

Cromwell And The Interregnum The Essential Readings

'Superbly researched and vividly told' Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury 'Utterly convincing' S.G. Maclean 'Affecting, action-packed' Carolyn Kirby 'Beautifully articulated ... a joy to read!' Michael Scott A country torn apart by war. A woman fighting for her future... Ely, 1643. England is convulsed by Civil War, setting King against Parliament and neighbour against neighbour. As the turmoil reaches her family home in Ely, 19-year-old Bridget Cromwell finds herself at the heart of the conflict. With her father's star on the rise as a cavalry commander for the rebellious Parliament, Bridget has her own ambitions for a life beyond marriage and motherhood. And as fractures appear in her own family with the wilful, beautiful younger sister Betty, Bridget faces a choice: to follow her heart, or to marry for power and influence, and fight for a revolution that will change history... A gripping evocation of the Civil War, and the hidden stories of women at the heart of power... Perfect for fans of Philippa Gregory and Anne O'Brien *** Praise for The Rebel Daughter 'A dramatic story of love, loss and duty, set against the backdrop of the turmoil of the Civil Wars' Linda Porter 'Miranda Malins is a real and fresh new talent. This is beautifully written, exciting fiction.' Suzannah Lipscomb 'Such familiar historical characters brought so colourfully and convincingly to new life; and the writing itself is of the finest' Ronald Hutton 'This affecting, action-packed novel brings a momentous but often overlooked period of history vividly to life' Carolyn Kirby 'Brilliantly captures ... a nuanced picture of a divided world' Leonora Natrass Praise for The Puritan Princess 'There is much to enjoy in this evocation of a family whose lives are so upended by the convulsions of history' Antonia Senior, The Times 'Totally gripping... grab it now. There's a new Cromwell on the shelves!' Minoo Dinshaw, author of Outlandish Knight 'The Puritan Princess is a genuinely moving portrait of the tragedy of the Cromwells at the height of their power, and Miranda Malins handles the tumultuous drama of the last days of the Protectorate with incredible aplomb' S G MacLean, author of the Damian Seeker series 'A beautifully written and captivating true story of personal love and loss enacted against the backdrop of an England dominated by Frances' father, Oliver Cromwell. Deeply knowledgeable about the politics and desires and ideals of the time, Malins nevertheless inhabits her characters and brings them convincingly to life' James Evans, author of EMIGRANTS 'The extraordinary, revealing and moving relationship between Oliver Cromwell and his daughter Frances is brought to vivid life in this masterly historical novel' Paul Lay, author of Providence Lost 'Miranda Malins is a real and fresh new talent. This is beautifully written, exciting fiction from a writer in full command of the history' Suzannah Lipscomb 'This engaging novel brings one of the most momentous but least well known periods of English history vividly to life.' Carolyn Kirby, author of THE CONVICTION OF CORA BURNS

'A compelling and wry narrative of one of the most intellectually thrilling eras of British history' Guardian. ***** England, 1651. Oliver Cromwell has defeated his royalist opponents in two civil wars, executed the Stuart king Charles I, laid waste to Ireland, and crushed the late king's son and his Scottish allies. He is master of Britain and Ireland. But Parliament, divided between moderates, republicans and Puritans of uncompromisingly millenarian hue, is faction-ridden and disputatious. By the end of 1653, Cromwell has become 'Lord Protector'. Seeking dragons for an elect Protestant nation to slay, he launches an ambitious 'Western Design' against Spain's empire in the New World. When an amphibious assault on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola in 1655 proves a disaster, a shaken Cromwell is convinced that God is punishing England for its sinfulness. But the imposition of the rule of the Major-Generals – bureaucrats with a penchant for closing alehouses – backfires spectacularly. Sectarianism and fundamentalism run riot. Radicals and royalists join together in conspiracy. The only way out seems to be a return to a Parliament presided over by a king. But will Cromwell accept the crown? Paul Lay narrates in entertaining but always rigorous fashion the story of England's first and only experiment with republican government: he brings the febrile world of Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate to life, providing vivid portraits of the extraordinary individuals who inhabited it and capturing its dissonant cacophony of political and religious voices. ***** Reviews: 'Briskly paced and elegantly written, Providence Lost provides us with a first-class ticket to this Cromwellian world of achievement, paradox and contradiction. Few guides take us so directly, or so sympathetically, into the imaginative worlds of that tumultuous decade' John Adamson, The Times. 'Providence Lost is a learned, lucid, wry and compelling narrative of the 1650s as well as a sensitive portrayal of a man untravelled by providence' Jessie Childs, Guardian.

Paul Lay explores a year that fell within one of the least understood periods in British history – the Interregnum between the execution of Charles I and the restoration of Charles II – and reclaims it as one of the most politically exciting and culturally creative eras of European history. In 1657 popular political fervour was at its height, and new religious ideas and methods of government were being tested out. The poet John Milton held a government post (Secretary for Foreign Tongues), and the regime's concentration on military spending was transforming England into a nascent imperial power. Far from being the dreary Puritan society of royalist myth, the Interregnum was one of the most intellectually thrilling times in British history. This was the crucible in which modern British thought – inquiring, iconoclastic and creative – was forged, and it marked the foundation of modern British democracy: pluralistic, inclusive, and based on a people's charter to rule.

Deduced From an Early Period, and Continued Down to the Present Time; Collected Chiefly From Original Papers and Records; With Proofs and Illustrations (Classic Reprint)

Interregnum

The British Republic 1649-1660

The Puritan Princess

England's Culture Wars

Propaganda During the English Civil Wars and Interregnum

In this collection of essays, a range of established and early-career scholars explore a variety of different perspectives on Oliver Cromwell's involvement with Ireland, in particular his military campaign of 1649-1650. In England and Wales Cromwell is regarded as a figure of national importance; in Ireland his reputation remains highly controversial. The essays gathered together here provide a fresh take on his Irish campaign, reassessing the backdrop and context of the prevailing siege warfare strategy and offering new insights into other major players such as Henry Ireton and the Marquis of Ormond. Other topics include, but are not limited to, the Cromwellian land settlement, deportation of prisoners and popular memory of Cromwell in Ireland. CONTRIBUTORS: Martyn Bennett, Heidi J. Coburn, Sarah Covington, John Cunningham, Eamon Darcy, David Farr, Padraig Lenihan, Alan Marshall, Nick Poyntz, Tom Reilly, James Scott Wheeler

This series is designed for students of all abilities at A Level and Scottish Higher Grade. Each chapter includes questions at the beginning which cover a range of core objectives, such as causation, continuity and change, interpretation and source evaluations. These questions also provide a clear focus for the chapter. Task sections at the end of each chapter develop study skills and exam technique. They give guidance on how to make notes, answer typical essays and source questions, and deal with questions of historiographical interpretation.

This second edition brings up to date its original survey of the dramatic eleven-year period when Britain, having executed its King, experimented with various forms of alternative government. The character of that experiment and the legacy it left are the key themes of the book. Oliver Cromwell, an extraordinary man in an extraordinary situation, is the central figure. What he achieved and the controversies that continue to surround him receive close examination. In addition, the book analyses the remarkable social, economic and religious movements of this fascinating age, and casts light on the lives of the ordinary people as well as leading politicians. The updated study guides provide a firm basis for answering differentiated, source-based and extended-writing questions.

Andover, the Civil War and Interregnum

Royalists and Royalism during the Interregnum

The Rise and Fall of Cromwell's Protectorate

Oliver Cromwell and the Civil War and Interregnum

Providence Lost

From one of our finest historians comes an outstanding exploration of the British monarchy from the retreat of the Romans up until the modern day. This compendium volume of two earlier books is fully revised and updated.

In Cromwell, award-winning biographer Antonia Fraser tells of one of England's most celebrated and controversial figures, often misunderstood and demonized as a puritanical zealot. Oliver Cromwell rose from humble beginnings to spearhead the rebellion against King Charles I, who was beheaded in 1649, and led his soldiers into the last battle against the Royalists and King Charles II at Worcester, ending the civil war in 1651. Fraser shows how England's prestige and prosperity grew under Cromwell, reversing the decline it had suffered since Queen Elizabeth I's death.

A detailed study of the religious and political character of the most revolutionary decade of English history, from the execution of Charles I in 1649 to the return of his son in 1660. Explores the minds and conduct of the dominant figure of the era, Oliver Cromwell, and his friends and enemies.

The Quest for Settlement, 1646-1660

The Political Activities of the Baptists and Fifth Monarchy Men in England During the Interregnum

The Essential Readings

Literature and Politics in Cromwellian England

Oliver Cromwell's Bid for Empire

Kingdom Without a King

Cromwell and the InterregnumThe Essential ReadingsJohn Wiley & Sons

James Harrington's brief career as a political and historical theorist spans the last years of the Cromwellian Protectorate and the Restoration of 1660. This volume comprises the first and last of Harrington's writings. Harrington was the first theorist to interpret the English Civil Wars as a revolution, the result of a long-term process of social change which led to the decay of the old political order. The Commonwealth of Oceana (1656) is a fictionalised presentation of English history up to the victory of the New Model Army, explaining the fall of the monarchy and proposing a republic to replace it. A System of Politics, written after the Restoration, is a scheme of history and political philosophy erected on the foundations of his previous works. Professor Pocock's introduction emphasises Harrington's place as a pivotal figure in the history of English political thought. This edition also contains a chronology of events in Harrington's life and a guide to further reading.

From 1649 to 1660 England was ruled by a standing army for the only time in its history. This is the first study to describe the nature of that experience, both for members of the army and for civilian society. It offers new perspectives on Oliver Cromwell, the Major-Generals, and the reasons for the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660.

Politicians and Pamphleteers

Studies of the Commonwealth, Legislative, Social, and Legal

Cromwell and Ireland

Cromwell and the Interregnum

Church and People in Interregnum Britain

The English Conquest of Jamaica

Excerpt from Memoirs of the Protectorate-House of Cromwell, Vol. 1: Deduced From an Early Period, and Continued Down to the Present Time; Collected Chiefly From Original Papers and Records; With Proofs and Illustrations The second volume comprizes memoirs Of fuch perfons and families as were either defcended from or allied to the Crom wells; fuch a fcleé'tion Of names as it con tains can (carce be paralleled, for which oreafon this volume will, it is expected, be equally entertaining as the firft: fome families are here mentioned whofe hif'tories are given in the peerage or baronetage, but for reafons that will immediately prefont themfelves, they are there written in a very defective manner, and in many inftances directly contrary to truth, efpecially during the civil war and interregnum; a catalogue is fubjoined of fuch perfons who were raifed' About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

This book brings together eight of the most influential recent articles on Oliver Cromwell and the Interregnum. Brings together seminal articles on Oliver Cromwell and the Interregnum. Illuminates the personality of Cromwell and his achievements. Includes treatments of Ireland and Scotland alongside discussion of England. Editorial material introduces students to the historiographical issues.

The English Civil War was followed by a period of unprecedented religious tolerance and the spread of new religious ideas and practices. Britain experienced a period of so-called "Godly religious rule" and a breakdown of religious uniformity that was perceived as a threat to social order by some and a welcome innovation to others. The period of Godly religious rule has been significantly neglected by historians--we know remarkably little about religious organization or experience at a parochial level in the 1640s and 1650s. This volume addresses these issues by investigating important questions concerning the relationship between religion and society in the years between the first Civil War and the Restoration. How did ordinary people experience this period of dramatic upheaval? How did religious imperatives change and develop? Did people resist Godly imperatives?With its nuanced analysis of Cromwell's England, Church and People in Interregnum Britain will interest religious scholars, enthusiasts of military history, and public historians.

Aspects of the Interregnum

Harrington: 'The Commonwealth of Oceana' and 'A System of Politics'

The Interregnum

Ireland Under the Interregnum; with Special Reference to the Work of Henry Cromwell

The Ecclesiastical Objectives of Oliver Cromwell and John Milton During the English Civil Wars and Interregnum

Puritan Reformation and Its Enemies in the Interregnum, 1649-1660

Explores what happened once the monarchy had been swept away after the civil war and puritans found themselves in power. Examines campaigns to regulate sexual behaviour, reform language, and suppress Christmas traditions, disorderly sports, and popular music. Shows how reformers, despite meeting defiance and evasion, could have a major impact.

An essay against tyranny, with a satirical dedicatory epistle to Oliver Cromwell.

The first edition of this volume, published in 1981 under the title Into Another Mould, contemplated three aspects of the interregnum 1642-60: the suggested or even attempted reforms of local government; the politics of the New Model Army; and the strains, new and old, between and within the constituent kingdoms. In this new edition, the original essays have been revised and joined by three new essays: 'Wales and the British Dimension'; 'Oliver Cromwell and his Protectorate Parliaments'; and a commentary by the editor, Ivan Roots, on procedure, legislation and constitutional change in the second of these parliaments.

Puritan Reformation and its Enemies in the Interregnum, 1649-1660

"Into Another Mould"

Killing No Murder

Security and Local Governance in the Interregnum

Sussex in the Great Civil War and the Interregnum, 1642-1660

Disaffection and Everyday Life in Interregnum England

Long before sugar and slaves made Jamaica Britain's most valuable colony, its conquest sparked conflicts with European powers and opened vast tropical spaces to English exploitation. Carla Gardina Pestana captures the moment when Cromwell's plan to take Spain's American empire altered his revolutionary state's engagement with the wider world.

Oliver Cromwell is dead and Civil War looms once more. a Stuart king back on the English throne. Abroad, the exiled Royalists set in motion an intricately plotted plan aimed at putting civil unrest to alarm the population, one of the intriguers is steadily accumulating huge swathes of land by illegal means. Topping the list of this shadow Under cover of the plot, which uses organised y figure is the Hafod Estate of the Margam dynasty located in the heart of the Monmouthshire valleys, desperately trying to recover from the burden of debilitating taxes imposed on those who opposed Parliament in the war. Alain Daguerre, orphaned but taken in by the Margams, stumbles unwittingly into the conspiracy and only his well-taught skills in weapons training and the brute militancy of his cousin William keeps him from serious harm. However, his naïve eagerness to play a part in a perceived anti-government plot only serves to drag him further into bewildering intrigues, where friends and foes are not necessarily what they seem, and conspire to place his whole family in utmost danger. Weaving in and out of the plot are his ardently wilful cousin, Ceridwen, the cynical under-Sheriff of the county, Twm Shenkins, the Du Bari children, Simon and Bronwen, heavily involved in Catholic chicanery, a mysterious visitor, Richard Hamilton, with a well-camouflaged past, and a giant, hook-handed paid assassin, Struan McCheyne with a penchant for debauchery. Others contributing to the tale include Rula, a gypsy girl with strange powers rescued from a dire fate by Alain and a persecuted Quaker group also with a debt of thanks to pay. There is murder, rape, pillaging, a kidnapping and treasonable activity littering his path, and it is only his questioning, inquisitive mind that can untangle the web of deceit that threaten to destroy him and those he loves. Along the way he is forced to look deep into his soul to find the truth about himself and the parameters of his faith and morality.

When the second Protectoral Parliament offered the crown to Oliver Cromwell, he, despite his conservative impulses, rejected it. Why would a man who believed in the ancient constitution and hoped to stabilize the British Isles turn down a traditional title that had the potential to unify the nation? The answer partly lies within the numerous political tracts that were printed in the 1650s. The kingship crisis sparked the creation of many pamphlets and petitions that sought to sway Cromwell one way or the other. Three prominent groups that wrote regarding the possibility of King Oliver I were monarchists, sects, and republicans. Monarchists sought to illustrate the advantages of kingship, the sects wrote of the consequences of kingly rule, and the republicans were divided on the question. An analysis of the language and arguments in both the pamphlets addressed to Cromwell and Cromwell's own speeches reveals that the sects were the most influential group that wrote to Cromwell. At times, sectarian criticisms of the Protectorate were able to elicit responses in Cromwell's speeches, a feat accomplished by neither monarchists nor republicans. Employing providential language, the sects were able to convince Cromwell that God had judged against the office of king and that any attempt to reestablish such a government would result in eternal damnation.

Cromwell's own religious convictions rendered him susceptible to reasoning of this sort. Once he was aware of the sects' arguments, Cromwell believed that he had no choice but to refuse the crown.

Political Conduct in the England of Oliver Cromwell

The Interregnum, 1649-60

The gripping new Civil War historical novel you won't be able to put down in 2022!

Politics, Religion and Society in England 1640-1660

God's Instruments

Memoirs of the Protectorate-House of Cromwell, Vol. 1

How did ordinary English men and women respond to the transformations that accompanied the regicide, the creation of a republic, and the rise of the Cromwellian Protectorate? This book uncovers grassroots responses to the tangible consequences of revolution, delving into everyday practices, social interactions, and power struggles as they intersected with the macro-politics of regime change. Tussles at local alehouses, encounters with excise collectors in the high street, and contests over authority at the marketplace reveal how national politics were felt across the most ordinary of activities. Using a series of case studies from counties, boroughs, and the London metropolis, Boswell argues that factional discourses and shifting power relations complicated social interaction. Localized disaffection was broadcast in newspapers, pamphlets, and broadsides, shaping political rhetoric that refashioned grassroots grievances to promote royalist desires. By uniting disparate people who were alienated by the policies of interregnum regimes, this literature helped to create the spectre of a unified, royalist commons that materialized in the months leading up to Charles II's Restoration. Such agitation - from disaffected mutters to ritualistic violence against officials - informed the broad political culture that shaped debates over governance during one of the most volatile decades in British history. CAROLINE BOSWELL is Associate Professor in History at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

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 where 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.

This ebook is a selective guide designed to help scholars and students of Islamic studies find reliable sources of information by directing them to the best available scholarly materials in whatever form or format they appear from books, chapters, and journal articles to online archives, electronic data sets, and blogs. Written by a leading international authority on the subject, the ebook provides bibliographic information supported by direct recommendations about which sources to consult and editorial commentary to make it clear how the cited sources are interrelated related. This ebook is a static version of an article from Oxford Bibliographies Online: Renaissance and Reformation, a dynamic, continuously updated, online resource designed to provide authoritative guidance through scholarship and other materials relevant to the study of European history and culture between the 14th and 17th centuries. Oxford Bibliographies Online covers most subject disciplines within the social science and humanities, for more information visit www.oxfordbibliographies.com.

New Perspectives

Cromwell

John Milton, Andrew Marvell, Marchamont Nedham

Somerset in the Civil War and Interregnum

The Rebel Daughter

Oliver Cromwell

The Interregnum is one of the most colourful and celebrated episodes in the history of the British Isles. Ronald Hutton's book provides a concise synthesis of recent research into this area - now brought up-to-date to include the research of the 1990s. Hutton analyses the diplomatic, military, political, religious and intellectual developments of the period, and in so doing, tries to determine the real significance of the Interregnum. He also looks at the increasingly studied figure of Cromwell, and how recent research has brought both the man and his government to life.

There has long been an unfortunate tendency to dismiss those who were loyal to the Stuarts as, in the immortal words of 1066 and all That, 'wrong but romantic', or as the products of unthinking political and religious reaction. In recent years, scholars have begun to explore the phenomenon of royalism during the 1640s. Yet we still know very little about those who were loyal to Charles II during the 1650s. This volume brings together essays by established and emerging historians and literary scholars in Britain, Europe, the United States and Australia, sketching the difficulties, complexities, and nuances of the Royalist experience during the Commonwealth and Protectorate. It examines women, religion, print-culture, literature, the politics of exile, and the nature and extent of royalist networks in England. This ambitious and innovative book sheds important new light on the experience of those who were loyal to the Stuarts. It argues for the need to re-orientate, re-invigorate and re-invent the study of those who detested Cromwell and his 'rebels'; and it forces us to examine the decade as a whole from a new perspective. It will be essential reading for anyone interested in the culture, history or literature of the English Revolution.

In 1655, Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell's Council of State commissioned a group of army officers for the purpose of "securing the peace of the commonwealth." Under the authority of the Instrument of Government, a written constitution not sanctioned by Parliament, the Council sent army major-generals into the counties to raise new horse militias and to support them financially with a tax on Royalists which the army officers would also collect. In counties such as Essex--the focus of this study--the major-generals were assisted in their work by small groups of commissioners, mostly local men "well-affected" to the Interregnum government. In addition to their militia and tax duties, the men were instructed to see to the implementation and furtherance of a variety of central government policies. Barely a year after its inception, a bill sanctioning the scheme was voted down in January 1657 by a Parliament unconvinced that the work done by the major-generals was in the best interests of the nation. This thesis examines the development and inception of the major-generals initiative by the Council of State, the work the major-generals and their commissioners engaged in, and the nature and cause of the reaction to their efforts in the shires. In the years and centuries following the Stuart Restoration, the major-generals were frequently portrayed as agents of Cromwellian tyranny, and more recently scholars have argued that the officers were primarily concerned with the promulgation of a godly reformation. This study looks at the aims and work of the major-generals largely through an analysis of state papers and Essex administrative records, and it concludes that the Council and officers were preoccupied more with threats to order and stability than with morals. Additionally, by examining the court records and work of the justices of the peace in Essex, this study shows that in regard to improving order the major-generals' work was unremarkable for its efficacy and but little different than previous law- and statute-enforcement activity traditionally carried out by local administrators. Based on this assessment of the major-generals' efforts to improve order as both limited and completely unrevolutionary, this thesis argues that the strongly negative reaction to the major-generals by the parliamentary class was due more to the officers' and government's encroachment on gentry power and local privilege than either the abrogation of the liberties of the people or any modest efforts to foist godliness on the shires. Religion was a major issue during the English Civil Wars, but the demise of one of the Interregnum government's most ambitious attempts to improve security in the localities was rooted not in sectarian distempers but rather in the gentry's preoccupation with keeping central government from meddling in local matters or taxing anyone in their class without parliamentary approval.

Crown and Country: A History of England through the Monarchy

The Interregnum (A. D. 1648-1660)

Oliver Cromwell: Oxford Bibliographies Online Research Guide

The Quest for Settlement, 1646-60

The Army in Cromwellian England, 1649-1660

Oliver Cromwell and the Print Culture of the Interregnum

In this book the pre-eminent historian of Cromwellian England takes a fresh approach to the literary biography of the two great poets of the Puritan Revolution, John Milton and Andrew Marvell. Blair Worden reconstructs the political contexts within which Milton and Marvell wrote, and reassesses their writings against the background of volatile and dramatic changes of public mood and circumstance. Two figures are shown to have been prominent in their minds. First there is Oliver Cromwell, on whose character and decisions the future of the Puritan Revolution and of the nation rested, and whose ascent the two writers traced and assessed, in both cases with an acute ambivalence. The second is Marchamont Nedham, the pioneering journalist of the civil wars, a close friend of Milton and a man whose writings prove to be intimately linked to Marvell's. The high achievements of Milton and Marvell are shown to belong to world of pressing political debate which Nedham's ephemeral publications helped to shape. The book follows Marvell's transition from royalism to Cromwellianism. In Milton's case we explore the profound effect on his outlook brought by the execution of King Charles I in 1649: his difficult and disillusioning relationship with the successive regimes of the Interregnum; and his attempt to come to terms, in his immortal poetry of the Restoration, with the failure of Puritan rule.

Politics, Religion and Society in Revolutionary England 1640-1660 goes beneath the surface of English society in the turbulent years of civil war and interregnum. The authors draw upon a fascinating array of contemporary writings to provide revealing insights into the motivation of those who shaped English history in these crucial years. All the important legislation is included, but also details from personal memoirs, letters and diaries, not to mention the work of radical pamphleteers in the 1640's and 1650's. The authors address the issues which remain unresolved today - the resort to arms and the objectives of the protagonists; the divisions within parliamentary factions and in the army, the emergence of revolutionary religious and political ideas, the trial and execution of Charles I, the consolidation of a new system of government in the Commonwealth and the subsequent establishment of Cromwell's Protectorate, relations between England and Europe are this period, and the demise of the republican experiment with the restoration of monarchy after Cromwell's death. Specimen questions on each set of documents make this volume particularly useful for students of this period, but in reality the authors have produced a work which will stimulate specialist and non-specialist readers alike.

This book will cause renewed reflection on the nature of the historical events of the English Revolution.

Following the execution of the king in 1649, the new Commonwealth and then Oliver Cromwell set out to drive forward a puritan reformation of manners. They wanted to reform the church and its services, enforce the Sabbath, suppress Christmas, and spread the gospel. They sought to impose a stern moral discipline to regulate and reform sexual behaviour, drinking practices, language, dress, and leisure activities ranging from music and plays to football. England's Culture Wars explores how far this agenda could be enforced, especially in urban communities which offered the greatest potential to build a godly civic commonwealth. How far were local magistrates and ministers willing to cooperate, and what coercive powers did the regime possess to silence or remove dissidents? How far did the reformers themselves wish to go, and how did they reconcile godly reformation with the demands of decency and civility? Music and dancing lived on, in genteel contexts, early opera replaced the plays now forbidden, and puritans themselves were often fond of hunting and hawking. Bernard Capp explores the propaganda wars waged in press and pulpit, how energetically reformation was pursued, and how much or little was achieved. Many recent historians have dismissed interregnum reformation as a failure. He demonstrates that while the reforming drive varied enormously from place to place, its impact could be powerful. The book is therefore structured in three parts: setting out the reform agenda and challenges, surveying general issues and patterns, and finally offering a number of representative case-studies. It draws on a wide range of sources, including local and central government records, judicial records, pamphlets, sermons, newspapers, diaries, letters, and memoirs; and demonstrates how court records by themselves give us only a very limited picture of what was happening on the ground.

Essex Under Cromwell

Briefly Discoursed in Three Questions

Cromwell's Last Year