## Contents

	List of illustrations xv
	Acknowledgments xvii
	Introduction 1
1	The politics of the Constitution, 1787–89 7
2	Contentious people and factious parties in the Early Republic, 1789–1824 18
3	The age of democracy, 1816–44 32
4	The politics of slavery: prelude to the Civil War, 1844–60 46
5	Politics in war and Reconstruction, 1861–76 60
5	Gilded Age frustration and the Progressive response, 1877–1918 74
7	Affluence, depression, and world war, 1920–45 90
3	Early Cold War politics, 1945–74 105

9 Tumultuous politics continued, 1974–present 120

References 135

Further reading 137

Index 143