.
The Gordon riots: politics, culture and insurrection in late eighteenth-century Britain

Edited by Ian Haywood and John Seed

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All images from the British Museum are produced by kind permission of the Trustees.

Frontispiece  Map of the sites of Gordon rioters’ executions, July and August 1780. Original map reproduced by kind permission of the City of London, London Metropolitan Archives; map prepared by Matthew White in conjunction with his chapter in this volume.  


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### Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>British Museum</td>
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<td>NRO</td>
<td>Northumberland Records Office</td>
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<td>NYCRO</td>
<td>North Yorkshire County Record Office</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>Protestant Association</td>
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<td>SCA</td>
<td>Sheffield City Archives</td>
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<td>TNA</td>
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