Contents

Preface vi
Note on the texts and citation x
List of abbreviations xi

Introduction 1

1 Struggling to emerge from barbarity: historiography and the idea of the classic 18
2 Learning’s triumph: historicism and the spirit of the age 38
3 Call Britannia’s glories back to view: Tudor history and Hanoverian historians 57
4 The rage of Reformation: religious controversy and political stability 78
5 The ground-work of stile: language and national identity 97
6 Studied barbarity: Jonson, Spenser, and the idea of progress 120
7 The last age: Renaissance lost 143

Notes 165
Bibliography 198
Index 219