

CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	ix
Chapter 1 The Existence of Witches	1
1 'Superstition' versus 'Reason'	1
2 Feminine Evil and Satanic Powers: Believers and Sceptics	6
3 The Social Basis of Witch Hunting	33
4 Demons and the Movement of the Earth	40
Chapter 2 The Status of the Earth	45
1 Aristotelian Cosmology and Male-Female Distinctions	46
2 The Copernican Transformation: Pro and Contra	58
3 Protagonists of the New Cosmology: Kepler and Galileo	71
4 An Ontology for the New Cosmology?	87
Chapter 3 The Barrenness of Matter	89
-) 1 Natural Magic and Demonic Magic	90
2 The Mechanical Philosophy in France	111
3 The Mechanical Philosophy in England	124
-) 4 Occult Forces, Living Beings and the Problem of Generation	143
Chapter 4 Gravitational Attraction	154
1 From Mechanistic Theism to Materialistic Atheism	154
2 The Rejection of Descartes in England	158
3 Newtonian Synthesis and Occult Forces	164
4 The Newtonian Maupertuis and 'Hylozoic Atheism'	187
Chapter 5 The Appropriation of Nature	196
-) 1 The End of Witch Hunting	196
2 The New Confidence and the Appropriation of Nature	201

3 The Question of Private Property	222
4 The Ruling Class, Other People and Nature	236
<i>Afterword</i>	253
<i>Abbreviations</i>	257
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	258
<i>Notes</i>	259
<i>Name Index</i>	277
<i>Subject Index</i>	282