Preface

This volume is the outcome of a Symposium held at Nuffield College, Oxford, 6–9 December 1996, and sponsored by the British Academy with support from the Royal Irish Academy. The chapters were completed before the Good Friday agreement of 1998 and thus have not been able to take account of this very important development.

Our work has been greatly helped by the discussants at the Symposium, the referees who commented on the papers, and staff at the British Academy and at Nuffield College. We would particularly like to thank Iain Bryson, Roy Foster, John Goldthorpe, Chelly Halsey, Damian Hannan, Roger Hood, Naomi McCay, Jane Pearce, Bob Rowthorne, Emer Smyth, Brendan Whelan, Mandy Roberts and Rosemary Lambeth.

We also wish to thank the Warden and Fellows of Nuffield College for their support for the Symposium.

AFH, RB, CTW