

POLITICAL TURMOIL: EARLY MODERN
BRITISH LITERATURE IN TRANSITION,
1623–1660

The early modern period in Britain was defined by tremendous upheaval – the upending of monarchy, the unsettling of church doctrine, and the pursuit of a new method of inquiry based on an inductive experimental model. *Early Modern British Literature in Transition, 1623–1660* offers an innovative and ambitious reappraisal of seventeenth-century British literature and history. Each of the contributors attempts to address the “how” and “why” of aesthetic change by focusing on political and cultural transformations. Instead of forging a grand narrative of continuity, the contributors attempt to piece together the often complex web of factors and events that contributed to developments in literary form and matter – as well as the social and religious changes that literature sometimes helped to occasion. These twenty chapters, reading across traditional periodization, demonstrate that early modern literary works – when they were conceived, as they were created, and after they circulated – were, above all, involved in various types of transitions.

STEPHEN B. DOBRANSKI is Distinguished University Professor of Early Modern Literature and Textual Studies at Georgia State University. His books include *Readers and Authorship in Early Modern England* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), which received the English Studies Award from the South Atlantic Modern Language Association; and *A Variorum Commentary on the Poems of John Milton: “Samson Agonistes”* (2009), which received the John T. Shawcross Award from the Milton Society of America.

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EARLY MODERN BRITISH LITERATURE IN TRANSITION,
1557–1714

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General Editor, Stephen B. Dobranski, Georgia State University

Early Modern British Literature in Transition offers a new way of reading more than 150 years of British literature and history. Concentrating on instances of transformation, the three volumes in the series do not present an empirical survey for the decades under discussion. Instead, they read across traditional demarcations – the Elizabethan age, the early seventeenth century, and the Restoration – and re-evaluate both previous scholarship and previous narratives of the relation between writing and culture. One of this series' underlying premises is that literature actively engages with – expresses, shapes, subverts, questions, avoids, and is influenced by – the conditions in which it was composed and published. These engagements were especially important during the early modern period as writers coped with, among other things, the rise of print, the execution of a king, and the emergence of a national vision of empire.

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POLITICAL TURMOIL:
EARLY MODERN BRITISH
LITERATURE IN
TRANSITION, 1623–1660

Volume 2

EDITED BY

STEPHEN B. DOBRANSKI

Georgia State University



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Abbreviations

<i>CPEP</i>	<i>The Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton</i> , ed. William Kerrigan, John Rumrich, and Stephen M. Fallon (New York: Modern Library, 2007).
<i>CPW</i>	<i>The Complete Prose Works of John Milton</i> , gen. ed. Don M. Wolfe, 8 vols. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1953–1982).
<i>NWS</i>	<i>The Norton Shakespeare</i> , ed. Stephen Greenblatt et al. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2008).
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> , online edn. (Oxford University Press, 2016).
<i>OED</i>	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i> , 3rd edn.
<i>PAM</i>	<i>The Poems of Andrew Marvell</i> , ed. Nigel Smith, rev. edn. (Harlow and New York: Pearson Longman, 2007).

Citations and line numbers for Milton's poetry, unless otherwise noted, are taken from *CPEP*; citations and line numbers for Marvell's poetry, unless otherwise noted, are taken from *PAM*; and citations and line numbers for Shakespeare's works, unless otherwise noted, are taken from *NWS*. Citations of classical works refer to the Loeb editions published by Harvard University Press; citations of the Bible are taken from the King James Version.