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the second volume in an acclaimed biography of oliver cromwell from the capture of charles i to the expulsion of the long parliament in 1647 the parliamentarians were divided they had won the first civil war and the king was in custody but disagreements over the way forward had led to a stalemate as the leader of one party oliver cromwell found himself again at the centre of events in the second volume of his pioneering biography ronald hutton traces cromwell s career from 1647 through to his seizure of supreme power these decisive years saw the execution of charles i and the establishment of the commonwealth of england as well as notorious and savage campaigns in ireland and scotland cromwell s political and military leadership were well honed after years of practice but this was also

the period of his greatest ruthlessness and brutality this groundbreaking account reveals a different kind of Cromwell showing how he navigated the many forces ranged against him and rose to the pinnacle of his power

between 1640 and 1660 England, Scotland and Ireland faced civil war, invasion, religious radicalism, parliamentary rule and the restoration of the monarchy. Pestana offers a sweeping history that systematically connects these cataclysmic events and the development of the infant plantations from Newfoundland to Surinam.

This book provides the first major analysis of the covenanted interest from an integrated three kingdoms perspective. It examines the reaction of the covenanted interest to the actions and policies of the Commonwealth and Protectorate, drawing particular attention to links, similarities and differences in and between the covenanted interest in all three kingdoms. It also follows the fortunes of the covenanted interest and Presbyterian church government as it built and changed in response to the royalists and the independents during the 1650s.

The English Civil Wars radically altered many aspects of mid-seventeenth century life simultaneously creating a period of intense uncertainty and unheralded opportunity. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the printing and publishing industry which between 1640 and 1660 produced a vast number of tracts and pamphlets on a bewildering variety of subjects, many of these of a highly political nature, the publication of which would have been unthinkable just a few years before. Whilst scholars have long recognised the importance of these publications and have studied in depth what was written in them, much less work has been done on why they were produced. In this book Dr Peacey first highlights the different dynamics at work in the conception, publication and distribution of polemical works and then pulls the strands together to study them against the wider political context. In so doing he provides a more complete understanding of the relationship between political events and literary and intellectual prose in an era of unrest and upheaval by incorporating into the political history of the period some of the approaches utilized by scholars of book history. This study reveals the heightened importance of print in both the lives of members of the political nation and the minds of the political elite in the Civil Wars and Interregnum. Furthermore, it demonstrates both the existence and prevalence of print propaganda with which politicians became associated and traces the processes by which it came to be produced, the means of detecting its existence, the ways in which politicians involved themselves in its production, the uses to which it was put and the relationships between politicians and propagandists.

John Milton's Latin defences are landmark texts in the history of English Civil War and Interregnum polemics. Part of Oxford University Press's authoritative Complete Works of John Milton, this is the first edition of the Latin defences to be edited to modern standards of scholarship, together with new translations into English which feature in easy-to-read facing pages. It offers a rich exploration of the publishing history of these works and contextualises them in the political exchanges and republican thought of the mid-seventeenth century. The annotations are especially alert to Milton's controversial engagement with the writings of his adversaries and to his careful alignment of his

tracts with the diplomatic objectives of the republican governments of the 1650s

the bestselling historian's biography of a decisive figure in England's history no Englishman has made more impact on the history of his nation than Oliver Cromwell few have been so persistently maligned in the folklore of history the central purpose of Antonia Fraser's book is the recreation of his life and character freed from the distortions of myth and royalist propaganda Cromwell was a man of contradictions and surprising charm this decisive and ruthless commander was also a country gentleman and a passionate connoisseur of music of Cromwell's fitness for high office this fascinating biography leaves no doubt under his rule English prestige abroad rose to a level unequalled since Elizabeth I yet his campaign in Ireland has cast a shadow over his reputation Antonia Fraser displays great insight into this complex man and reveals a totally unexpected Cromwell far removed from the received stereotype

a detailed study of the first two Anglo-Dutch wars and the ideological contexts in which they were fought

for centuries rumors have circulated in England that Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell did not die of natural causes now in a fascinating book that reads like a historical whodunit we have a motive a means a murderer complete with his own deathbed confession and a supporting cast that includes John Milton and Andrew Marvell almost from the moment of Cromwell's death in 1658 writers and biographers have dismissed suspicions of foul play as little more than the result of a powerful person's unexpected demise they have assumed that at age fifty-nine Cromwell was in generally poor health and that his government's collapse was inevitable but his family was generally long-lived and contrary to royalist wishes his government was becoming established as the crucial first step toward the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660 his death proved to be a turning point in British history in a wide-ranging investigation that draws upon the fields of history toxicology medical forensics and literature H. F. McMain offers a fresh reading of evidence that has sat quietly in libraries and archives for more than two centuries he examines the development of Cromwell's illness in 1658 analyzes his symptoms and evaluates persons with motive method and opportunity to do him harm the result is a reassessment of Cromwell's relationship with the English people and their government and a convincing investigation of his mysterious death

historians and literary critics offer a comprehensive thematic assessment of Milton's political and literary career

printed drama and political instability in mid-seventeenth-century Britain the literary politics of resistance and distraction in plays and entertainments 1649-1658 describes the function of printed drama in 1650s Britain after the regicide of 1649 printed plays could be interpreted by royalist readers as texts of resistance to the republic and protectoral governments respectively however there were often discrepancies between the aspirational content of these plays and the realities facing a royalist party who had been defeated in the civil wars similarly plays with a classically republican Roman setting failed to offer a successful model for the new republic consequently

writers who supported the new republic and eventually cromwell's protectoral government proposed entertainments based around the concept of the sublime whose purpose was to create political amnesia in the audience thereby nullifying any political dissatisfaction with a non-monarchical form of government this volume will appeal to students and scholars of seventeenth century literature and of the political history of 1640s and 1650s Britain

the rump parliament was brought to power in 1648 by Pride's Purge and forcibly dissolved by Oliver Cromwell in 1653 this book is a detailed account of the intervening years Dr Worden concentrates particularly on the rump's policies in the contentious fields of legal religious and electoral reform its attempts to live down its revolutionary origins to disown its more radical supporters to conciliate those Puritans alienated by the purge and the king's death and to recreate the Roundhead party of the 1640s he examines the rump's struggles for survival in the face of the royalist threat between 1649 and 1651 and its fatal quarrel with the Cromwellian army thereafter a concluding chapter deals with the rump's forcible dissolution this novel and challenging interpretation of the most dramatic phase of the English Revolution will interest all specialists in seventeenth century political and constitutional history

this book argues that there was no Ranter group or movement that the Ranters did not exist

three and a half centuries after Paradise Lost and Paradise Regain'd were written do Milton's epic poems still resonate with contemporary concerns in Milton's Leveller God David Williams advances a progressive and democratic interpretation of Milton's epics to show they are more relevant than ever exploring two blind spots in the critical tradition the failure to read Milton's poetry as drama and to recognize his depictions of heaven's political and social evolution Williams reads Milton's great argument as a rejection of social hierarchy and of patriarchal government that is more attuned to the radical political thought developed by the Levellers during the English Revolution he traces echoes between Milton's texts and thousands of pages of Leveller writings that advocated for popular rule extended suffrage and religious tolerance arguing that Milton's God is still the unacknowledged ground of popular sovereignty Williams demonstrates that Milton's Leveller sympathies expressed in his early prose conflicted with his official duties for Oliver Cromwell's government in the 1650s but his association with the journalist Marchamont Nedham later freed him to imagine an egalitarian republic in a work that connects the great epic poet in new ways to the politics of his time and our own Milton's Leveller God shows how the political landscape of Milton's work fundamentally unsettles ancient hierarchies of soul and body man and woman reason and will and ruler and ruled

Thomas Harrison is today perhaps best remembered for the manner of his death as a leading member of the republican regime and signatory to Charles I's death warrant he was hanged drawn and quartered by the Restoration government in 1660 a spectacle witnessed by Samuel Pepys who recorded him looking as cheerful as any man could do in that condition beginning with this grisly event this book employs a thematic rather than chronological approach to illustrate the role of millenarianism and providence in the English Revolution religion within the new model army

literature image and reputation and harrison's relationship with key individuals like Ireton and Cromwell as well as groups most notably the Fifth Monarchists divided in three parts the study starts with an analysis of harrison's last year of life the nature of his response to the political collapse of the interregnum regimes and his apparent acceptance of the restoration without overt resistance part two considers harrison's years of power analysing his political activities and influence in the new model especially with regard to the regicide the final part ties harrison's political retreat to his initial emergence from obscurity arguing that harrison's relative political quietism during the later 1650s was a reflection of the development of his millenarianism unlike the only two previous full length studies of harrison the present work makes use of a full range of manuscript primary and secondary sources including the huge range of new material that has fundamentally changed how the early modern period is now understood fully footnoted and referenced this study provides the first modern academic study of harrison and through him illuminates the key themes of this contested period

the character and appearance of English governance were changed utterly in 1649 when Charles I was executed and the monarchy abolished at a stroke legitimate authority in the nation was stripped of the charismatic focus from whence it had derived much of its apparently ageless dignity this volume provides a study of how England's political culture was reinvented by the new parliamentary republic it describes how government members colonized and revived the abandoned royal palace at Whitehall and describes the imaginative and consistently iconographic and ceremonial languages with which they replaced the imagery and spectacle of the monarchy it makes a case for the comprehensive revision of the historiographical preconceptions surrounding England's only lengthy period of kinglessness

the Puritan revolution escaped the control of its creators the parliamentarians who went to war with Charles I in 1642 did not want or expect the fundamental changes that would follow seven years later the trial and execution of the king the abolition of the House of Lords and the creation of the only republic in English history there were startling and unexpected developments too in religion and ideas the spread of unorthodox doctrines the attainment of a wide measure of liberty of conscience and new thinking about the moral and intellectual bases of politics and society God's instruments centres on the principal instrument of radical change Oliver Cromwell and on the unfamiliar landscape of the decade he dominated from the abolition of the monarchy in 1649 to the return of the Stuart dynasty in 1660 its theme is the relationship between the beliefs or convictions of politicians and their decisions and actions Blair Worden explores the biblical dimension of Puritan politics the ways that a belief in the workings of divine providence affected political conduct Cromwell's commitment to liberty of conscience and his search for godly reformation through educational reform the constitutional premises of his rule and those of his opponents in the struggle for supremacy between parliamentary and military rule and the relationship between conceptions of civil and religious liberty the conflicts Worden reconstructs are placed in the perspective of long term developments of which many historians have lost sight the final chapters turn to the guiding convictions of two writers at the heart of politics John Milton and the royalist Edward Hyde Earl of Clarendon material from previously published essays much of it expanded and extensively revised

comes together with newly written chapters to bring fresh evidence and argument to a period of lively debate and interest

the history of oliver cromwell s short lived commonwealth is a tale of regicide dictatorship internal conflict and war in seventeenth century britain after defeating king charles i in the english british civil wars oliver cromwell established the commonwealth of england under this unique experiment in the governance of britain the three kingdoms of england scotland and ireland were united in the protectorate with cromwell as lord protector 1649 to 1660 but this ambitious new state would soon collapse cromwell faced turbulence and problems from all sides there were political religious and constitutional dilemmas at home and military threats from abroad even from the dutch the protectorate s natural ally finally with cromwell s death in 1658 and succession of his son the hapless richard cromwell the failed state collapsed with the restoration of the stuart dynasty in 1660 thus britain returned to royal aristocratic and gentry rule

the biography of one of the most prominent soldiers in the new model army john lambert 1619 1684 who made cromwell lord protector but prevented him from becoming king

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