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978-0-521-53117-7 - Family and Public Life in Brescia, 1580-1650: The  
Foundation of Power in the Venetian State

Joanne M. Ferraro

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This book focuses on the behavior of the ruling families of Brescia, a rich and strategically vital city under Venetian rule, during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

The first part of the book conceptualizes the civic leadership of Brescia, with a profile of its origins and a brief history of the process of aristocratization. Further, it examines the relationship between family structure and the local socio-political structures. Size, wealth, education, and marriage ties were all pivotal factors which helped determine the family's position in public life. Its strength rested ultimately on its continuity over time. Women and women's property are given careful attention. The second part places the Brescian elite within the Venetian state. Besides controlling urban political institutions, the Brescians held strong economic links with the surrounding countryside, the basis of their power, and they enjoyed ample authority in the rural communities subject to the city. This section of the book examines the different ways in which these families sought to preserve their control over local resources. It also analyzes the Brescian civic leadership's weight in public life, in relation to that of Venetian authorities, illuminating some of the important ways in which the Venetian state was knit together.

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Edited by **GIORGIO CHITTOLINI**, Università degli Studi, Milan

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IN THE VENETIAN STATE

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JOANNE M. FERRARO

*San Diego State University*



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FOR JENNIE FERRARO AND  
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## ABBREVIATIONS

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### *Archives*

- ASB Archivio di Stato di Brescia  
 ASCB Archivio Storico Comunale di Brescia  
 ASV Archivio di Stato di Venezia

### *Libraries*

- BMCV Biblioteca del Museo Correr di Venezia  
 BNMV Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana di Venezia  
 BQ Biblioteca Queriniana di Brescia  
 BQSV Biblioteca Querini Stampaglia di Venezia

### *Periodicals and miscellaneous*

- CAB *Commentari dell'Ateneo di Brescia*  
 RA *Rivista del Collegio Araldico*  
 RSI *Rivista Storica Italiana*  
 RV *Relazioni dei rettori veneti in Terraferma*  
 SS *Studi Storici*

### *Archival and manuscript citations*

- Consiglio dei Dieci. LCRB Lettere ai Capi del Consiglio dei Dieci dai  
 Rettori di Brescia*  
*Senato. APRB Archivio proprio dei rettori di Brescia*  
*Senato. DRB Dispacci dei rettori di Brescia*  
*HM. AEP Hospedale Maggiore. Atti di Eredità e Processi*

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>F</b>	<i>filza</i>
<b>B</b>	<i>busta</i>
<b>f</b>	<i>foglio</i>
<i>fasc.</i>	<i>fascicolo</i>
<b>u.d.</b>	unfoliated document
<b>n.d.</b>	no date

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## MONEY

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Brescian monies were based upon the Lombard system of *lire imperiali*. One *lira imperiale* was equivalent to 1.1066 *lire italiane*. Each gold ducat, of Phillip II in 1579 and of Phillip IV in 1641, was equivalent to 10.46 *lire italiane*. (A. Martini, *Manuale di metrologia ossia misure, pesi e monete* [Turin, 1883], pp. 101; 354; 356. According to Martini's figures, there should be 9.45 *lire imperiali* in each ducat. Contemporary sources, however, furnish an exchange rate of three *lire planet* per ducat. For example, ASB, *HM.AEP, Famiglia Ugone*, F. 1, No. 75 [u.d.], Testament of Giulia Omi Ugone, June 16, 1640.)

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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### Land

1 *piò* (100 *tavole*) = 0.32553938 hectares

1 *tavola* (4 *pertiche*) = 0.00325539 hectares

### Weights

1 *somma* (12 *quarte*) = 145.92 liters

1 *peso* = 8.02 kilograms

(Taken from Martini, *Manuale di metrologia*, p. 101.)