

this period throughout his study.

This book is essentially a compendium of much of the work on early modern English women writers that has been done in the past two decades. It would be an excellent companion to Salzman's *Early Modern Women's Writing: An Anthology, 1560-1700* (Oxford 2000). Although the titles of both books are bit misleading, both are specifically about English women's writing, and would make good texts for courses that address early modern English literature. This book in particular would provide an excellent introduction to the field of early modern English women's writing for undergraduate and graduate students, and Salzman's contextualization of historical and current commentary on the vicissitudes of these women's writing will appeal to specialists in the field.

Martine Julia van Ittersum. *Profit and Principle. Hugo Grotius, Natural Rights Theories and the Rise of Dutch Power in the East Indies (1595-1615)*. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2006. lxx + 538 pp. Includes b&w illustrations and 8 maps. \$199.00. Review by JAKUB BASISTA, JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, KRAKÓW.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1603, Jacob van Heemskerck's small Dutch fleet attacked a Portuguese carrack in the waters of the Singapore Straits. After a day's fighting, the Portuguese captain surrendered his damaged *Santa Catarina*. The ship was carrying cargo intended for Europe, which was worth at least £ 300,000 according to the contemporary exchange rate. The Dutch, who had left their home country two years earlier, could return with the loot to satisfy the shareholders of the VOC (*Vereenighde Oostindische Compagnie* or *United Dutch East India Company*). (No dividends were paid to the shareholders until 1610, as all profit was reinvested in the company.)

A typical act of piracy, one would observe nowadays. One of the many similar undertaken by the English, Dutch and other privateers against the Spanish and Portuguese ships in the world's oceans in the early modern period.

Yet the clash between the Portuguese merchant and the Dutch fleet is but an excuse for the author of the discussed work to study the

contemporary political thought of the Dutch, in particular of Hugo Grotius. Martine Julia van Ittersum's book is not a history of Dutch piracy and trade in the Far East, but rather a study of political thought at the turn of the sixteenth to seventeenth centuries concerned with the right of various nations to undertake colonial trade and rivalry against other colonial powers.

It is Grotius' defence of the right of the Dutch to engage in privateering actions across the globe, in particular in reference to the above-mentioned incident, which resulted in the writing and publishing of his *De Jure Praedae*, which opens the book. This work was written to defend the captain of the Dutch fleet which attacked the Portuguese, but had much broader aims, argues the author. Grotius and the VOC directors engaged in a campaign to prove the rights of every nation to defend itself against aggressors. In well documented and brilliantly argued chapters two and four of her book, the author discusses Grotius' use of the so-called Spanish Black Legend to defend Dutch actions in the Far East and to provide arguments for peace negotiations with Philip III, which would open the East Indies for Dutch merchants. In particular, we learn how the killing of seventeen Dutch sailors by the Portuguese in the Far East was linked by the Dutch lawyer with the shadow of the Iberian Black Legend to justify the Dutch 'just' warfare against the Portuguese and Spanish ships. VOC, argues Grotius, waged a just war in the light of natural law, which was transgressed against by the two leading colonial empires.

These arguments, which find their way into *De Jure Praedae*, are followed by Grotius' direct involvement in peace negotiations on behalf of the Dutch—first with the Archduke Albert (and subsequently with Philip III) in the years 1608/09, and next with England in the Anglo-Dutch colonial conferences of 1613 and 1615. It was Grotius' arguments presented in his *Mare Liberum*, outlining the right of all nations to free trade and navigation, which played an important role in the coming to terms of the 'Twelve Years' Truce.

Paradoxically, the same arguments were put forth against the Dutch in their discussions of colonial matters with the English. Yet the arguments of free trade and navigation were countered by the Dutch (Grotius himself) on the basis of an obligation to fulfil already signed contracts. *Pacta sunt servanda*, argues Grotius, even if these *pacta*

were signed with local, native, non-European or non-Christian inhabitants.

In her work Martine Julia van Ittersum presents Grotius as a theorist of rights and contract theories as well as a practitioner of those theories who acted as a negotiator and lawyer of Dutch colonialism and the VOC in particular. In an elegant and very well written book Grotius' theory is analysed and linked with contemporary politics, in which the political philosopher was involved personally. Grotius' thought formed the cornerstone of Western imperial theory in the early modern period. At the same time it had very practical aims—to undermine the Spanish and Portuguese domination of the world's oceans resulting from the Treaties of Tordesillas and Saragossa, but also to justify and legitimize the Dutch entry into the East India exchange market.

*Profit and Principle* is indeed a very important contribution to our understanding of the colonial expansion in the early modern period. The author has convincingly linked the theoretical considerations of Hugo Grotius with the practical actions of the Dutch (VOC in particular) and the contemporary political scene between Philip III as a ruler of both Spain and Portugal and The Netherlands on the one hand, and England and The Netherlands on the other. Thus we have received a very valuable and important book for historians of political thought, of colonial expansion and empires, but also a history of the Dutch and their struggle for independence.

David Hoyle. *Reformation and Religious Identity in Cambridge, 1590-1644*. The History of the University of Cambridge: Texts and Studies, 6. Woodbridge: Boydell Press and Cambridge University Library, 2007. x + 256 pp. \$105.00. Review by BRAD S. GREGORY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME.

This book is a history of the intellectual, institutional, and political dimensions of theology in the colleges of Cambridge University from the later years of Elizabeth I's reign up to the First Civil War and the Parliamentary Visitation of 1644, which so disrupted university life. Hoyle's study is arranged as a narrative in seven chapters.