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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

VOLUME ONE

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	x
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
1 The Terminal Date of Caesar's Gallic Proconsulate	1
I TUDOR POLITICS	
2 Renaissance Monarchy?	39
3 Henry VII: Rapacity and Remorse	45
4 Henry VII: a Restatement	66
5 The King of Hearts	100
6 Cardinal Wolsey	109
7 Thomas More, Councillor	129
8 Sir Thomas More and the Opposition to Henry VIII	155
9 King or Minister? The Man behind the Henrician Reformation	173
10 Thomas Cromwell's Decline and Fall	189
11 The Good Duke	231
12 Queen Elizabeth	238

Cambridge University Press
 052153318X - Studies in Tudor and Stuart Politics and Government: Papers and
 Reviews 1946-1972, Volume One
 G.R.Elton
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

II TUDOR GOVERNMENT

13	The Problems and Significance of Administrative History in the Tudor Period	<i>page</i> 249
14	The Rule of Law in Sixteenth-Century England	260
15	State Planning in Early-Tudor England	285
16	Henry VII's Council	294
17	Government by Edict?	300
18	Why the History of the Early Tudor Council Remains Unwritten	308
19	Henry VIII's Act of Proclamations	339
20	The Elizabethan Exchequer: War in the Receipt	355
	<i>General Index</i>	389
	<i>Index of Authors Cited</i>	400

Contents

VOLUME TWO

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page i
<i>Abbreviations</i>	ix
III PARLIAMENT	
21 Studying the History of Parliament	3
22 'The Body of the Whole Realm': Parliament and Representation in Medieval and Tudor England	19
23 Parliamentary Drafts 1529-1540	62
24 The Evolution of a Reformation Statute	82
25 The Commons' Supplication of 1532: Parliamentary Manoeuvres in the Reign of Henry VIII	107
26 An Early Tudor Poor Law	137
27 The Stuart Century	155
28 A High Road to Civil War?	164
29 The Unexplained Revolution	183
IV POLITICAL THOUGHT	
30 The Divine Right of Kings	193
31 The Political Creed of Thomas Cromwell	215
32 Reform by Statute: Thomas Starkey's <i>Dialogue</i> and Thomas Cromwell's Policy	236
<i>General Index</i>	259
<i>Index of Authors Cited</i>	266

Cambridge University Press
052153318X - Studies in Tudor and Stuart Politics and Government: Papers and
Reviews 1946-1972, Volume One
G.R.Elton
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PREFACE

The papers here collected form a reasonable whole: with the exception of the first (included for reasons of familial piety and because it was the first thing I ever got into print), they revolve around the problems of English society between about 1450 and 1650. This coherence now and again produces repetition, but I may hope that there is not very much of that. I have left out some parts of a quarter century's production: an essay on Henry VIII available as a pamphlet published by the Historical Association, my share in the controversy over the Tudor revolution in *Past and Present* (1963-4) which would look silly without the articles to which I was responding, the greater bulk of even my longer reviews, contributions to encyclopaedias and to the *New Cambridge Modern History*, and several pieces concerned with the study and teaching of history which do not belong here.

In reprinting these papers, I have left the texts untouched, except that I have corrected printing errors, have standardized spelling and capitalization, and in what originally were introductions to reprints of books have omitted a few words appropriate only to that setting. When I first published these articles I sometimes adhered to the original spelling of citations and sometimes modernized; these differences are preserved, without special notice. The footnotes are in substance identical with their original form, but I have recast their presentation which varied so much from journal to journal that standardization appeared desirable in the interests of seemliness. I have also added some new notes, in square brackets, to correct error or draw attention to later developments.

I owe two burdens of gratitude. The first is to those friends whose complaints about the inaccessibility of so many pieces persuaded me to break a long-standing resolution not to produce any such volumes as these; the other is to the Cambridge University Press who bravely and generously decided to publish. I can only hope that my earlier resolve will not after all turn out to have been the right one, and that the Press's decision will not come to be thought of as quixotic.

Clare College, Cambridge
March 1973

G. R. E.

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Frontmatter
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ABBREVIATIONS

- Allen *Opus Epistolarum Desiderii Erasmi Roterodami*, ed. P. S. Allen et al. 12 vols. (Oxford, 1906-58)
- APC *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, ed. J. R. Dasent
- BIHR *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*
- BM British Museum
- CHJ *Cambridge Historical Journal*
- CPR *Calendar of Patent Rolls*
- DNB *Dictionary of National Biography*
- EHR *English Historical Review*
- HJ *The Historical Journal*
- LJ *Journal of the House of Lords*
- LP *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII*, ed. J. S. Brewer, J. Gairdner, R. H. Brodie, 21 vols. (1862-1932)
- Merriman R. B. Merriman, *The Life and Letters of Thomas Cromwell*, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1902)
- Policy and Police* G. R. Elton, *Policy and Police: the enforcement of the Reformation in the age of Thomas Cromwell* (Cambridge, 1972)
- PRO Public Record Office, London
- Reform and Renewal* G. R. Elton, *Reform and Renewal: Thomas Cromwell and the Commonweal* (Cambridge, 1973)
- Rogers *The Correspondence of Sir Thomas More*, ed. E. F. Rogers (Princeton, 1947)
- Roper W. Roper, *The Life of Sir Thomas More, Knight*, in *Two Early Tudor Lives*, ed. R. S. Sylvester and D. P. Harding (New Haven, 1962)
- StP *State Papers of Henry VIII*, 11 vols. (1830-52)

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Abbreviations

- TRHS* *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*
Tudor Constitution *The Tudor Constitution: Documents and Commentary*, ed. G. R. Elton (Cambridge, 1960)
Tudor Revolution G. R. Elton, *The Tudor Revolution: administrative changes in the reign of Henry VIII* (Cambridge, 1953)

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