Shakespeare and Republicanism is a groundbreaking work by a leading scholar of the Renaissance. Andrew Hadfield reveals for the first time exactly how Shakespeare was influenced by contemporary strands in political thought that were critical of the English crown and constitution. Shakespeare has often been seen as a conservative political thinker characterized by an overriding fear of the ‘mob’. Hadfield argues instead that Shakespeare’s writing emerged out of an intellectual milieu fascinated by republican ideas. From the 1590s onwards, he explored republican themes in his poetry and plays: political assassination, elected government, alternative constitutions, and, perhaps most importantly of all, the problem of power without responsibility. Beginning with Shakespeare’s apocalyptic representation of civil war in the Henry VI plays, Hadfield provides a series of powerful new readings of Shakespeare and his time. For anyone interested in Shakespeare and Renaissance culture, this book is required reading.

Andrew Hadfield is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. He is the author of Spenser’s Irish Experience (1997), Literature, Travel and Colonial Writing (1998) and Shakespeare and Renaissance Politics (2003). He is also the editor of Representing Ireland (with Willy Maley and Brendan Bradshaw, 1993), The Cambridge Companion to Spenser (2001) and Shakespeare and Renaissance Europe (with Paul Hammond, 2004).
SHAKESPEARE AND REPUBLICANISM

ANDREW HADFIELD
For Lucy Eleanor Hadfield
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Preface

This book has had something of a complex history, one that fanciful observers might suggest actually mirrors its subject. I was able to write it only because I was awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2001–4). I am extremely grateful to the Trust, whose members have been most generous in supporting my research, and I hope that the finished product is what they envisaged. Nearly all of the book was written in the Department of English at the University of Sussex, a truly republican institution, where friendship is valued alongside intellectual endeavour, and (relative) equality is the order of the day. The research was carried out at two rather more tyrannically inclined centres of learning, an obscure outpost near a Black Sea, the name of which escapes me for now, and one right in the heart of the new Rome, overseen by a modern Tiberius. Nevertheless, I had the benefit of some splendid republican allies, most notably my friends David Scott Kastan, Tom Paulin and Jim Shapiro, who helped shape the book through an extensive series of conversations, also reading and correcting extracts, as well as providing useful leads and references. I will miss their company. I also enjoyed working with and learnt much from Julie Crawford, Cathy Eden, Jean E. Howard and Bruce Robbins. My students, too, were a great source of inspiration, especially those who took my Shakespeare lecture course and Spenser graduate course.

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I have been grateful to be able to air my views at various venues, and for the discussion and feedback I have received from critical, but invariably helpful audiences. Parts of Chapter Three were presented at the London Renaissance Seminar (November 2003), my thanks to Tom and Margaret Healy for inviting me to speak; parts of the introduction and chapter 5 were presented at the Pennsylvania State University (October 2002), my thanks to Patrick Cheney for inviting me, and at the English Graduate Colloquium, University of Sussex (October 2003), my thanks to Jenny...
Preface

Bowen Taylor for inviting me; part of Chapter Four was presented at the symposium ‘Religion and Politics in English Poetry and Drama, 1520–1640’ at the Université of Fribourg, Switzerland (May 2004), my thanks to Anthony Mortimer for inviting me, and as one of the annual Jon Lopategui lectures at Hampton Court, sponsored by the University of Kingston-upon-Thames (December 2004), my thanks to Tom Betteridge for inviting me; and an overview of the book, along with sections of Chapter Six, was presented as a plenary lecture at the Ninth Nordic Conference for English Studies, Aarhus Universitet, 27–29 May 2004, my thanks to Dominic Rainsford for inviting me.

I would like to thank the editors of *Textual Practice* and Routledge for allowing me to reproduce sections of my article ‘Shakespeare and Republicanism: History and Cultural Materialism’, *Textual Practice* 17 (2003), 461–83, in the Introduction and Chapter Five; and the editors and Manchester University Press for allowing me to reproduce part of my essay, ‘Hamlet’s Country Matters: The “Scottish Play” within the Play’, in Willy Maley and Andrew Murphy, eds., *Shakespeare and Scotland* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004), pp.87–103.

My family have, as ever, made my labours all the more enjoyable and, I hope, I have been able to repay them by getting better at containing my efforts within the working week and becoming more charming and less grumpy at home. My love and thanks, as always, to Alison, Lucy, Patrick and Maud. The book is dedicated to Lucy, even though she may be a royalist at heart.
Note on the text

i/j and u/v have been silently modernized. Elsewhere I have tried to use original texts where possible, but have sometimes used modern editions where it is more convenient to do so, does not affect the argument, and allows readers the chance to explore the material more easily themselves. I have used the Arden Shakespeare as my main Shakespeare text, but referred to other editions when necessary or desirable.
Abbreviations

AHR The American Historical Review
AJLH The American Journal of Legal History
BJRLM Bulletin of the John Rylands Library of Manchester
CD Comparative Drama
CR The Centennial Review
DNB Dictionary of National Biography
EHR English Historical Review
ELH English Literary History
ELR English Literary Renaissance
ES English Studies
HJ The Historical Journal
HLQ The Huntington Library Quarterly
JBS Journal of British Studies
MLQ Modern Language Quarterly
MRDE Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England
MRTS Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies
N. & Q. Notes and Queries
P. & P. Past and Present
PHR Pacific Historical Review
PMLA Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
RES Review of English Studies
RHS Royal Historical Society
RQ Renaissance Quarterly
SEL Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900
Sh. St. Shakespeare Studies
Sh. Sur. Shakespeare Survey
SJ Sidney Journal
SP Studies in Philology
SQ Shakespeare Quarterly
TLS The Times Literary Supplement
Abbreviations

SHR  Scottish Historical Review
SHS  Scottish History Society
SP   Studies in Philology
Sp. Stud.  Spenser Studies
YES  Yearbook of English Studies