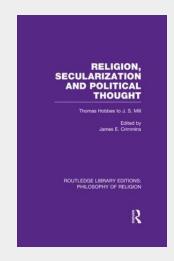
Religion, Secularization and Political Thought

Thomas Hobbes to J. S. Mill

The increasing secularization of political thought between the mid-seventeenth and midnineteenth centuries has often been noted, but rarely described in detail. The
contributors to this volume consider the significance of the relationship between religious
beliefs, dogma and secular ideas in British political philosophy from Thomas Hobbes to
J.S. Mill. During this period, Britain experienced the advance of natural science, the
spread of education and other social improvements, and reforms in the political realm.
These changes forced religion to account for itself and to justify its existence, both as a
social institution and as a collection of fundamental articles of belief about the world and
its operations. This book, originally published in 1990, conveys the crucial importance of
the association between religion, secularization and political thought.



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