

THE HUGUENOTS

GEOFFREY TREASURE

Following the Reformation, a growing number of radical Protestants came together to live and worship in Catholic France. The Huguenots survived persecution and armed conflict to win freedom of worship, civil rights and unique status as a protected minority. In 1685, following renewed persecution, the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes abolished their remaining rights. Choosing faith over home, over 200,000 Huguenots fled across Europe and further afield.

In this magnificent book, Geoffrey Treasure explores what it was like to be a Huguenot. He examines their rise, survival and fall; and looks at the psychological pressures of living in a threatened 'state within a state'. Over a span of a century and a half he weaves together the political and religious concerns of leading figures – whether Catherine de' Medici seeking compromise or Louis XIV requiring unity – with stories of ordinary citizens leading extraordinary lives. Treasure describes the Huguenots' disciplined community, inspiring in faith and courage, and rich in achievement, and illuminates their place within Protestantism and European history. Viewing their exodus as a crucial turning point for Europe, he points to the immense significance of the Huguenot story, particularly for the exiles' native lands.

Geoffrey Treasure was Senior Master at Harrow School before his retirement in 1992. He has published many acclaimed books, including *The Making of Modern Europe, 1648–1780* (1985), *Mazarin: The Crisis of Absolutism in France* (1995) and *Louis XIV* (2001).