

FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT

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).



© The British Library Board. Justus Lipsius, *Saturnalium sermonum libri duo, qui de gladiatoribus* (Antwerp, 1604), f. 70 (BL 1476. c. 26).

[I]n all times, Kings, and Persons of Sovereigne 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)

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Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction: rethinking the foundations of modern international thought	I
I HISTORIOGRAPHICAL FOUNDATIONS	
1 The international turn in intellectual history	17
2 Is there a pre-history of globalisation?	33
3 The elephant and the whale: empires and oceans in world history	46
II SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY FOUNDATIONS: HOBBS AND LOCKE	
4 Hobbes and the foundations of modern international thought	59
5 John Locke's international thought	75
6 John Locke, Carolina and the <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>	90
7 John Locke: theorist of empire?	114
III EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY FOUNDATIONS	
8 Parliament and international law in eighteenth-century Britain	135
9 Edmund Burke and reason of state	154
10 Globalising Jeremy Bentham	172

IV BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATIONS: MAKING STATES
SINCE 1776

II 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	34
2.2	Relative frequency of the terms ‘global’, ‘international’ and ‘transnational’ in English-language works, 1900–2008	43

Preface

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.

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Over the years, parts of my original project took on lives of their own,¹ but I never stopped thinking about the larger whole of which they were part.

¹ Grotius (2004); Armitage (2007a); Armitage and Subrahmanyam (2010); Armitage (in press); Locke (in press).

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Preface

xi

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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
<i>ODNB</i>	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>OED</i>	<i>Oxford English Dictionary</i>
SCDA	South Carolina Department of Archives, Columbia, SC
SRO	Somerset Record Office, Taunton
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
UCL	University College London