

## THE MAKING OF AN IMPERIAL POLITY

Bringing to life the interaction between America, its peoples, and metropolitan gentlemen in early seventeenth-century England, this book argues that colonization did not just operate on the peripheries of the political realm, and confronts the entangled histories of colonialism and domestic status and governance. The Jacobean era is reframed as a definitive moment in which the civil self-presentation of the elite increasingly became implicated in the imperial. The tastes and social lives of statesmen contributed to this shift in the English political gaze. At the same time, bringing English political civility in dialogue with Native American beliefs and practices speaks to inherent tensions in the state's civilizing project and the pursuit of refinement through empire. This significant reassessment of Jacobean political culture reveals how colonizing America transformed English civility and demonstrates how metropolitan politics and social relations were uniquely shaped by territorial expansion beyond the British Isles. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

LAUREN WORKING is Research Associate on the ERC-funded TIDE project (Travel, Transculturality, and Identity in England, 1550–1700) at the University of Oxford. She has held fellowships at the Jamestown archaeological site and the Royal Anthropological Institute, where she continues to develop methodologies and projects that explore indigeneity, colonial legacies, and heritage in English museums.

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# THE MAKING OF AN IMPERIAL POLITY

*Civility and America in the Jacobean Metropolis*

LAUREN WORKING

*University of Oxford*



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Riches, *and* Conquest, *and* Renowne I sing  
Riches *with honour*, Conquest *without bloud*.<sup>1</sup>

Kekuttokâunta, *Let us speake together*.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> George Chapman, 'De Guiana, Carmen Epicum', in Lawrence Kemys, *A relation of the second voyage to Guiana* (1596; STC 14947), sig. Av.

<sup>2</sup> Roger Williams, *A key into the language of America* (1643; Wing W2766), sig. E5r.

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Powhatans in Jacobean Political Thought', my contribution to *Virginia 1619: Slavery and Freedom in the Making of English America*, ed. Paul Musselwhite, Peter Mancall, and James Horn (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019), 42–59. Chapter 5 engages with some material from my article 'Locating Colonization at the Jacobean Inns of Court', *The Historical Journal*, 61 (2018), 29–51, published by Cambridge University Press. Both are reproduced here with permission.

My family, though closer to the place of Francis Drake's landing in California than to London, offered wholehearted support from 5,000 miles away, and have always nurtured my rather fanciful love of history. And a book that ends with a discussion of friendship is keenly aware of the importance of friends. I am grateful to those kindred spirits I have found within academia, particularly Finola Finn, and to all those outside of it, who indulged my talk about humanists and featherwork while knowing when to lure me to distraction, and who reminded me that writing a book about Protestant politics could leave room for sweet disorder and a little baroque. While Ciceronian evocations of twinned hearts and blazing souls may seem somewhat extravagant today, the gratitude remains.

## *Note on Conventions*

Original spellings and punctuations have not been altered, except to distinguish between vowels and consonants at a time when *u* and *v*, and *i* and *j*, were often used interchangeably. Scribal abbreviations in manuscripts have been expanded for clarity, designated in the text with brackets. Dates are given in the Old Style (the Julian calendar), with the year adjusted to begin on 1 January. Unless otherwise stated, early modern books were printed in London.