Contents

Acknowledgements Preface	vii ix
Introduction: What is Political Theory?	1
1. Two Centuries of Revolution The Centralization and Unification of Government Social Structure The Changing Economy A Century of Political Experimentation	5 6 10 13 19
2. 'Sheep Devouring Men': Thomas More, the Commonwealthmen and A New Social Criticis An Overview of Tudor Political Theory Sir Thomas More (1478–1535) The Commonwealthmen	sm 27 28 33 39
3. 'A Multitude of Free Men Collected Together' Thomas Smith, John Ponet and Richard Hook Thomas Smith (1513–1577) John Ponet (1516?–1556) Richard Hooker (1554?–1600) From Corporate Privileges to Individual Rights	
4. 'The Poorest He That Is in England': Political Ideas in the English Revolution The Road to Putney Political Ideas in the English Civil War The Levellers and the Putney Debates Gerrard Winstanley (1609?–1676?) The Radical Legacy	65 66 72 80 87 91
5. 'A Multitude of Men is Made One Person': The Political Thought of Thomas Hobbes Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679) The Elements of Law and De Cive Leviathan	94 94 98 104

6. 'Life, Liberty and Estate': The Pol	itical
Thought of John Locke	112
John Locke (1632–1704)	112
The Two Treatises of Government	116
Locke's Theory of Property	123
Improvement	131
Conclusion	135
Notes	138
Some Additional Reading	139
Index	144