

## REASON AND EXPERIENCE IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

Political life in Renaissance Italy was held together by political principles which underlay, or were used to justify, political proposals and decisions in practice. This wide-ranging comparative survey examines these political principles, as expressed in sources such as council debates, preambles to legislation and official correspondence, in mid-fifteenth to mid-sixteenth-century Italy.

Focusing especially on the five republics – Florence, Venice, Genoa, Siena and Lucca – the book also considers princes and *signori*, and the principles underlying relations between states, particularly relations between major and minor powers. Many of the ideas articulated by those confronting practical political problems ranged beyond the questions dealt with in formal treatises of political thought and philosophy. Drawing on extensive archival research, Christine Shaw explores the relationship between ‘reason and experience’ in the conduct of political affairs in Renaissance Italy, and the gap between theory and practice.

CHRISTINE SHAW has published extensively on the political society of Renaissance Italy, including *Barons and Castellans: The Military Nobility of Renaissance Italy* (2015), *Popular Government and Oligarchy in Renaissance Italy* (2006) and *The Politics of Exile in Renaissance Italy* (2000).

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
	<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	viii
	<b>Introduction: Reason and Experience</b>	1
<b>1</b>	<b>Union, Faction and Political Participation</b>	15
	‘There Is Nothing That Poses Greater Danger to the Preservation of Cities than Dissension among Those Who Govern Them’	16
	‘It Is the Duty of a Good Citizen to Speak Freely, Although He Might Be in Error’	31
	‘In Republics . . . No Ranks Are Recognized’	36
<b>2</b>	<b>Sharing in Office, Sharing in Power</b>	47
	‘Those Who Deserve Less, Always Seek for More and Plead for More’	48
	‘The Reward of Age, of Merits and of Virtues’	53
	‘It Befits Justice and Equity to Provide That All May Share in Offices and Magistracies’	65
	‘The Fairer and More Comprehensive Way’	70
<b>3</b>	<b>Supreme Authority and Executive Power</b>	82
	‘The True and Supreme Prince of Your Republic’	82
	‘Freely Consulting and Deciding Will Be Liberty’	89
	‘The Republic Can Be Divided Into Two Parts, Into Public and Private’	97
<b>4</b>	<b>Public Finances and Private Interests</b>	103
	‘It Is Just That All Citizens Should Bear the Burdens of Their City’	104
	‘He Who Has More Should Pay More’	112
	‘The Public Finances Are the Sinews of the Republic’	129
	‘The Idleness of Citizens . . . Is Usually the Ruin of the People’	137
<b>5</b>	<b>A Well-ordered Republic</b>	145
	‘The Venetian Republic, Which Should Be the Mirror to Every Republic’	147

	‘If Ever There Was Any Well-ordered City or Republic, It Is Our Republic’	151
	‘With Changing Customs and Times, Reform of the Laws Is Also Desirable’	155
	‘The Administration of Justice Is the Universal Foundation of All the Cities and States of the World’	163
<b>6</b>	<b>The Legitimacy of Princely Rule</b>	<b>176</b>
	‘True and Undoubted Lords’	177
	‘I Am Not the Lord of Florence, But a Citizen of Some Authority’	190
	‘It Is the Nature of Lords to Wish to Be Obeyed’	204
	‘The State in Itself Is a Lifeless Thing, and Everything That Is Done in It Should Be Attributed to the Lord Who Rules and Governs It’	212
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Libertà</i> and the Community of Italian Powers</b>	<b>234</b>
	‘For the Peace, Union, Tranquillity and Good of Italy’	235
	‘The Only Father and Most Particular Refuge of Our <i>Libertà</i> and State’	241
	‘It Should Not Be Permissible for Any Party to Nominate as <i>Aderenti</i> or <i>Raccomandati</i> the Subjects or Vassals of Another’	254
	‘Tempered Liberty’	258
	‘If You Wish to Stay Friends, His Majesty Will Not Agree Unless You Pay Him a Good Sum, as the Others Do Who Are Under His Protection’	272
	‘To Live Free, Although under the Shade and Protection of His Majesty, Who Cannot Be Said to Impinge on Their <i>Libertà</i> by Using His Imperial Authority’	276
	‘I Would Like to See the French in France, the Spanish in Spain, and the Italians in Italy’	290
<b>8</b>	<b>Practice and Theory</b>	<b>293</b>
	<b>Conclusion: Republics and <i>Signorie</i></b>	<b>327</b>
	<i>Bibliography</i>	334
	<i>Index</i>	354

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AGS	=	Simancas, Archivo General
ASBol	=	Bologna, Archivio di Stato
ASF	=	Firenze, Archivio di Stato
ASF, MAP	=	Firenze, Archivio di Stato, Mediceo avanti il Principato
ASG, AS	=	Genoa, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Segreto
ASL	=	Lucca, Archivio di Stato
ASMan, AGonzaga	=	Mantua, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Gonzaga
ASMil, ASforzesco	=	Milan, Archivio di Stato, Archivio Sforzesco
ASS	=	Siena, Archivio di Stato
ASV	=	Venice, Archivio di Stato