

## The Cambridge Companion to Hugo Grotius

*The Cambridge Companion to Hugo Grotius* offers a comprehensive overview of Hugo Grotius (1583–1645) for students, teachers and general readers, while its chapters also draw upon and contribute to recent specialised discussions of Grotius' oeuvre and its later reception. Contributors to this volume cover the width and breadth of Grotius' work and thought, ranging from his literary work, including his historical, theological and political writing, to his seminal legal interventions. While giving these various fields a separate treatment, the book also delves into the underlying conceptions and outlooks that formed Grotius' intellectual map of the world as he understood it, and as he wanted it to become, giving a new political and religious context to his forays into international and domestic law.

**Randall Lesaffer** is Professor of Legal History at KU Leuven in Belgium and at Tilburg University in the Netherlands. His research focuses on the history of the early-modern law of nations in Europe, as well as the history of modern international law. He is the general editor of *The Cambridge History of International Law*, *Oxford Historical Treaties* and an editor of the *Journal of the History of International Law*. He is president of the Grotiana Foundation (<https://grotiana.eu/>).

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# The Cambridge Companion to Hugo Grotius

Edited by

**Randall Lesaffer**

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Press, 2007), *Grotius and the Stoa* (Van Gorcum, 2004), *Hobbes: The Amsterdam Debate* (Olms, 2001) and *Sidney: Court Maxims* (Cambridge University Press, 1996). He is co-editor-in-chief of the journal *Grotiana*.

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## Preface

It remains a mystery why there has not been a *Cambridge Companion to Hugo Grotius* to this point. As a format, the Cambridge Companions have a strong tradition in intellectual history, covering numerous political and theological thinkers from – in particular – Europe’s past. It was Stephen Neff (Edinburgh University) who first drew attention to the anomaly that Hugo Grotius, one of the most prolific, versatile and influential voices from Europe’s intellectual history, was still awaiting his Cambridge Companion. He suggested that we, as members of the Grotiana Foundation, would take up the task of coordinating this.

It was during a nice afternoon at the National Archives at The Hague that we made the first design for the book. Our proposal, worked out in numerous subsequent conversations, was enthusiastically met by Finola O’Sullivan, law editor at Cambridge University Press, who agreed that Grotius’ lasting fame in international law earned him a place in the law list. Nevertheless, the plan to cover the life, thoughts and work of Grotius in all its breadth, transcending the borderlines of modern disciplines, also met with strong approval at the Press. Our special thanks go to Finola and her dedicated team, among others Marianne Nield, Jane Bowbrick, Paul Martin and Sindhuja Sethuraman.

Thanks are due first and foremost to the team of leading international scholars who contributed to this Companion. It has been a fascinating intellectual journey for us editors to learn to know Grotius through the eyes and thoughts of so many specialists from different fields. From the start, we have benefited from the support, expertise, advice and network of the members of the Dutch Grotiana Foundation, the organisation behind the academic journal *Grotiana* (New Series), which has now run successfully since the early 1980s when it restarted. Several of its members also contributed to the volume. We are acutely aware of the gender imbalance of this Companion and regret that not more female scholars have accepted our invitation to contribute a chapter.

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Many have tried to characterise Hugo de Groot only to end up with words that convey his elusiveness. For his whole life and *Nachleben*, Grotius has been the subject of controversy, reaping both laudation and revilement. Grotius himself wrote once, ‘I do not believe that I am someone who can be [. . .] easily and carelessly denigrated’. Leaving his vanity aside, we can only agree. Reading and studying Grotius’ thoughts is an endless story with twists and turns and constant deferral of meaning and judgment. The impalpability of Grotian thought can best be embraced, even if never overcome.

Grotius accompanied his texts with dedications to European kings and princes and to high officials in the Dutch Republic. He used these dedications to express allegiances, seek patronage and make political appeals. We would like to dedicate, dear reader, this Companion to you and hope it will assist you in the study of this extraordinary mind.

## Chronology

- 1567 Beginning of the Dutch Revolt  
 1575 Foundation of Leiden University  
 1579 Union of Utrecht  
 1581 Act of Abjuration  
 1583 Birth of Grotius at Delft  
 1584 Assassination of William of Orange at Delft  
 1594 Grotius enters Leiden University  
 1598 Grotius joins Dutch embassy to France  
 1599 Grotius becomes a lawyer at the supreme courts of Holland and Zeeland  
 1602 Establishment of the Dutch East India Company  
 1603 Capture of the *Santa Catarina*  
 1604 (or 1605) Grotius becomes historiographer of Holland  
 1604–6 *De jure praedae*  
 1607 Grotius becomes advocate-fiscal of Holland  
 1608 Marriage of Grotius and Maria van Reigersberch  
 1609 Twelve Years Truce of Antwerp  
 1609 *Mare liberum*  
 1610 *De antiquitate*  
 1611 *Meletius*  
 1613 Grotius in England as part of a Dutch diplomatic mission  
 1613 Grotius becomes pensionary of Rotterdam  
 1613 *Ordinum pietas*  
 1614 *Pharsalia*  
 1614 *Decretum Ordinum Hollandiae pro pace ecclesiarum*  
 1614–17 *De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra*  
 1615 Second mission to England  
 1615 *Remonstratie nopende de ordre op de Joden*  
 1616 Amsterdam oration  
 1617 *Defensio fidei catholicae de satisfactione*  
 1617 *Poemata collecta*



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- 1618–48 Thirty Years War  
 1618 Fall of Oldenbarnevelt and Grotius  
 1618–19 Synod of Dordrecht  
 1619 Imprisonment of Grotius at Loevestein  
 1621 Grotius escapes from Loevestein to France  
 1621 Resumption of war with Spain  
 1622 *Verantwoordingh/Apologeticus*  
 1622 *Disquisitio an Pelagiana sint*  
 1625 First edition of *De jure belli ac pacis*  
 1627 *De veritate religionis Christianae*  
 1629 *Grollae obsidio*  
 1630 Swedish invasion in Germany  
 1631–2 *Incognito* return to the Republic  
 1631 Publication of *Inleidinge tot de Hollandsche rechts-geleerdheid*  
 1632–4 Grotius in Hamburg  
 1634 Appointment of Grotius as Swedish ambassador to France  
 1634–59 Franco-Spanish War  
 1640 *Commentatio de Antichristo*  
 1641 *Annotationes in libros Evangeliorum & Annotata ad Consultationem Cassandri*  
 1642 *Animadversiones in Animadversiones Andreae Riveti*  
 1642 *Votum pro pace ecclesiastica*  
 1642–3 *De origine gentium Americanarum dissertatio, & altera*  
 1644 *Annotata ad Vetus Testamentum*  
 1644 Grotius is called to Sweden  
 1645 Journey to and from Sweden and death of Grotius at Rostock  
 1646–50 Publication of *Annotationum in Novum Testamentum tomus 2 & 3*  
 1647 Publication of *De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra*  
 1648 Peace of Münster  
 1655 Publication of *Historia Gotthorum*  
 1657 Publication of *Annales & Historiae*  
 1679 Publication of *Opera omnia theologica*  
 1687 Publication of *Hugonis Grotii Epistolae quotquot*  
 1724 Barbeyrac translation of *De jure belli ac pacis*  
 1864 Discovery *De jure praedae*  
 1886 Unveiling of statue of Grotius on the Delft marketplace  
 1899 Grotius' commemoration at Delft during First Hague Peace Conference

## Abbreviations and Short Titles of Works by Grotius

AHRB	<i>Annales et Historiae de rebus Belgicis</i>
ARpB	<i>De antiquitate reipublicae Batavae</i>
BW	<i>Briefwisseling van Hugo Grotius</i> [Correspondence of Hugo Grotius]
CTS	Clive Parry (ed.), <i>The Consolidated Treaty Series</i> (Dobbs Ferry, 1969–1981)
CTXI	<i>Commentarius in Theses XI</i>
DFP	<i>De fide et perfidia</i>
DI	<i>De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra</i>
DJBP	<i>De jure belli ac pacis</i>
DJPC	<i>De jure praedae commentarius</i>
ICJ Rep.	<i>International Court of Justice Reports</i>
IHR	<i>Inleidinge tot de Hollandsche Rechts-geleerdheid</i>
ML	<i>Mare liberum</i>
OHWP	<i>Ordinum Hollandiae et Westfrisiae pietas</i>
OTh	<i>Opera omnia theologica</i>
RpE	<i>De republica emendanda</i>
UNTS	United Nations Treaty Series, <a href="https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Content.aspx?path=DB/UNTS/pageIntro_en.xml">https://treaties.un.org/Pages/Content.aspx?path=DB/UNTS/pageIntro_en.xml</a>

## Editions and Translations of Grotius' Work

References throughout the chapters are to these editions and translations, except when indicated otherwise at the end of the chapter.

*Sacra in quibus Adamus exul tragoedia* (The Hague, 1601).

'Adam's exile', in: W. KirkConnell, *The Celestial Cycle: The Theme of Paradise Lost in World Literature with Translations of the Major Analogues* (Toronto, 1952).

*Annotationes in libros evangeliorum. Cum tribus tractatibus et Appendice eo spectantibus* (Amsterdam, 1641).

*The Antiquity of the Batavian Republic with the Notes by Petrus Scriverius*, ed. and transl. J. Waszink (Bibliotheca Latinitatis Novae; Assen, 2000).

P.C. Molhuysen, B.L. Meulenbroek, P.P. Witkam, H.J.M. Nellen and C.M. Ridderikhoff (eds.), *Briefwisseling van Hugo Grotius 1597-1645* (17 vols., The Hague, 1928-2001).

*De imperio summarum potestatum circa sacra: Critical Edition with Introduction, English Translation, and Commentary*, ed. and transl. H.J. Van Dam (2 vols., Leiden, 2001).

*Inleidinge tot de Hollandsche rechts-geleerdheid*, eds. F. Dovring, H.F.W.D. Fischer and E.M. Meijers (Leiden, 1952).

*The Jurisprudence of Holland*, transl. R.W. Lee (Oxford, 1936).

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