

Contents

Abbreviations.	viii
Preface	ix
Introduction	1
Chapter 1 History, Religion and Politics, 1901–1939	
From School to University	29
The Idea of Character	34
Philosophy, Poetry and Politics	39
Religion.	50
Contemporary European Politics	54
Chapter 2 The Philosophy of History, 1925–1939	
The Philosophy of History in the Nineteenth Century	67
Unpublished Writings on History from the 1920s.	72
Philosophy, Experience and Modality	82
Practical Experience.	90
Scientific Experience	92
Historical Experience	96
History and the Social Sciences.	107
Oakeshott’s Philosophy of History Before 1939	110
Chapter 3 The History of Character, 1945–1958	
Peace with Germany.	115
Rationalism and the Peculiarities of the English	118
Rehabilitating Hobbes.	124
Faith and Scepticism.	135
The History of Character	141

Chapter 4 The Philosophy of History, 1947–1975

History and Other Modes	151
History and Contingency	163
History as a Language	167
History and Morality	172
History as an Aesthetic Fiction?	178

Chapter 5 Modern European Politics, 1958–1975

The Origins of Modern Politics	183
Societas and Universitas	189
The State as a Societas	195
The State as a Universitas	200
Philosophers of Societas	208
Philosophers of Universitas	213

Chapter 6 The Philosophy of History, 1975–1983

Human Conduct and History	219
Past	222
Occurrences and Situations	233
Relating Events	236
Change	243
The History of Thought and the History of Political Thought	247

Conclusion	259
Bibliography	273
Index	289