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978-0-521-27770-9 - That Noble Science of Politics: A Study in Nineteenth-Century
Intellectual History

Stefan Collini, Donald Winch and John Burrow

Frontmatter

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*A study in
nineteenth-century intellectual history*

STEFAN COLLINI
DONALD WINCH
JOHN BURROW

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

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. . . that noble Science of Politics, . . . which, of all sciences, is the most important to the welfare of nations, – which, of all sciences, most tends to expand and invigorate the mind, – which draws nutriment and ornament from every part of philosophy and literature, and dispenses, in return, nutriment and ornament to all.

T. B. MACAULAY (1829)

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PREFACE

The intellectually respectable reasons for writing this book are given in our Prologue. Here we should record that our collaboration is the outcome of common tastes and interests, shared teaching duties, and, above all, friendship. Every stage in the planning and execution of the book has involved very close, and often highly convivial, co-operation; both the closeness and the conviviality have made it difficult in some cases to remember who should now be credited with particular ideas or phrases. We have decided, therefore, to accept full collective responsibility for the book as a whole, and to mark this fact by not assigning authorship to the individual essays in the main text. For those – apart from ourselves – who are interested in such matters, the Prologue is the joint effort of all three authors; Essays I, II, and III were written by Winch; Essay IV by Collini; Essays V and VI by Burrow; Essay VII by Burrow and Collini; Essays VIII and IX by Collini; Essay X by Winch and Collini; Essay XI and the Epilogue by Collini. The only exception to our practice of collective responsibility is the following sentence. Donald Winch and John Burrow wish to pay tribute to the qualities of energy and tact, at times much needed, with which Stefan Collini has discharged the dual office of being both the team's captain and its leading scorer: but for his promptings this book would most probably not have been started, and without his coaxing, his reproaches, and his example it would almost certainly never have been finished.

All three authors are indebted to the University of Sussex for support and stimulation of various kinds. For assistance and congenial surroundings, Stefan Collini is in addition grateful to the History of Ideas Unit of the Australian National University; Donald Winch to the King's College Research Centre, Cambridge; John Burrow to the Center for the Study of Higher Education, University of California at Berkeley. Collectively we would like to thank Patricia Williams for her encouragement and advice;

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Sheldon Rothblatt for helpful suggestions on an earlier draft of Essay XI; and Janice Bowen for her help in preparing the final typescript. We particularly wish to express thanks to our friends Geoffrey Hawthorn, David Lieberman, and John Thompson, but for whose searching and immensely thorough reading of the script as a whole this book would have appeared somewhat sooner.