Throughout his writings, Milton, deeply engaged in political and theological controversy, sought to clear a space for human freedom in a world ruled by an omniscient and omnipotent deity. *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*, as well as other works by Milton in verse and prose, explore the problematical aspects of a universe ruled by an Old Testament God of wrath, demanding obedience, who allows his creatures the freedom to be 'authors' of their own fate. *Milton and the Burden of Freedom* examines the contradictions inherent in Milton's religious, political and ethical beliefs as expressed in his poems, prose writings and the treatise *De Doctrina Christiana*. Milton, whose writings are rooted in the Reformed tradition while challenging Calvinist orthodoxy, is both radical and conservative. Warren Chernaik traces the evolution of Milton's attitude towards freedom, servitude and virtue during a century of political upheaval and disappointed hopes.

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MILTON AND THE BURDEN OF FREEDOM

WARREN CHERNAIK
University of London
In memory of Stella Purce Revard
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Acknowledgements

Any book of literary criticism or scholarship is part of a continuing dialogue, one voice in a conversation. Stella Revard has been a friend since, many years ago, we were students at Yale in Louis Martz’s seminar in Poetic Traditions of the Renaissance, and I have learned an immense amount from her in our conversations about Milton, the classical tradition and, her particular love, opera. I also owe a continuing debt to Tom Corns, from whom I have learned more than from any other Milton scholar, though we have sometimes disagreed, and he has given me the opportunity to give papers on Milton and his contemporaries at the British Milton Seminar and elsewhere. His detailed comments as a reader for Cambridge University Press have been extremely helpful to me in revision, as have the comments of a second, anonymous reader. Judith Chernaik, as a novelist and a student of English and European Romanticism, as well as a discerning editor and critic, has provided an invaluable perspective at every stage in the composition of this book. Achsah Guibbory, Neil Forsyth, N. H. Keeble and Peter Medine have read drafts of several chapters and have given me helpful advice in revising the book. Other friends and colleagues who have helped me in formulating and clarifying my ideas on Milton and his age include Paul Stevens, Sharon Achinstein, Martin Dzelzains, David Loewenstein, Quentin Skinner, Nicholas Tyacke, Laura Knoppers, Karen Edwards, Joseph Shub, Nicholas von Maltzahn, John Coffey, Carter Revard, Gordon Campbell, Janet Clare, H. Neville Davies, Tom Cain, Kevin Killeen and Nicholas McDowell. Sarah Stanton of Cambridge University Press has been encouraging and supportive throughout. I am grateful to Sarah Starkey for overseeing the later stages of production. An earlier version of Chapter 6 was published by the University of Toronto Press in Early Modern Nationalism and Milton’s England, edited by David Loewenstein and Paul Stevens (2008), copyright University of Toronto Press Incorporated. I am grateful to Manchester University Press for permission to publish a revised version of the essay
Acknowledgements