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978-0-521-76808-5 - Shakespeare and Early Modern Political Thought

Edited by David Armitage, Conal Condren and Andrew Fitzmaurice

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## SHAKESPEARE AND EARLY MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

This is the first collaborative volume to place Shakespeare's works within the landscape of early modern political thought. Until recently, literary scholars have not generally treated Shakespeare as a participant in the political thought of his time, unlike his contemporaries Ben Jonson, Edmund Spenser and Philip Sidney. At the same time, historians of political thought have rarely turned their attention to major works of poetry and drama. A distinguished international and interdisciplinary team of contributors examines the full range of Shakespeare's writings in order to challenge conventional interpretations of plays central to the canon, such as *Hamlet*; open up novel perspectives on works rarely considered to be political, such as the *Sonnets*; and focus on those that have been largely neglected, such as *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The result is a coherent and challenging portrait of Shakespeare's distinctive engagement with the characteristic questions of early modern political thought: among them, corruption and citizenship, education and persuasion, the hazards of the court and the demands of the commonwealth.

DAVID ARMITAGE is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)  
Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107692503](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107692503)

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First published 2009  
First paperback edition published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

ISBN 978-0-521-76808-5 Hardback  
ISBN 978-1-107-69250-3 Paperback

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## *Acknowledgements*

Earlier versions of most of the chapters in this volume were presented at the conference 'Shakespeare and Political Thought' held at the Humanities Research Centre of the Australian National University. We are especially grateful to the former Director of the Centre, Ian Donaldson, for generously supporting the conference and for energetically joining our discussions. The Centre's Programs Manager, Leena Messina, and her staff made all the arrangements for the event with exemplary efficiency. Further financial support came from the Australian Research Council's Network for Early European Research, from the Research Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney and from the British Academy. Conal Condren also wishes to thank the Center for the History of British Political Thought at the Folger Shakespeare Library for facilitating his seminar 'Staging Political Thought' which carried forward the concerns of our original meeting.

We were fortunate that Dermot Cavanagh and Gordon McMullan were present in Canberra: their commentaries on the papers, and on the project as a whole, were indispensable. More recently, Andrew McRae and Markku Peltonen have offered helpful readings of our Introduction. Quentin Skinner's influence on the project has been palpable throughout: the Afterword is only the latest of his many incisive contributions to our enterprise.

We would not have been able to complete the book without the unstinting support of Cambridge University Press. Our thanks go to the Press's anonymous readers for their comments, to Richard Fisher for his confidence, and to Sarah Stanton and Rebecca Jones for their patience and pertinacity. Paul B. Davis's editorial assistance was again invaluable, and we must also thank Averil Condren for compiling the index and Chris Jackson for his meticulous copy-editing. Above all, we are grateful to the contributors for their steady commitment to our collaboration. All's well that ends well.

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All quotations from Shakespeare's works are taken from *The Norton Shakespeare*, eds. Stephen Greenblatt, Walter Cohen, Jean E. Howard and Katharine Eisaman Maus, 2nd edn (New York, 2008), unless otherwise specified. In all quotations from other early modern texts, i, j, u and v have been regularised to conform with modern usage.

*ODNB*: H. C. G. Matthew and Brian Harrison, eds., *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 60 vols. (Oxford, 2004).

*OED*: *Oxford English Dictionary*.

*STC*: A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475–1640*, 2nd edn, 3 vols. (London, 1976–91).