

RICHARD SIGURDSON

Jacob Burckhardt's
Social and Political Thought

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

Contents

Preface ix

Introduction: A New Dimension to Burckhardt? 3

Part One: Burckhardt and the Birth of Cultural History

1 A Historian in Troubled Times 19

2 Cultural versus Political History: Burckhardt and Ranke 59

3 Burckhardt's Cultural History: Philosophy, Style, and Poetry 87

Part Two: Burckhardt's Social and Political Thought

4 Elements: Scepticism, Organicism, and Human Nature 131

5 Themes: Freedom, the State, and Society 164

6 Burckhardt and Nietzsche: Two Critiques of Modernity 198

Conclusion: An Astute Political Thinker 221

Notes 227

References 261

Index of Names 271

Index of Subjects 277