



Collection 21: Peace and Governance

Navigating the Turbulent Times of the Early Modern Era

This collection brings together an eclectic range of printed items to present a selection on the theme of peace and governance. Drawn from four partner libraries – The Netherlands' Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Italy's Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, Denmark's Kongelige Bibliotek and the Wellcome Library in London – the collection features books, pamphlets and other shorter documents totaling over 5000 items and circa 250,000 pages.

The early modern period was marked by tremendous social upheaval and recurrent warfare. The collection highlights this reality through numerous items relating to specific conflicts, including the Dutch Revolt, the English Civil War and the Europe-wide Thirty Years' War.

The Thirty Years' War, largely waged within the Holy Roman Empire from 1618 to 1648, was one of the most destructive wars in European history. Although religion was a significant factor that contributed to the outbreak of the war, it soon also became driven by the contest for European dominance between the Habsburgs in Austria, the Spanish kings, the French House of Bourbon and later, ambitious rulers such as Christian IV of Denmark and Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, who also held territories within the Empire. The conflict concluded with the 1648 Peace of Westphalia, whose provisions included greater autonomy within the Empire for states like Bavaria and Saxony, as well as acceptance of Dutch independence by Spain.

A selection of military handbooks – many sourced from Italy's BNCF – acts as a reminder of war's ubiquity. Typifying print's increasing expansion into new and specialised areas, these handbooks include works by Girolamo Cattaneo on military architecture, Giovanni Francesco Fiammelli on military engineering and Ascanio Centorio Degli Ortensi on good

Collection 21: Peace and Governance

Sources:

- Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF)
Florence National Central Library
- Det Kongelige Bibliotek (KBDK)
The Royal Library, Copenhagen
- Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBNL)
The Royal Library of the Netherlands in The Hague
- The Wellcome Library, London

Approx. 250,000 pages, 5000 items

Launch: November 2022



about.proquest.com

To talk to the sales department, contact us at
1-800-779-0137 or sales@proquest.com.

ProQuest

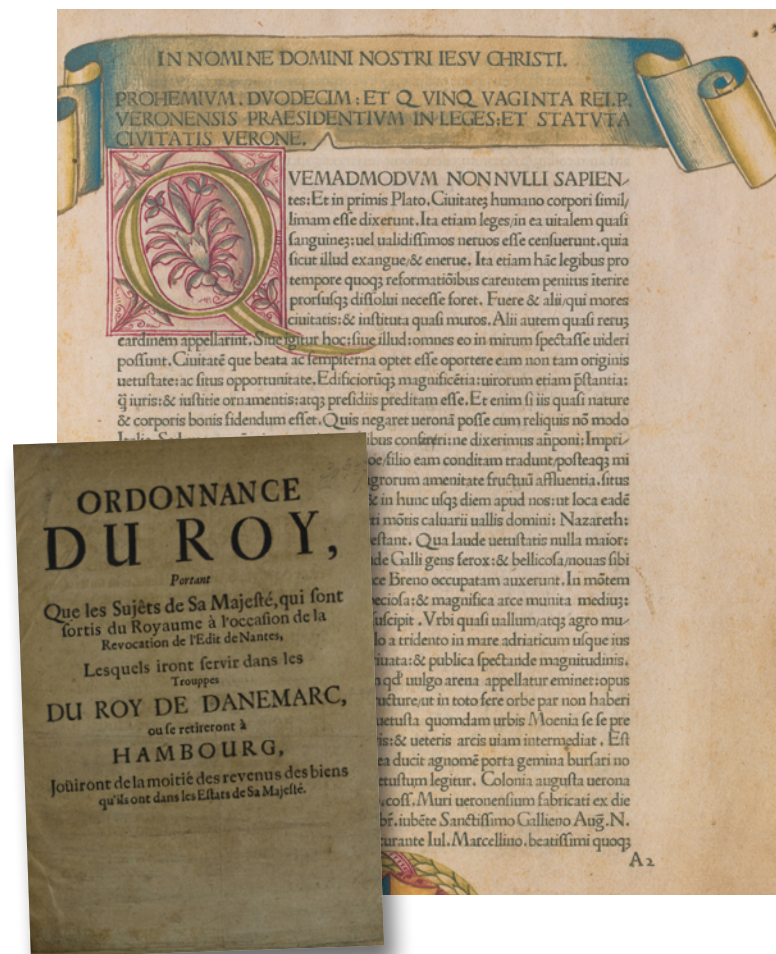
Part of **Clarivate**

generalship. Appearing too are propagandist pieces that seek to stress the atrocities of war rather than its science. For example, there are two 17th-century Amsterdam reprintings of the seminal work by Bartholomé de las Casas exposing the sadistic treatment of the natives of the West Indies by Spanish Conquistadors. Bound with both these volumes are later, anonymous texts that mirror the earlier work through their depiction of similar treatment visited on the rebellious Dutch by Habsburg Spain.

Alongside these documents, and making up the great majority of Collection 21, are a broad selection of contemporary political tracts such as the Peace Treaty of Westphalia (1648) between the King of Spain and the Dutch Republic. They cover the conditions of eternal peace (1648); a memorandum written by the Ambassador of Spain to the States General about the war with the (Catholic) Bishop of Münster (Stephano de Gamarra:1665); negotiation points between France, England and the Dutch Republic to pacify the two Kings of Sweden and Denmark; the Swedish war tragedy (1660); and the Treaty of Peace between the Dutch Republic and England, signed at Breda (1667).

Another aspect of these Dutch printings is the evidence they give of the governing power and influence of two of the world's earliest multinational corporations, the Dutch East India Company or *VOC* and the Dutch West India Company or *WIC*. Through a series of assorted documents, fascinating details of their daily functioning can be glimpsed through print copies of trade agreements and treaties, administrative letters penned by their representatives, and descriptions of conflicts with rival companies and distant peoples.

Combined with larger works on jurisprudence, including items by notable legislators and legal theorists such as the Dutch pioneer of international law - Hugo Grotius – Collection 21 offers a range of resources that gathers contemporary ideas of governance with the articulation of actual policy. Throughout, a wealth of material is provided which offers researchers the possibility of new discovery and new understandings both of early modern polity and of early modern society at large in times of turbulent change.



**Learn more about life and culture in the early modern era
with ProQuest's Early European Books.**



about.proquest.com

To talk to the sales department, contact us at
1-800-779-0137 or **sales@proquest.com**.