This important collection of essays from *Shakespeare Survey* shows a range of writing on Shakespeare and politics with shifts of focus as diverse as biography, text and contexts, language and film, and from perspectives that are literary, historical, religious, theoretical and cultural. A new introductory article by John J. Joughin gives an overview of the subject. The collection is a stimulating and provocative introduction to a subject that is complex but never dull.

**Catherine M. S. Alexander** is Lecturer at The Shakespeare Institute, University of Birmingham. She is editor of *The Cambridge Shakespeare Library* and co-editor of *Shakespeare and Race* (2000) and *Shakespeare and Sexuality* (2001).
SHAKESPEARE AND POLITICS

EDITED BY

CATHERINE M. S. ALEXANDER
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of contributors</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editor's note</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Shakespeare and politics: an introduction  
   **John J. Joughin**  
   page 1

2. Shakespeare and politics  
   **Blair Worden**  
   page 22

3. *Henry VIII* and the deconstruction of history  
   **Peter L. Rudnytsky**  
   page 44

4. Livy, Machiavelli, and Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*  
   **Anne Barton**  
   page 67

5. *Richard II* and the realities of power  
   **S. Schoenbaum**  
   page 91

6. Plutarch, insurrection, and dearth in *Coriolanus*  
   **David George**  
   page 110

7. Some versions of coup d'etat, rebellion, and revolution  
   **Pierre Sahel**  
   page 130

8. Language, politics, and poverty in Shakespearian drama  
   **William C. Carroll**  
   page 142

9. ‘Demystifying the mystery of state’: *King Lear* and the world upside down  
   **Margot Heinemann**  
   page 155

10. Venetian culture and the politics of *Othello*  
    **Mark Matheson**  
    page 169
Contents

11  The Bard and Ireland: Shakespeare’s Protestantism as politics in disguise  
Paul Franssen  
185

12  Henry V as working-house of ideology  
Günter Walch  
198

13  ‘Fashion it thus’: Julius Caesar and the politics of theatrical representation  
John Drakakis  
206

14  Take me to your Leda  
Terence Hawkes  
219

15  Macbeth on film: politics  
E. Pearlman  
236

16  William Shakespeare’s Romeo + Juliet: everything’s nice in America?  
Barbara Hodgdon  
247

Index  
263
Contributors

Anne Barton University of Cambridge
William C. Carroll Boston University
John Drakakis University of Stirling
Paul Franssen University of Utrecht
David George Urbana University
Terence Hawkes University College, Cardiff
Margot Heinemann
Barbara Hodgdon Duke University, Iowa
John J. Joughin University of Central Lancashire
Mark Matheson University of Utah
E. Pearlman University of Colorado
Peter L. Rudnytsky Janus Pannonius University, Hungary
Pierre Sahel University of Aix-en-Provence
S. Schoenbaum Northwestern University, Illinois
Gunter Walch Humboldt University, Berlin
Blair Worden St Edmund Hall, Oxford
Editor’s note

As an annual publication Shakespeare Survey has always had the capacity to reflect and respond speedily to trends in Shakespeare criticism and approaches to Shakespearian research. First published in 1948, it is a fine record of the most prolific period in Shakespeare Studies.

This important collection of essays from Shakespeare Survey, the first published in 1975, shows a full range of writing on Shakespeare and politics with shifts of focus as diverse as biography, text and contexts, language and film, and from perspectives that are literary, historical, religious, theoretical and cultural.

A new introductory article by John J. Joughin provides a commentary on the essays, considers their relationship to each, relates them to other work in the field and gives an over-view of the subject. The comprehensive collection is a stimulating and provocative introduction to a subject that is complex but never dull.