

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>Chronology</i>	xv
<b>Introduction</b>	1
Histories of Magic as Political Crime	4
Studying Magic as Political Crime	7
Defining Magic	8
Magic and Witchcraft	12
Magic and Treason	16
Structure of the Book	20
<b>1. 'Compassing and Imagining': Magic as a Political Crime in Medieval England</b>	23
John of Nottingham and the Plot Against Edward II	27
Magic and the Statute of Treason	31
Application of the Statute of Treason	32
The Case of Eleanor Cobham	35
Magic in the Wars of the Roses	46
The Reign of Henry VII	51
Conclusion	53
<b>2. Treason, Sorcery and Prophecy in The Early English Reformation, 1534–58</b>	55
The Tudors and the English Reformation	57
Prophecy and Treason	61
Magic and Treason at Court	70

	The Reigns of Edward VI and Mary	78
	Conclusion	84
<b>3.</b>	<b>Elizabeth versus The ‘Popish Conjurers’, 1558–77</b>	<b>87</b>
	The Elizabethan Reformation	87
	The Accession of Elizabeth	89
	The Fortescue Conspiracy	91
	The 1559 Bill against Sorcery, Witchcraft and Buggery	93
	The Waldegrave and Pole Conspiracies	95
	The Burning of St Paul’s	105
	The 1563 Act Against Conjurament and Witchcraft	108
	The Abduction and Trial of John Story	111
	The Case of Rowland Jenks	116
	Conclusion	118
<b>4.</b>	<b>‘A Traitorous Heart to the Queen’: Effigies and Witch-Hunts, 1578–1603</b>	<b>119</b>
	Effigy Magic	121
	John Dee and the Wax Effigies	123
	Leicester’s Witch-Hunt	129
	Vincent Murphyn’s Conspiracy	139
	The 1580 Act for Suppressing Seditious Words and Rumours	140
	‘Anabaptistical Wizards’	141
	Elizabeth’s Last Years	144
	Magical Treason in Shakespeare’s <i>Henry VI Part Two</i>	147
	Conclusion	150
<b>5.</b>	<b>‘A Breach in Nature’: Magic as a Political Crime in Early Stuart England, 1603–42</b>	<b>153</b>
	James VI and Magical Treason	154
	James’s English Reign	161
	The Case of Sir Thomas Lake	167
	Magical Treason in the Plays of Shakespeare	170
	The Poisoning of James I	172
	Towards Civil War	176
<b>6.</b>	<b>The Decline of Magic as a Political Crime, 1642–1700</b>	<b>179</b>
	Political Magic in the English Civil Wars	180
	Interregnum and Restoration: The Decline of Magical Treason	182
	Witchcraft and Treason	186
	England and the ‘Affair of the Poisons’	188

Treason without Magic: The Popish Plot	193
Magic and Politics Part Company	195
Echoes	197
Conclusion	202
<i>Notes</i>	205
<i>Bibliography</i>	231
<i>Index</i>	243