



Declaring War in Early Modern Europe

By F. Baumgartner

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A noteworthy development in recent history has been the disappearance of formal declarations of war. Using primary sources, this book examines the history of declaring war in the early modern era up to the writing of the US Constitution to identify the influence of early modern history on the framing of the Constitution.

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Editorial Review

Review

'A valuable addition to collections on international law and diplomatic practice. Recommended.' CHOICE

"A wide-ranging study that focuses on the early-modern period but in fact tackles the entire historical background to the question of whether a declaration of war is necessary. An excellent example of how a major historian can make his knowledge relevant to contemporary discussions." - Jeremy Black, Professor of History, University of Exeter

"This study explores the legalistic and religious traditions that undergirded the declaration of war from the ancient world through the eighteenth century. In particular, it focuses on the transformative developments in the sixteenth century. Readers will welcome Baumgartner's ability to intertwine theory and practice and to illustrate the disjunction between law and its realization, what the Germans called *Rechtsverwirklichung*. It illumines larger questions such as the development of the international state system and of international law and the evolution of the theory of just war, especially in the early modern period when war or the threat of war was so pervasive. This book adds to Baumgartner's impressive corpus of work on the early modern era." - Linda Frey, Professor of European History, the University of Montana and Marsha Frey, Professor of History, University of Kansas

"The early modern period around which most of the book centers is indeed a formative one for the development of ideas and practices concerning the declaration of war. Baumgartner has done a good job in assessing the secondary literature and situating his topic in its historiographical context. More importantly, he has assembled an impressive body of primary source material, particularly deriving from thinkers on war. Overall, this is a perceptive, thorough, and useful study of a neglected topic." - Frank Tallett, Head of School of Humanities, University of Reading, UK

About the Author

FREDERIC J. BAUMGARTNER Professor of History at Virginia Tech, USA and the author of the Palgrave titles *Behind Locked Doors: A History of the Papal Elections* (2003), *Longing for the End: A History of Millennialism in Western Civilization* (1999), and *France in the Sixteenth Century* (1995).

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