## Contents

List of illustrations	12
Preface and acknowledgements	x
A note on translations	xvi
Introduction: authors of catastrophe	1
A brief history of catastrophe	8
Orders of time, regimes of historicity	23
Chapter outlines	37
Chapter 1: Bringing catastrophe: barbare (br)others, in and around the Encyclopédie	45
1.1 Civilisation and its <i>barbare</i> catastrophes: from Deluge to Babel	51
1.2 The barbare speaks: from scholastic Latin to French	71
1.3 Seeking a constant referent: can language be fixed?	83
1.4 Génie, énergie, poésie: grounds for a positive barbare	100
1.5 Conclusion	116
Chapter 2: Suffering catastrophe: legitimate and illegitimate lines in Baculard d'Arnaud's medievalist works	121
2.1 The usurper's world: 'Everything tends directly to the catastrophe'	128
2.2 Genres of catastrophe, or drames nationaux	136
2.3 The crisis of 'Salisbury' and the catastrophe of 'Varbeck'	149

## Contents

2.4 The crusades are assuredly one of the most important revolutions of the human spirit': 'Le sire de Créqui'	164
2.5 Medieval aesthetics as site of resistance and source of anxiety	173
2.6 Conclusion	190
Chapter 3: Prophesying catastrophe, predicting utopia: the time travellers of Mercier's prose tableaux	197
3.1 Temporal belonging and exclusion in the tableau	203
3.2 Ruination and destruction	225
3.3 Gonclusion	258
Chapter 4: Witnessing catastrophe as revelation: doing time with Latude and Sade, modern martyrs	263
4.1 Narrative contested: 'a single day has carried us into a new age'	270
4.2 A troubling martyr: the body and the book	289
4.3 The libertine body, Sade's book: temporality to historicity?	302
4.4 Conclusion	325
Conclusion	329
Works cited	341
Pre-1900 works	341
Paintings	346
Post-1900 works	346
Index	355