Between the early seventeenth and mid nineteenth centuries, major European political thinkers first began to look outside their national borders and envisage a world of competitive, equal sovereign states inhabiting an international sphere that ultimately encompassed the whole globe. In this insightful and wide-ranging work, David Armitage – one of the world’s leading historians of political thought – traces the genesis of this international turn in intellectual history. Foundations of Modern International Thought combines important methodological essays, which consider the genealogy of globalisation and the parallel histories of empires and oceans, with fresh considerations of leading figures such as Hobbes, Locke, Burke and Bentham in the history of international thought. The culmination of more than a decade’s reflection and research on these issues, this book restores the often overlooked international dimensions to intellectual history and recovers the intellectual dimensions of international history.

David Armitage is the Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University where he teaches intellectual history and international history. His many publications include The Ideological Origins of the British Empire (Cambridge University Press, 2000), The Declaration of Independence: A Global History (2007) and, as editor, The British Atlantic World, 1500–1800 (2nd edn, 2009), British Political Thought in History, Literature and Theory, 1500–1800 (Cambridge University Press, 2006), Shakespeare and Early Modern Political Thought (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and The Age of Revolutions in Global Context, c. 1760–1840 (2010).
In all times, Kings, and Persons of Soveraigne authority, because of their Independency, are in continuall jealousies, and in the state and posture of Gladiators; having their weapons pointing, and their eyes fixed on one another...

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651)

Power or weakness does not in this respect produce any difference. A dwarf is as much a man as a giant; a small republic is no less a sovereign state than the most powerful kingdom.

Emer de Vattel, *Le Droit des gens* (1758)
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of figures</th>
<th>page vii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: rethinking the foundations of modern international thought</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### I  Historiographical Foundations

1. The international turn in intellectual history  
2. Is there a pre-history of globalisation?  
3. The elephant and the whale: empires and oceans in world history  

#### II  Seventeenth-Century Foundations: Hobbes and Locke

4. Hobbes and the foundations of modern international thought  
5. John Locke’s international thought  
6. John Locke, Carolina and the *Two Treatises of Government*  
7. John Locke: theorist of empire?  

#### III  Eighteenth-Century Foundations

8. Parliament and international law in eighteenth-century Britain  
9. Edmund Burke and reason of state  
10. Globalising Jeremy Bentham
Contents

IV BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS: MAKING STATES SINCE 1776

11 The Declaration of Independence and international law 191
12 Declarations of independence, 1776–2012 215

Bibliography 233
Index 292
Figures

2.1 Relative frequency of ‘globalisation’/‘globalization’ in English-language works, 1980–2008  
2.2 Relative frequency of the terms ‘global’, ‘international’ and ‘transnational’ in English-language works, 1900–2008
I have accumulated a great many debts over the dozen years in which I have been working on the history of international thought. The most fundamental is to Knud Haakonssen for his generous invitation to deliver the 2003 Robert P. Benedict Lectures in the History of Political Philosophy at Boston University; he and Jim Schmidt were exemplary hosts for that stimulating series. My only regret is that a published version of the lectures was so long in coming and that it has not arrived in the form Knud, or indeed I, had originally anticipated. To deliver the Benedict Lectures, I took a semester’s leave from my duties at Columbia University: belated but heartfelt thanks to David Johnston and Jim Zetzel for shouldering the extra burdens my absence created.

Three other opportunities allowed me to pursue my themes. The first was a fellowship at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University in 2000–1, where Akira Iriye, Jim Kloppenberg and the late Ernest May led a year of unforgettable discussions with a remarkable group of fellow Warren Fellows. The second was the chance to lead a seminar under the auspices of the Center for the History of British Political Thought at the Folger Shakespeare Library in 2002. I am deeply grateful to John Pocock for that invitation and for his penetrating contributions to the seminar, as well as to all the participants for the light they shed on the early modern foundations of international thought. And the third was Barry Hindess’s kind suggestion to spend some weeks in 2004 as a Visiting Fellow in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, where I enjoyed many memorable exchanges with Barry and his collaborators.

Over the years, parts of my original project took on lives of their own, but I never stopped thinking about the larger whole of which they were part.
Preface

I am especially grateful to the various students, many now colleagues, with whom I have discussed aspects of international intellectual history, among them Greg Afinogenov, Alex Bevilacqua, Paul Cheney, Theo Christov, Elizabeth Cross, James Delbourgo, Phil Fileri, Lisa Ford, Nick Harding, Alison LaCroix, Jamie Martin, Ted McCormick, Mira Siegelberg, Miranda Spieler, Tristan Stein, Phil Stern and Lauri Tahtinen.

For editorial advice and encouragement, the palm goes, yet again and as so often, to Richard Fisher at Cambridge University Press. Richard vigorously supported my initial conception, tactfully stopped asking about the book when all hope of its completion seemed lost and enthusiastically welcomed its unexpected resuscitation. Such patience and trust went well beyond what any author has a right to expect. And special thanks, finally, to Liz Friend-Smith for picking up the editorial baton at the very end of the race, to Phil Fileri for indispensable research assistance, to Elizabeth Spicer for effortlessly shepherding the text through the press and to Caroline Howlett for her vigilant copy-editing.

Apart from the Introduction, all the chapters of this book have appeared in earlier versions, though two are published here for the first time in English. In revising them, I have tried to eliminate repetitions and excessively local references, corrected errors and updated references where necessary. I am grateful to the editors and publishers for permission to reprint and rework the following material:

Chapter 1, from Darrin M. McMahon and Samuel Moyn (eds.), *Rethinking Modern European Intellectual History* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

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Chapter 6, from *Political Theory* 32, 5 (October 2004).

Chapter 7, from Sankar Muthu (ed.), *Empire and Modern Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).


Preface


Chapter 9, from the *Journal of the History of Ideas* 61, 4 (October 2000). Copyright © 2000 by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*.

Chapter 10, from *History of Political Thought* 32, 1 (Spring 2011).

Chapter 11, from the *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd ser., 59, 1 (January 2002).

Abbreviations

BL  British Library, London
Bod.  Bodleian Library, Oxford
HRO  Hampshire Record Office, Winchester
HUA  University Archives, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
LC  Library of Congress, Washington, DC
NYPL  New York Public Library, New York
ODNB  Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
OED  Oxford English Dictionary
SCDA  South Carolina Department of Archives, Columbia, SC
SRO  Somerset Record Office, Taunton
TNA  The National Archives, Kew
UCL  University College London