

## *Contents*

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> ix
Introduction	I
An Age of Crisis	4
The British Empire in Europe	8
Conquest, Liberty and Aristocracy	11
Visions of Commercial Society	14
The Case of Ireland	17
<b>I The Enlightenment Critique of Empire in Ireland,</b>	
<b>c. 1750–1776</b>	<b>23</b>
Conquest and Colonisation, 1542–1692	25
<i>The Case of Ireland</i> and the Woollen Controversy	29
The Declaratory Act (1720) and the Penal Laws (1695–1728)	33
‘Improvement’ and the Catholic Question	35
Montesquieu, Hume, Smith and Tucker on Ireland and ‘Jealousy of Trade’	43
Smith, Young and the Political Economy of Anglo-Irish Ascendancy	49
Regenerating Empire	56
<b>2 Commerce without Empire? ‘Free Trade’ and ‘Legislative Independence’, 1776–1787</b>	<b>59</b>
Molyneux’s <i>Case</i> and the ‘Friends of America’	62
Commerce and the Balance of Power	67
Free Ports and Protecting Duties	73
From ‘Foederal Union’ to Commercial Propositions	78
Sugar, Manufactures and the Revision of the Propositions	84
The Irish Debate on the Revised Propositions	90
Josiah Tucker on Ireland and the Slave Trade	95
A Revolution in Retrospect	97

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
3	Property, Revolution and Peace, 1789–1803	100
	‘A Rank among the Primary Nations of the Earth’	104
	War, Empire and Slavery	114
	Arthur O’Connor and the ‘Natural Progress of Opulence’	120
	Ireland and French Empire	129
	Rival Universalisms	137
4	Enlightenment against Revolution: Commerce, Aristocracy and the Case for Union, 1798–1801	139
	An Empire Divided	143
	Faction, Religion and Aristocracy	147
	Poverty and Disaffection	152
	John Foster and Thomas Brooke Clarke on Commerce and ‘Feudalism’	156
	William Drennan and the Radical Critique of Union	162
	Friedrich Gentz on Union and the Balance of Power	165
	The ‘System of Burkism’?	171
5	The Granary of Great Britain: War, Population and Agriculture 1798–1815	174
	Currency and Capital	177
	Grain and Emancipation	183
	Ireland and the Continental System	190
	Dependency and Empire	196
	Robert Malthus, Edward Wakefield and the Politics of the Potato	200
	The Making of an Orthodoxy	207
6	Democracy, Nationality and the Social Question, 1815–1848	210
	The British Economists and the ‘Cottage System’	213
	Property and the Social Question	220
	Gustave de Beaumont, Ireland and the Future of Democracy	228
	Young Ireland and the Political Economy of ‘Nationality’	238
	James Fintan Lalor and John Stuart Mill on Famine and Revolution	244
	The Legacies of Revolution	250
	Conclusion: Ireland between Empires	253
	<i>Bibliography</i>	261
	<i>Index</i>	289