Contents

	Acknowledgments	xi
	A Note on Texts	xiii
	Introduction	I
Ι	'Not but by the Spirit understood': Milton's Plain Style and Present-Day Messianism	19
2	Areopagitica and the Ethics of Reading	43
3	Liberty before and after Liberalism: Milton's Politics and the Post-secular State	66
4	Samson, the Peacemaker: Enlightened Slaughter in Samson Agonistes	87
5	Can the Suicide Bomber Speak?	107
	Epilogue	127
	Notes	133
	Index	163