This pioneering and innovative study challenges modern assumptions of what constitutes the political and the public in Renaissance thought. Offering gendered readings of a wide array of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century political thinkers, with a particular focus on the two prime thinkers of the early modern state, Niccolò Machiavelli and Jean Bodin, Anna Becker reconstructs a neglected but important classical tradition in political thought. Exploring how ‘the political’ was incorporated into a range of ‘private’ or ‘apolitical’ topics by early modern thinkers, Becker demonstrates how both republican and absolutist thinkers – the two poles which organise early modern political thought – relied on gendered justifications. In doing so, she reveals how the foundations of the modern state were significantly shaped by gendered concerns.

**Anna Becker** is Professor MSO in the Department of Philosophy and History of Ideas at Aarhus University. She has published widely on topics in early modern political thought and political culture, including political Aristotelianism, oeconomics and gender, and colonial masculinities. She was awarded the Balzan–Skinner Fellowship for Modern Intellectual History 2014/15.
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GENDERING THE RENAISSANCE COMMONWEALTH

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# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acknowledgements</th>
<th>page vi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note on the Text</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Introduction

1. The Civic and the Domestic in Aristotelian Thought  
   page 13

2. Friendship, Concord, and Machiavellian Subversion  
   page 49

3. Jean Bodin and the Politics of the Family  
   page 106

4. Inclusions and Exclusions  
   page 145

5. Sovereign Men and Subjugated Women: The Invention of a Tradition  
   page 179

## Conclusion: From Wives to Children, from Husbands to Fathers  
Page 222

## Bibliography  
Page 228

## Index  
Page 230
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Note on the Text

Editions
Where available, I have used modern critical editions of all medieval and early modern works cited. Where such have not been available, I have used the first editions where possible, and where not, the earliest possible subsequent edition. Exceptions to this rule are indicated in the text.

Translations and Spelling
All translations are my own unless indicated. I have generally given the original Latin, French, and Italian without altering spellings or punctuation where practicable. Contractions are written out in full. While I have retained the original sixteenth-century spelling of ‘republique’ when citing quotations in the footnotes, I have used the modern spelling ‘république’ in the text.