



Machiavelli, Hobbes, and the Formation of a Liberal Republicanism in England

By Vickie B. Sullivan

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Certain English writers of the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, whom scholars often associate with classical republicanism, were not, in fact, hostile to liberalism. Indeed, these thinkers contributed to a synthesis of liberalism and modern republicanism. As this book argues, Marchamont Nedham, James Harrington, Henry Neville, Algernon Sidney, and John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon, the coauthors of a series of editorials entitled Cato's Letters, provide a synthesis that responds to the demands of both republicans and liberals by offering a politically engaged citizenry as well as the protection of individual rights. The book also reinterprets the writings of Machiavelli and Hobbes to show that each contributed in a fundamental way to the formation of this liberal republicanism.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1043178 in Books
- Published on: 2006-12-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .67" w x 5.98" l, .96 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 296 pages

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