Contents

Preface vii
Acknowledgements x

Introduction 1

PART I
The historical setting 9

1 The English land question in historical perspective 11
2 Land reform movements before 1914 23

PART II
The land question and taxation of land values, 1914 to 1939 43

3 The impact of the First World War and the spread of owner-occupation 45
4 The rise of town planning and the demise of site value rating 63

PART III
The political conflict over landed property rights, 1942 to 1979 85

5 The impact of the war on town and country 87
6 Tensions in the wartime coalition government 109
Contents

7 The post-war settlement 129
8 Continuing battles over compensation and betterment 154

PART IV
The land question and the housing crisis, 1979 to 2017 179

9 The triumph of private property and future options for land reform 181
10 Conclusion 204

Bibliography 209
Index 227