Throughout his early career, Sir Edward Coke joined many of his contemporaries in his concern about the uncertainty of the common law. Coke attributed this uncertainty to the ignorance and entrepreneurship of practitioners, litigants and other users of legal power whose actions eroded confidence in the law. Working to limit their behaviours, Coke also simultaneously sought to strengthen royal authority and the Reformation settlement. Yet the tensions in his thought led him into conflict with James I, who had accepted many of the criticisms of the common law.

*Sir Edward Coke and the Reformation of the Laws* reframes the origins of Coke’s legal thought within the context of law reform and provides a new interpretation of his early career, the development of his legal thought, and the path from royalism to opposition in the turbulent decades leading up to the English civil wars.

David Chan Smith is an assistant professor of history at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, where he researches intellectual history and law in the early-modern Atlantic world.
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ABBREVIATIONS

BL   The British Library, London
Bodl. The Bodleian Library, Oxford
C33  Chancery Entry Books of Decrees and Orders, The Public Record Office at The National Archives, Kew, UK
CUL Cambridge University Library, Cambridge
DNB The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, online edition
ER The English Reports, ed. A. Wood Renton et al. (London, 1900–32), 178 vols.
HLS Harvard Law School Library, Cambridge, MA
HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission, London. Reports and Papers
Holkham Manuscripts of the Earl of Leicester, Holkham Hall, Norfolk
IT The Inner Temple, London
LRO The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, Wigston, Leicestershire
NRO Norfolk Record Office, Norwich, UK
### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>The Public Record Office at The National Archives, Kew, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td>State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth and James I, The Public Record Office at The National Archives, Kew, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCL</td>
<td>University College London, London</td>
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<td>YB</td>
<td>The Year Books</td>
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