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0521770327 - Representing Revolution in Milton and his Contemporaries: Religion, Politics, and Polemics in Radical Puritanism

David Loewenstein

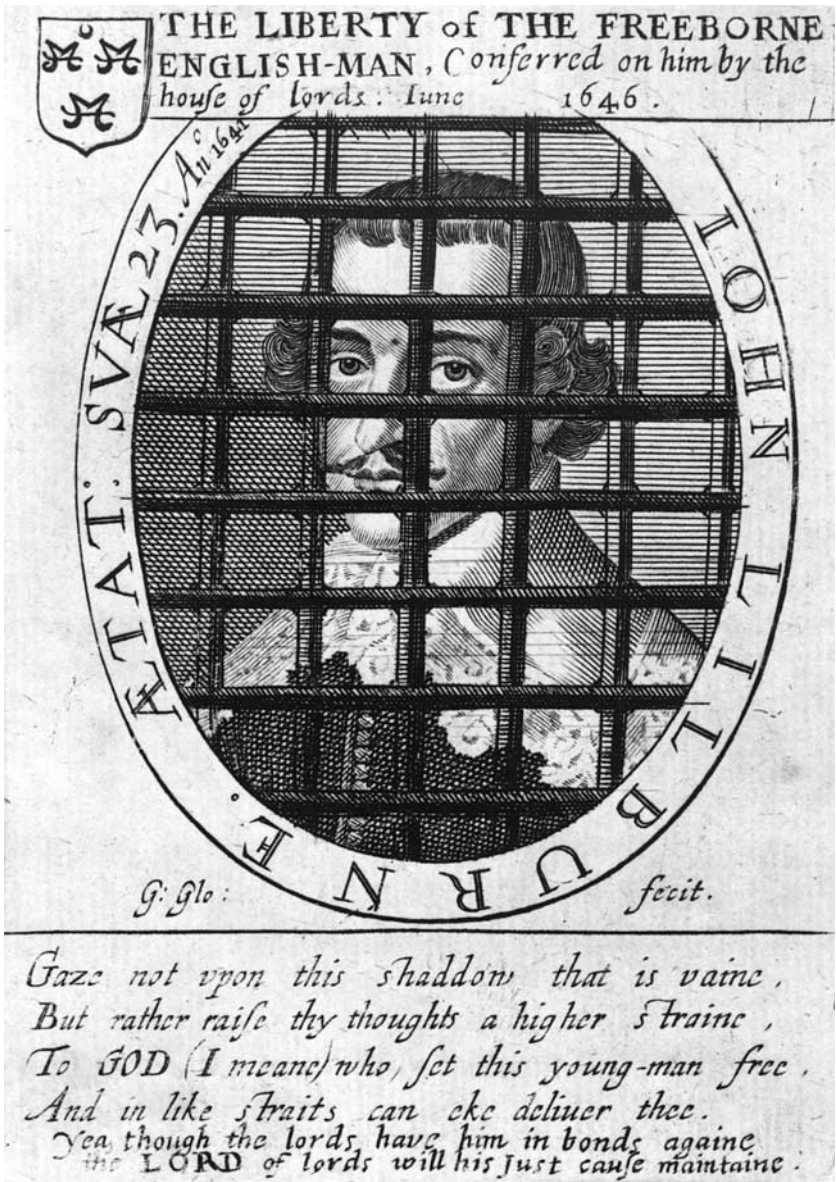
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David Loewenstein's *Representing Revolution in Milton and his Contemporaries* is a wide-ranging exploration of the interactions of literature, polemics, and religious politics in the English Revolution. Loewenstein highlights the powerful spiritual beliefs and religious ideologies in the polemical struggles of Milton, Marvell, and their radical Puritan contemporaries during these revolutionary decades. By examining a wide range of canonical and non-canonical writers – John Lilburne, Winstanley the Digger, and Milton, amongst others – he reveals how radical Puritans struggled with the contradictions and ambiguities of the English Revolution and its political regimes. Loewenstein's portrait of a faction-riven, violent seventeenth-century revolutionary culture is an original and significant contribution to our understanding of these turbulent decades and their aftermath. By placing Milton's great poems in the context of the period's radical religious politics, this book should be of interest to historians as well as literary scholars.

DAVID LOEWENSTEIN is Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is the author of *Milton and the Drama of History: Historical Vision, Iconoclasm, and the Literary Imagination* (Cambridge, 1990), which won the Milton Society of America's James Holly Hanford Award for Distinguished Book. He has also written *Milton: Paradise Lost* (Cambridge, 1993). He is co-editor of *Politics, Poetics, and Hermeneutics in Milton's Prose* (Cambridge, 1990) and of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Early Modern English Literature*.

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John Lilburne, engraved by George Glover; taken from *A Remonstrance of Many Thousand Citizens* (1646) by Richard Overton with William Walwyn's collaboration, Thomason Collection, British Library

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REPRESENTING REVOLUTION IN MILTON AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES

Religion, Politics, and Polemics in Radical Puritanism

DAVID LOEWENSTEIN

*Department of English,
University of Wisconsin-Madison*



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To my father and in memory of my mother

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matters of style and content; her good judgment and lively sense of humor usually prevented my “black cloud,” as she is fond of calling it, from growing too large.

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Note on abbreviations and citations

I use the following abbreviations and editions throughout this book. Milton’s poetry is quoted from *John Milton: Complete Poetry and Major Prose*, ed. Merritt Y. Hughes (New York, 1957). Marvell’s poetry is quoted from *The Poems and Letters of Andrew Marvell*, ed. H. M. Margoliouth, 3rd edn., rev. Pierre Legious with E. E. Duncan-Jones, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1971). Where a work is named and discussed at length in the text, page or line references are given parenthetically in the text. Biblical citations are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

I have modernized i/j and u/v in titles and quotations, but have left the original spelling and punctuation unchanged; in the case of a few Lilburne texts, however, I have quietly modified awkward punctuation. Dates are given old style, but with the year taken to begin on 1 January.

<i>Acts and Ordinances</i>	<i>Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum, 1642–1660</i> , ed. C. H. Firth and R. S. Rait, 3 vols. (London, 1911)
CJ	<i>The Journals of the House of Commons</i>
Clarendon, <i>History</i>	Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, <i>History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England</i> , ed. W. D. Macray, 6 vols. (Oxford, 1888)
<i>Constitutional Documents</i>	<i>The Constitutional Documents of the Puritan Revolution</i> , ed. S. R. Gardiner, 3rd edn. (Oxford, 1906)
Corns, <i>Uncloistered Virtue</i>	Thomas N. Corns, <i>Uncloistered Virtue: English Political Literature, 1640–1660</i> (Oxford, 1992)
CPW	<i>The Complete Prose Works of John Milton</i> , Don M. Wolfe et al., 8 vols. (New Haven, 1953–82)

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Cromwell, <i>Writings and Speeches</i>	<i>The Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell</i> , ed. W. C. Abbott, 4 vols. (Cambridge, MA, 1937–47)
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>ELH</i>	<i>English Literary History</i>
<i>ELR</i>	<i>English Literary Renaissance</i>
Fox, <i>Journal</i>	<i>Journal of George Fox</i> , ed. John L. Nickalls (1952; repr. London, 1975)
Hill, <i>WTUD</i>	Christopher Hill, <i>The World Turned Upside Down: Radical Ideas during the English Revolution</i> (Harmondsworth, 1975 [1972])
<i>HJ</i>	<i>The Historical Journal</i>
<i>HLQ</i>	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
<i>JBS</i>	<i>Journal of British Studies</i>
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</i>
<i>JFHS</i>	<i>Journal of the Friends Historical Society</i>
<i>JHI</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
<i>JRH</i>	<i>Journal of Religious History</i>
<i>Life Records</i>	<i>The Life Records of John Milton</i> , ed. J. Milton French, 5 vols. (New Brunswick, 1949–58)
<i>MQ</i>	<i>Milton Quarterly</i>
<i>MS</i>	<i>Milton Studies</i>
Norbrook, <i>English Republic</i>	David Norbrook, <i>Writing the English Republic: Poetry, Rhetoric, and Politics, 1627–1660</i> (Cambridge, 1999)
<i>P&P</i>	<i>Past and Present</i>
<i>Pride's Purge</i>	David Underdown, <i>Pride's Purge: Politics in the Puritan Revolution</i> (Oxford, 1971)
<i>Puritanism and Liberty</i>	<i>Puritanism and Liberty: Being the Army Debates (1647–49) from the Clarke Manuscripts</i> , ed. A. S. P. Woodhouse, 3rd edn. (London, 1986)
<i>Radical Religion</i>	J. F. McGregor and B. Reay (eds.), <i>Radical Religion in the English Revolution</i> (Oxford, 1984)
<i>Ranter Writings</i>	<i>A Collection of Ranter Writings from the</i>

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	<i>17th Century</i> , ed. Nigel Smith (London, 1983)
<i>SC</i>	<i>The Seventeenth Century</i>
<i>SEL</i>	<i>Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900</i>
Smith, <i>Perfection Proclaimed</i>	Nigel Smith, <i>Perfection Proclaimed: Language and Literature in English Radical Religion, 1640–1660</i> (Oxford, 1989)
<i>Stuart Constitution</i>	<i>The Stuart Constitution, 1603–1688: Documents and Commentary</i> , ed. J. P. Kenyon, 2nd edn. (Cambridge, 1986)
<i>Tracts on Liberty</i>	<i>Tracts on Liberty in the Puritan Revolution, 1638–1647</i> , ed. William Haller, 3 vols. (New York, 1934)
<i>Walwyn</i>	<i>The Writings of William Walwyn</i> , ed. Jack R. McMichael and Barbara Taft (Athens, GA, 1989)
Winstanley, <i>Works</i>	<i>The Works of Gerrard Winstanley</i> , ed. George H. Sabine (Ithaca, NY, 1941)
Woolrych, <i>Commonwealth</i>	Austin Woolrych, <i>Commonwealth to Protectorate</i> (Oxford, 1982)
Worden, <i>Rump Parliament</i>	Blair Worden, <i>The Rump Parliament, 1648–1653</i> (Cambridge, 1974)