EUROPEAN POLITICAL THOUGHT 1600–1700

W. M. Spellman

Associate Professor of History University of North Carolina, Asheville



CONTENTS

Time-Line Preface		ıx xi
1	Civil Authority in an Unfamiliar Setting	8
	Preliminary Assumptions	10
	Monarchs	13
	Types of Counsellors	16
	The Ruled	20
	Principal Objectives	24
	Shared Perspectives	29
	The Best Form	32
2	Contours of Absolute Monarchy	34
	Why Absolutism?	35
	Appearance and Reality	38
	General Assumptions and Specific	
	Impediments	44
	Duty, Moderation, Natural Law	50
	Jean Bodin and James VI and I	53
	Bossuet, Filmer and Scripture	59
	Celestial Mandates	65
3	Constitutions and Consent	67
	Appeals to Tradition	70
	Ancient Constitutions	86
	The Beginnings of Popular Sovereignty	89
	Locke's Christian Contractualism	92
	Transitions	101

viii Contents

4	Republicanism Rekindled	103
	Unintended Republic	106
	England's Experiment	110
	Initial Expedients	113
	Milton's Contribution	115
	Seventeenth-century Democracy	118
	Religion and 'True Levellers'	124
	Harrington's Determinism	126
	Some Sequels	131
5	The Emergence of the Modern State	135
	Natural Law without Divinity	137
	States without Confessions	145
	Individual Rights	152
	The State as Human Artifact	158
	A Late Dissent	166
Co	onclusion: Exit Divinity	171
No	otes and References	182
Index		202