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Edited by Anthony Fletcher and John Stevenson

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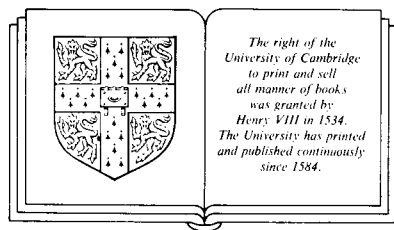
ORDER AND DISORDER IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

edited by

ANTHONY FLETCHER

and

JOHN STEVENSON



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APC	<i>Acts of the Privy Council</i>
BIHR	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
BL	British Library
Brewer and Styles	J. Brewer and J. Styles (eds.), <i>An Ungovernable People: The English and their Law in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries</i> (London, Hutchinson, 1980)
CJ	<i>Commons Journals</i>
Cockburn	J.S. Cockburn (ed.), <i>Crime in England 1550–1800</i> (London, Methuen, 1977)
Collinson	P. Collinson, <i>The Religion of Protestants</i> (OUP, 1982)
CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers Domestic</i>
CUL	Cambridge University Library
Dodds	M.H. and R. Dodds, <i>The Pilgrimage of Grace 1536–37 and the Exeter Conspiracy 1538</i> (2 vols., CUP, 1915)
ECHR	<i>Economic History Review</i>
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
Hay, Linebaugh, Thompson	D. Hay, P. Linebaugh, E.P. Thompson (eds.), <i>Albion's Fatal Tree: Crime and Society in Eighteenth Century England</i> (London, Allen Lane, 1975)
HLRO	House of Lords Record Office
HMC	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission</i>

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Abbreviations

Lindley

K. Lindley, *Fenland Riots and the English Revolution* (London, Heinemann, 1982)

LJ

Lords Journals

LP

J.S. Brewer and J. Gairdner (eds.), *The Letters and Papers of Henry VIII* (21 vols., London, 1862–1910)

NRO

Norfolk Record Office

PRO

Public Records Office

RO

Record Office

Sharp

B. Sharp, *In Contempt of all Authority: Rural Artisans and Riot in the West of England 1586–1660* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1980)

Sharpe

J. Sharpe, *Crime in Early Modern England* (London, Longman, 1984)

Spufford

M. Spufford, *Contrasting Communities: English Villagers in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries* (CUP, 1974)

Thomas

K.V. Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic* (London, Weidenfeld, 1971)

TRHS

Transactions of the Royal Historical Society

VCH

Victoria County History

Wrightson

K. Wrightson, *English Society 1580–1680* (London, Hutchinson, 1982)

Wrightson and Levine

K. Wrightson and D. Levine, *Poverty and Piety in an English Village: Terling 1525–1700* (New York, Academic Press, 1979)

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Preface

The social history of early modern England has recently become a lively area of publication and debate. We chose the theme of order and disorder, both for a seminar course which we have taught jointly for several years and for this volume, because we believe it encapsulates much of what is at present at issue between historians working in the field. The theme is much too large for us to have attempted to treat it in a comprehensive manner. To some extent this book is necessarily disparate, but we hope and our introduction seeks to suggest that it is not wholly so.

We are grateful to our students who have stimulated our thinking and to colleagues, particularly Michael Bentley, Patrick Collinson, Mark Greengrass and Daniel Szechi, who have commented upon introductory material in draft. We are grateful to our fellow contributors who have faithfully produced their essays on schedule. And finally we wish to record our gratitude to the departmental secretaries, Patricia Holland, Jane Stone and Lynda Harrison, who have been unfailingly tolerant of and patient with our demands.

June 1984

A.J.F.

J.S.

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C.S.L. Davies wishes to thank Dr G. Bernard and Dr D.M. Palliser for a critical reading of his essay. Anthony Fletcher wishes to thank John Morrill and Conrad Russell for their useful comments on his essay. Research for David Underdown's essay was assisted by a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Earlier versions of it were presented in the Early Modern History Seminar at Harvard, the Western Societies Program at Cornell, the History Honours and Pembroke Centre Seminars at Brown: he is grateful to all those whose questions helped him to sharpen and clarify the argument. He wishes to record special thanks to Grey Osterud, Joan Scott and Rachel Weil for their helpful comments and to Susan Amussen for unfailingly creative criticism; most of the Norfolk references in his essay were generously supplied by her. A generous grant from the American Bar Foundation enabled Clive Holmes to undertake the research for his essay. It was first presented at the seminar for early modern social history at Oxford and he wishes to thank those present on that occasion, particularly Dr Joan Thirsk and Dr Felicity Heal, for their comments.

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