



## *Imperial Unknowns*

In this major new study, the history of the French and British trading empires in the early modern Mediterranean is used as a setting to test a new approach to the history of ignorance: how can we understand the very act of ignoring – in political, economic, religious, cultural and scientific communication – as a fundamental trigger that sets knowledge in motion? Zwierlein explores whether the Scientific Revolution between 1650 and 1750 can be understood as just one of what were in fact many simultaneous epistemic movements and considers the role of the European empires in this phenomenon. Deconstructing central categories like the mercantilist “national,” the exchange of “confessions” between Western and Eastern Christians and the bridging of cultural gaps between European and Ottoman subjects, Zwierlein argues that understanding what was not known by historical agents can be just as important as the history of knowledge itself.

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# Imperial Unknowns

The French and British in the Mediterranean,  
1650–1750

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## *Note on Conventions*

Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French has been cautiously modernized following the rules given by Bernard Barbiche ([theleme .enc.sorbonne.fr/cours/edition\\_epoque\\_moderne/edition\\_des\\_textes](http://theleme.enc.sorbonne.fr/cours/edition_epoque_moderne/edition_des_textes)). For English, German, Italian and Latin, no modernization has been adopted, but abbreviations have been tacitly dissolved and Latin u/v have been standardized as vowels or consonants, respectively. Accentuation and Aspiration of Greek has been standardized if missing in the sources. The rare Arabic and Ottoman names and book titles have been transliterated following the rules of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, but with some exceptions concerning names returning very often and which were already familiar and westernized in early modern times, such as *Abulfeda* instead of *Abū'l-fidā*. Different spelling and transliterations in titles of literature cited have been kept.

## Abbreviations

ADM	Kew, National Archives, PRO Admiralty
AE and place	Archives des affaires étrangères, name of site (La Courneuve or Nantes)
AN AE	Archives nationales, fonds Affaires étrangères
AN MAR	Archives nationales, fonds Marine
BL	British Library London
BNF	Bibliothèque nationale de France Paris
Bodleian	Bodleian Library Oxford
Chalmers	G. Chalmers, <i>A Collection of Treaties between Great Britain and Other Powers</i> , 2 vol., London 1790.
CO	Kew, National Archives, PRO Council of Trade and Plantations
CTB	Calendar of Treasury Books, 32 vol. (1660–1718), London 1904–1957.
CTBP	Calendar of Treasury books and papers . . . preserved in Her Majesty's Public Record Office, 5 vol., London 1897–1903.
CTP	Calendar of Treasury Papers, 1556–[1728] preserved in Public Record Office, 6 vol., ed. Redington, London 1868–1889. CTB, CTP and CTBP are fully searchable online with BHO ( <a href="http://www.british-history.ac.uk">www.british-history.ac.uk</a> ); page numbers have been verified with the printed originals.
Dumont	J. Dumont et al. (eds.), <i>Corps Universel Diplomatique du droit des gens</i> , 8+5 tomes, Amsterdam 1726–1739.
MD	Mémoires et Documents
Ms. fr.	Manuscrits français
NAF	Nouvelles acquisitions françaises

*List of Abbreviations*

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ONDB	Oxford National Dictionary of Biography (online version, the author of the article is named)
PC	Kew, National Archives, PRO Privy Council
SP	Kew, National Archives, State Papers
UB	Universitätsbibliothek
UL	University Library