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978-0-521-10395-4 - Pierre Corneille: Poetics and Political Drama under Louis XIII

David Clarke

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In this three-part study of the serious plays which Corneille wrote between 1630 and 1643, David Clarke first explores the Norman experience and identity of the dramatist himself. A second section reviews the principles and distinctiveness of his poetics in a period when literary activity, and particularly historical drama, became increasingly subject to central government pressures. The third and final section discusses the political and tragic significance of Corneille's plays, and seeks to re-establish a link between their reflection of contemporary ideological tensions and the 'collective mind' of their intended audience with reference to popular, but now little-read, contemporary moralists and political theorists.

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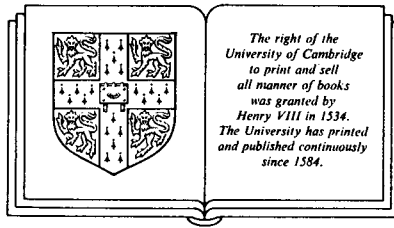
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# PIERRE CORNEILLE

*Poetics and political drama under Louis XIII*

DAVID CLARKE



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*For Lesley Gilbert*

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### *Note on the text*

All abbreviations are self-explanatory short forms of titles set out in full on their first appearance in the main text. Fuller bibliographical details are entered in the Bibliography. I follow standard practice for the abbreviation of titles of journals in the case of *Forum for Modern Language Studies* (FMLS), *French Studies* (FS), the *Modern Language Review* (MLR), the *Revue d'Histoire Littéraire de la France* (RHLF), the *Romanic Review* (RR), and the *Revue des Sciences Humaines* (RSH).

With the exception of quotations from the reference editions of Corneille's works, the spelling of all period quotations has been modernized, as have capitalization and punctuation.