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The Reign of Henry VIII

Politics, Policy and Piety

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Preface

Collaborative enterprises are always fraught with possibilities for shipwreck, and I am thankful that the help of a large number of people has ensured that this volume did not founder under the gaze of its sponsor as did the *Mary Rose* in 1545. All the contributors deserve thanks for their individual components and for their suggestions made to me for improvements to the whole volume, and they will have their own debts of gratitude to support systems of which I am only partly aware. For myself, I am particularly grateful to the late Professor Sir Geoffrey Elton for his helpful and constructive comments on my own chapter, and to Steven Gunn for his advice which helped to relaunch in its present form his earlier proposal for a similar collection. Equally, I have to thank staff at Macmillan for support and encouragement: Pauline Underwood, latterly Simon Winder, and especially Vanessa Graham, who at a crucial stage of the volume's planning, got the contributors in a good mood by organising an excellent lunch. A summer school group at University College London in 1994 helped me organise my thoughts on the reign of Henry VIII more than they knew. I hope that for them and for many other students, these essays will prove illuminating and enjoyable.

Totterdown, Bristol

DIARMAID MACCULLOCH