

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvii
INTRODUCTION	1
I. 'THE LORD'S PEOPLE IS OF THE WILLING SORT': THE GENESIS OF DISSENT, 1532-1640	
1. The radical origins of Dissent: Lollards and Anabaptists	7
2. The Calvinist origins of Dissent: from Puritanism to Separatism	14
3. Reformation 'without tarrying for any': Robert Browne and the Norwich Separatists	26
4. 'Imprisonments, judgement, yea, death itself': Greenwood, Barrow, Penry, and the London Separatists	34
5. 'God would have all men saved': John Smyth, Thomas Helwys, and the General Baptists	41
6. The search for a middle way: Henry Jacob and the 'rigidest sort' of Puritans	50
7. The Puritan diaspora: the Netherlands and New England	62
8. <i>Come out of her my People</i> : the consequences of Archbishop Laud	66
9. 'The liberty of the brethren in prophecies': the motivation of Dissent	72
II. 'WHEN WOMEN PREACH AND COBBLERS PRAY': THE LIBERATION OF DISSENT, 1641-1662	
1. <i>A Swarme of Sectaries and Schismatiques</i> : the testimony of John Taylor	77
2. Separation or reformation?: Henry Burton <i>versus</i> Thomas Edwards	83
3. 'The nearest conjunction' with the Church of Scotland: the revival of English Presbyterianism	89

4. Separatist or Congregationalist? the problem of the Independents	94
5. Godly unity or liberty for tender consciences?: the dilemma of the Congregationalists	99
6. 'The soul of the army': Cromwell and the Independents	105
7. 'The gangrene of heresy and error': the failure of the Presbyterians	111
8. 'Living peaceably without molestation': the rise and fall of the Levellers	117
9. 'A new heaven and a new earth': the coming millennium	129
10. 'By the arm of flesh' or 'the Spirit of the Lord?': John Owen <i>versus</i> the Fifth Monarchists	134
11. 'Jesus Christ is owned this day': Barebone's Parliament	142
12. 'Independence and state hire in religion': Congregationalists and Baptists under the Protectorate	151
13. 'Saints by calling': the spiritual experiences of the Independents	168
14. 'No Law besides': Antinomians, Ranters, and Seekers	179
15. 'The Light . . . which lighteth every man': George Fox and the Quakers	186
16. Nemesis: James Nayler, the Restoration, and the Great Ejection	208
III. 'NO CROSS, NO CROWN': THE PERSECUTION OF DISSENT, 1660-1689	
1. Vengeance and fear: the Clarendon Code	221
2. 'Constancy and sufferings' and 'creeping into corners': the Dissenting response	227
3. 'The good fruit of this present persecution': John Bunyan and William Penn	238
4. 'Mongrel justices' and the king's prerogative: the failure of persecution	244
5. Popish plots and Protestant unity: the extremity of persecution and the making of the Toleration Act	249
IV. 'A PLAIN CALLED EASE': THE TOLERATION OF DISSENT, 1690-1730	
1. 'The mercies of the Lord': the last Stuart and the first Hanoverian	263
2. The Evans manuscript: the geographic distribution of Dissent	267

3. Harmony and discord: the Happy Union and the Antinomian controversy	289
4. Centralization and division: the Caffyn controversy and the Wilkinson-Story separation	297
5. 'Join all the glorious names': meeting-houses and worship	303
6. Rites of initiation: the ordination of ministers and the admission of members	315
7. Rights of members: the position of women and the exercise of discipline	319
8. Matters of finance: the relief of the poor and the payment of ministers	336
9. The social structure of Dissent: economic independence and commercial morality	346
10. 'Freedom of inquiry': the contribution of the Dissenting academies	366
11. Art thou 'a threefold deity'? : Exeter and Salters' Hall	371
12. 'The decay of the Dissenting interest': sect to denomination?	382
V. 'THE WAY TO HEAVEN': THE REVIVAL OF DISSENT, 1730-1791	
1. 'Justification by faith alone': the Evangelical revival	394
2. 'Artless, simple people': sociological and psychological explanations of the revival	406
3. Pious parents and charity schools: the historical roots of the revival	421
4. Predestination and perfection: the rift between Calvinist and Arminian Methodism	428
5. The 'old Puritan fanaticism revived': Methodism and Dissent	434
6. 'A new sect of Presbyterians': the break with the Church of England	445
7. 'A frenzied kind of zeal': the impact of the revival on Old Dissent	450
8. 'The eternal law of reason': rational Dissent and the Presbyterian schism	464
9. Freedom and necessity: Richard Price and Joseph Priestley	471
10. The 'natural rights and liberties of mankind': the American and French revolutions	478

11. Reaction: the campaign against the Test and Corporation Acts, the Birmingham riots, and the eclipse of rational Dissent	482
APPENDIX: The Evans list and the numbers and distribution of Dissenters in the early Eighteenth century	491
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	511
INDEX	515