

The Information Revolution in Early Modern Europe

This provocative new history of early modern Europe argues that changes in the generation, preservation and circulation of information, chiefly on newly available and affordable paper, constituted an ‘information revolution’. In commerce, finance, statecraft, scholarly life, science, and communication, early modern Europeans were compelled to place a new premium on information management. These developments had a profound and transformative impact on European life. The huge expansion in paper records and the accompanying efforts to store, share, organize and taxonomize them are intertwined with many of the essential developments in the early modern period, including the rise of the state, the Print Revolution, the Scientific Revolution, and the Republic of Letters. Engaging with historical questions across many fields of human activity, Paul M. Dover interprets the historical significance of this “information revolution” for the present day, and suggests thought-provoking parallels with the informational challenges of the digital age.

Professor Paul M. Dover is Professor of History at Kennesaw State University. He has published widely in the political, diplomatic, and cultural history of late medieval and early modern Europe, and in the history of information. He is the author of *The Changing Face of the Past: An Introduction to Western Historiography*, and editor of *Secretaries and Statecraft in the Early Modern World*.

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The Information Revolution in Early Modern Europe

Paul M. Dover
Kennesaw State University



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To my parents

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