

POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE FRENCH WARS OF RELIGION

Through its close, critical reading of the political treatises and polemical literature produced in France in the sixteenth century, this book offers a valuable new contribution to the intellectual history of the Early Modern era. Sophie Nicholls analyses the political thought of the theologians and jurists in the Holy League as they pursued their crusade against heresy in the French kingdom, during the wars of religion (1562–1629). Contemporaries portrayed the Leaguers as rebellious anarchists, who harboured dangerously democratic ideas. In contrast, Nicholls demonstrates that the intellectuals in the movement were devoted royalists, who had more in common with their moderate counterparts, the ‘politiques’. In paying close attention to the conceptual language of politics in this era, this book shows how members of the League presented visions of sovereignty that subtly replenished medieval ideas of kingship and priesthood, and endeavoured to replace them with a new synthesis of intellectual tradition and political power. In a period when ‘the state’ was still emerging as an idea, analysing League thought in the context of Jesuit and Second Scholastic sources positions the Leaguers in relation to innovative attempts in European Catholic circles to re-think the nature of belonging to a political community.

SOPHIE NICHOLLS is a College Lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of Oxford. She specialises in the French wars of religion and her interests range from the intersection between theological and juridical conceptions of politics, to developing conceptions of citizenship and rights in the Early Modern era.

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THE FRENCH WARS OF
RELIGION

SOPHIE NICHOLLS

University of Oxford



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This book is dedicated to the memory of my father

Contents

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page ix
	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xi
	Introduction	i
1	Contextualising the League	18
2	The <i>Politique</i> Leaguer	35
	‘In the Midst of the Dance’: The Problem of Politics	42
	Redefining the <i>Politique</i>	53
	Machiavellism	57
3	Frank and Free	62
	Locating Sovereign Power	68
	Guardians of the Constitution	74
	The Ancient Constitution	83
	Salic Law	87
4	The Church ‘in’ the Commonwealth	94
	The Ancient Constitution of the Gallican Church	94
	Pierre de Belloy’s Challenge to the League	102
	Command and Obedience	109
5	‘British Thunderbolts’: Papal Power and the League	115
	Conciliar Authority and Tridentine Reform	122
	Abjuration and Resolution	128
6	Scholasticism in the Political Thought of the League	134
	Scholastic Arguments for Tyrannicide	138
	Natural Political Community	145
	Natural and Divine Law	153
	Blackwood’s <i>Pro Regibus Apologia</i>	160

viii	<i>Contents</i>	
7	Jean Bodin and the League	167
	Jean Bodin and René Choppin	174
	The Reception of Bodin's Ideas in the 1580s	177
8	<i>Amor Patriae</i>	185
	The Idea of <i>la Patrie</i>	187
	Natives by Religion	190
	English Exiles and the Catholic League	198
	Robert Persons' <i>Conference</i> in the League Context	204
	Conclusion	213
	<i>Bibliography</i>	223
	<i>Index</i>	261

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This book is dedicated to the memory of my father, David, who preferred mountains to libraries and whose sense of humour, courage and resilience remain a constant source of inspiration.

Abbreviations

Barclay, <i>De Regno</i>	William Barclay, <i>De Regno et Regali Potestate adversus Buchananum, Brutum, Boucherium et reliquos monarchomachos, libri sex</i> (Paris, 1600).
Belloy, <i>Apologie Catholique</i>	Pierre de Belloy, <i>Apologie catholique contre les libelles, declarations, advis et consultations . . . publiees par les liguez perturbateurs du repos du royaume de France</i> (n.p., 1585)
Belloy, <i>Apologia Catholica</i>	Pierre de Belloy, <i>Apologia catholica ad famosos et seditiosos libellos conjuratorum qui ab Alenconii regii fratris unici obitu, ad turbendam publicam regni francici tranquillitatem</i> (n.p., 1584)
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale
Bodin, <i>République</i>	Jean Bodin, <i>Les Six Livres de la République</i> (Paris, 1576)
Bodin, <i>De Republica</i>	Jean Bodin, <i>De Republica Libri Sex</i> (Lyon/Paris, 1586)
Boucher, <i>De Justa Abdicatione</i>	Jean Boucher, <i>De Justa Abdicatione Henrici Tertii e Francorum regno, libri quatuor</i> (Paris, 1589)
Cayet, <i>Chronologie Novenaire</i>	Palma Cayet, <i>Chronologie Novenaire contenant l'histoire de la guerre sous le règne du tres-chrestien roy de France et de Navarre Henry VIII</i> , 3 vols (Paris, 1608)

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| Choppin, <i>De Domanio Franciae</i> | René Choppin, <i>De Domanio Franciae libri III</i> (Paris, 1574) |
| De Thou, <i>Histoire Universelle</i> | Jacques-Auguste de Thou, <i>Histoire Universelle</i> , 16 vols (London, 1734) |
| Dorléans, <i>Banquet</i> | Louis Dorléans, <i>Le banquet et aprèsdisnée du conte d'Arete, où il se traicte de la dissimulation du Roi de Navarre, & des moeurs de ses partisans</i> (Paris, 1594) |
| Goulart, <i>Mémoires de la Ligue</i> | Simon Goulart, <i>Mémoires de la Ligue. Contenant les événements les plus remarquables depuis 1576, jusqu'à la paix accordée entre le Roi de France et le Roi d'Espagne en 1598</i> , 6 vols (Amsterdam, 1758) |
| Goulart, <i>l'Etat de France</i> | Simon Goulart, <i>Memoires de l'estat de France, sous Charles IX. Seconde edition, reveuë, corrigee & augmentee</i> , 3 vols (Geneva, 1578) |
| Hotman, <i>Francogallia</i> | François Hotman, <i>Francogallia Editio tertia locupletior</i> (Cologne, 1576) and (<i>Francogallia</i> 1586)
François Hotman, <i>Francogallia</i> (Frankfurt, 1586) and (<i>Francogallia</i> ed. Salmon and Giesey) François Hotman, <i>Francogallia</i> , ed. and trans. R. E. Giesey, J. H. M Salmon (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972) |
| Rossaeus, <i>De Justa Reipublicae Christianae Autoritate</i> | 'Guilielmus Rossaeus', <i>De Justa Reipublicae Christianae in Reges Impios et Haereticos Autoritate: justissimaque catholicorum ad Henricum Navarraeum & quemcunque haereticum a regno Galliae repellendum confederatione liber</i> (Paris, 1590) |
| L'Estoile, M-J | Pierre de L'Estoile, <i>Mémoires-Journaux de Pierre de l'Estoile. Édition pour la première fois complète et entièrement conforme aux manuscrits</i> |

List of Abbreviations

xiii

- originaux*, ed. M. M. G. Brunet, A. Champollion, E. Halphen, P. Lacroix, C. Read, T. de Larroque, E. Tricotel, 12 vols (Paris, 1875–83)
- Montaigne, *Essais* Michel de Montaigne, *Les Essais*, ed. J. Balsamo et al. (Paris: Gallimard, 2007)
- Vindiciae* *Vindiciae, contra tyrannos* (Edinburgh [Basle], 1579) and (ed. Garnett) *Vindiciae, contra tyrannos*, ed. and trans. G. Garnett (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)