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FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN EARLY STUART ENGLAND

This book discusses a central chapter in the history of free speech in the Western world. The nature and limits of freedom of speech prompted sophisticated debate in a wide range of areas in the early seventeenth century; it was one of the 'liberties of the subject' fought for by individuals and groups across the political landscape. Discussions of free speech raised serious questions about what it meant to live in a free state, and how far England was from being such a state. Examining a wide range of sources, from rhetorical handbooks to parliamentary speeches and manuscript miscellanies, Dr Colclough demonstrates how freedom of speech was conceived positively in the period *c.* 1603 to 1628, rather than being defined in opposition to acts of censorship. Attending to the importance of context and decorum, this major contribution to **Ideas in Context** recovers a tradition of free speech that has been obscured in studies of the evolution of universal rights.

DAVID COLCLOUGH is Lecturer in English at Queen Mary, University of London.

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Dorothy Ross, and James Tully

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1. Thomas Scott, *Vox Populi* (1620), transcribed by Herbert Jenks
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2. Thomas Bywater's tract presented to King James I in 1605,
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3. John Hoskyns, 'A Dreame' and 'Dum puer es, vanae' in English
and Latin, Bodleian Library MS Rawlinson B.151, fol. 103^r. 236

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Abbreviations

BL	British Library
Bod.	Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
CSPV	<i>Calendar of State Papers and Manuscripts . . . Venice</i>
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
Folger	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC
<i>HMC Ancaster</i>	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission Report on the Manuscripts of the Earl of Ancaster</i> (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1907)
<i>HMC Downshire</i>	<i>Report on the Manuscripts of the Marquess of Downshire</i> (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1924)
<i>HMC Salisbury</i>	<i>Calendar of the Manuscripts of the Most Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury. K. G.</i> (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1940)
Huntington	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, CA
<i>LSJ</i>	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , compiled by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott, revised by Sir Henry Stuart Jones, with the assistance of Roderick McKenzie (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968)
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
PRO	Public Record Office, London
<i>Rot. Parl.</i>	<i>Rotuli Parliamentorum ut et Petitiones et Placita in Parlamento</i> , 6 volumes (London, n.d.)
<i>STC</i>	A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave (eds.), <i>A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland, And of English Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640</i> , second edition revised by W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson, and Katherine F. Pantzer, 3 volumes (London: Bibliographical Society, 1976–91)

List of abbreviations

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Parliamentary Proceedings

- CD 1621* *Commons Debates in 1621*, ed. by Wallace Notestein, Frances Helen Relf, and Hartley Simpson, 7 volumes (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1935)
- CD 1628* *Commons Debates 1628*, volume II: *17 March–19 April 1628*, ed. by Robert C. Johnson and Maija Jansson Cole, assisted by Mary Frear Keeler and William B. Bidwell (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977)
- CD 1629* *Commons Debates for 1629*, ed. by Wallace Notestein and Frances Helen Relf (Minneapolis, 1921)
- CJ* *Journal of the House of Commons*
- LJ* *Journal of the House of Lords*
- PP 1610* *Proceedings in Parliament 1610*, ed. by Elizabeth Read Foster, 2 volumes (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966)
- PP 1614* *Proceedings in Parliament 1614 (House of Commons)*, ed. by Maija Jansson (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1988)
- PP 1625* *Proceedings in Parliament 1625*, ed. by Maija Jansson and William B. Bidwell (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987)
- PP 1626* *Proceedings in Parliament 1626*, volumes II and III: *House of Commons*, ed. by William B. Bidwell and Maija Jansson (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992)

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Note on the text

In quotations from early modern printed books and manuscripts I have retained original spelling and punctuation, except in the case of long ‘s’, which has been modernised. Expanded contractions are indicated by underlining, thus: ‘commonwwealth’. Dates are Old Style, except that the year is taken to begin on 1 January; where there is any chance of confusion, I have used the following notation: ‘5 February 1620/1’.