

MILTON, TOLERATION, AND NATIONHOOD

John Milton lived at a time when English nationalism became entangled with principles and policies of cultural, religious, and ethnic tolerance. Combining religious and political thought with close readings of key texts, this book examines how Milton's polemical and imaginative writings intersect with representations of English Protestant nationhood. Through detailed case studies of Milton's works, Elizabeth Sauer charts the fluctuating narrative of Milton's literary engagements in relation to social, political, and philosophical themes such as ecclesiology, exclusionism, Irish alterity, natural law, disestablishment, geography, and intermarriage. In so doing, Sauer shows how literary and historicist inquiry enriches the study of toleration and nationhood. Her book makes a salient contribution to Milton studies and to scholarship on Early Modern literature and the imagining of the early nation-state.

ELIZABETH SAUER is a professor of English at Brock University, Canada, and winner of a Killam Research Fellowship from the Canada Council for the Arts. She has published widely on Milton and Early Modern culture, including co-edited collections such as *The New Milton Criticism* (2012) and *Reading the Nation in English Literature* (2010).

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