Henry Brougham had a most successful career as a lawyer, writer, politician, and judge in nineteenth century Britain. Born of Anglo-Scottish gentry during the American Revolution, he attended Edinburgh High School and the University of Edinburgh. The experience helped instill in Brougham an interest in radical politics, social reform, and scientific inquiry. He read a paper on optics before the Royal Society when he was only seventeen, and was elected president of the Speculative Society in 1799, the University's literary and debating society whose reputation was at its height. Brougham also found time to pass the law examinations, and began practicing law. Despite these achievements, however, his reputation suffered because of a restless spirit and a predisposition towards outrageous levity, tendencies more noticeable in him than others because of the family's reputation for insanity. It was to help compensate for not only these private difficulties but also Scotland's limited public opportunities that Brougham helped found The Edinburgh Review, the most influential organ of the printed media during the first half of the century. Brougham's columns and reviews in it, on almost every controversial subject, were the primary reason for the success.

Still not satisfied by Scottish prospects, Brougham set off for London in 1803 to try his hand at English law and politics. Thanks to his book Colonial Policy and his review articles, he played an important role in the abolition of the slave trade. His attack in 1808 on the Orders in Council against Napoleon's Continental System as counterproductive and provocative at the Bar of the House of Commons led the Whigs to find him a seat in Parliament. As an MP, Brougham sought parliamentary and legal reform in such a radical way that the Whigs tried to do without his services. Jeremy Bentham had taught him that law reform was the basis of human improvement. Outside the Commons, however, Brougham proved so dangerous to established government that the Whigs were forced to find him another seat. After Waterloo, he led the campaign for reform and retrenchment. He led the repeal of the income tax in 1816. More important, he pushed for parliamentary reform in a way which brought into question fundamental aspects of law and order, setting off a process which resulted in Peterloo. It was during his famous defence of Queen Caroline that he determined the constructive role that the Judges could play in law reform, hitherto an institutional impediment to progress. Brougham got the reform movement back on track by instructing Home Secretary Peel as to how he should carry out administrative and legal reform by yet another review article. When the effort began to flag, Brougham sought to institutionalize it by his great speech on law reform in 1828, resulting in the appointment of the Royal Commissions on Real Property, and the Common Law Courts.
When the process of reform threatened to take on a life of its own without Brougham, he was instrumental in bringing down Wellington's Ministry. As Lord Chancellor in Lord Grey's Government, Brougham was responsible for the appointment of the Criminal Law Commission. As with Peel, he supplied constant instruction for the new Home Secretary, Melbourne. Brougham was responsible for the Ministry's education, poor law, emancipation, and charitable trusts policies. Actually, the way that Brougham tried to effect passage of the Reform Bill drew into question not only the measure itself but also the Reform Ministry. A recurrence of such independent decision-making brought down Grey's Government, and Melbourne's Ministry was only able to stop the Chancellor's radicalism by resigning. Deprived of office, Brougham was still able to be a formidable challenge to Whig Ministries, forcing them to moderate their policies, and an effective instructor of Conservative ones. His letters on law reform to Tory officials helped achieve social improvement at the expense of party government. By the time he died in 1868, the policies he stood for had either been effected, or were in the process of being accomplished.

No English politician of Victorian times has suffered a more precipitous loss of reputation than Lord Brougham. While he was still alive, he was recognized as a parliamentarian without peer, a criminal law reformer of dogged persistence, a governmental adviser of powerful influence, a minister of dubious principle, a judge of highest authority, and a popular agitator who could not be restrained by ties of doctrine, friendship, or party. Walter Bagehot was so taken by the agitational and policy-making exploits of this Whig maverick that he wrote an appraisal of him eleven years before he died. A.V. Dicey showed a greater appreciation of the achievements of the Whig Lord Chancellor in his lectures, although Dicey's character and behavior forced him to hide his interest in Brougham as best he could. The former Vinerian Professor of English Law at Oxford had changed course and colleagues so often that he could only write an abstract history of nineteenth century policy-making after his polemic against Parnell, *The Law of the Constitution*, had proven unnecessary. Mavericks, it seems, are neither candid nor comfortable in evaluating one another. During the twentieth century, the repudiation of Whig historiography for a more social approach to Victorian studies has practically converted such squeamishness about real individuals, other than special interest and party leaders, into a rule of research, a premise which has increasingly worked to Brougham's disadvantage. The organs, structures, personnel, and practices which legitimized social reform take precedence over such marginal personal considerations. The creation of a two-party, democratic political system with a responsive administration excludes consideration of such a traditional, unscientific concern. In short, current historiography in Victorian studies, in order to avoid creating a new Judge Jeffreys, the allegedly overblown figure of Lord Macaulay's historiography, has almost structured out the possibility.

The most influential work on Brougham is the first one, Bagehot's 1857 essay which appeared in *The National Review. The Economist* 's editor developed an interest in the aging Brougham through a roundabout process, establishing a pattern between him and the other Victorian politicians which Chester New would only