

privileged place to undertake a PhD. I would like to thank my PhD supervisors Susan Mendes and Matt Matravers for their generosity in terms of time, advice and, in particular, patience.

The writing of this monograph has also coincided with several changes in my personal life, the most important and happiest of which was my marriage to Nicola in November 2012. Nicola has been a constant source of support and encouragement. I cannot thank her enough.

But I want to dedicate this book to my parents, Ian and Edwina Sleat. My previous attempt at a dedication to express my appreciation for their support was woefully inadequate, for which I apologise profusely. So this time I will simply say, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Acknowledgements page viii

Introduction: The resurgence of realist political theory 1

1 The liberal vision of the political: Consensus, freedom, and legitimacy 21

2 The realist vision of the political: Conflict, coercion, and the circumstances of politics 45

3 The realist challenge to liberal theory 71

4 Liberal alternatives: The liberalism of fear and *modus vivendi* 89

5 Bernard Williams and the structure of liberal realism 112

6 The partisan foundations of liberal realism 132

7 The moderate hegemony of liberal realism 152

Bibliography 176

Index 182