Treason, Passion and Power

in England, 1660 - 1685

By

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B. Sc. (Hons), B. Int. St. (Hons)

A Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

The University of Adelaide

School of History and Politics

December 2013

Word Count: 77,659
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ABSTRACT

General rejoicing greeted the Restoration of Charles II to the English throne in 1660; however the twenty-five year reign of the “merry monarch” was to become one characterised by division and dissent. This thesis analyses the passions of the period, which, although hitherto underexplored by historians, played a key role in Restoration politics. Emotions not only defined individual and national identity, but also framed the bond between subject and sovereign. This study illuminates the foundation of this relationship by tracing public expression of the passions in political and print culture surrounding treason trials, from the first decade of the king’s reign to the infamous plots of the Exclusion period. The connection between the king and his people became increasingly fraught as a result of the decreasing popularity of the Stuarts, in conjunction with a changing concept of the English nation, in which the person of the king was seen as distinct from the concept of kingship and the office of the crown. Seventeenth-century individuals and communities revealed themselves to be more than capable of using emotion to both communicate political desires and to renegotiate the balance of power between the supporters and opponents of the king. By establishing that the passions were central to civic and political behaviour, rather than the antithesis of reason, as later perceptions would suggest, this study contributes both to the history of emotions and to the history of politics in Restoration England.
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I certify that this work contains no material which had been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the approval of the University of Adelaide and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint-award of this degree.

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Elsa Reuter,
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I must acknowledge the many people who have made the process of writing this thesis not only possible but also, to a large extent, enjoyable. First and foremost, I would like to thank my supervisors David Lemmings and Claire Walker for their patience, tolerance and invaluable advice. As a beneficiary of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, I have also had the great fortune to receive advice from numerous researchers within the centre including, Katie Barclay and Una McIlvenna. In particular, I would like to thank Ross Knecht and Brandon Chua for stimulating discussions on the nature of language and performance in early modern politics, and Merridee Bailey, Francois Soyer and Nicole Starbuck for generously giving of their time to provide feedback on sections of this thesis. I also owe a debt of gratitude to Thomas Buchanan for discussions that allowed me to envision the broader contribution this thesis could make to historians studying societies geographically and temporally distinct from Restoration England.

As anyone who has undertaken a PhD will understand, the process of writing a doctoral thesis is far more than an academic exercise. As a result, I must also extend my gratitude to the others who have accompanied me on this journey, especially my fellow graduate students and in particular Alexia Moncrieff, Alex Davis, Jill MacKenzie, Kelly Birch, Bodie Ashton, Elizabeth Connelly, Philip Ritson, Jenny Haag, Steven Anderson, Jenny Kalionis and Melanie Cooper-Dobbin. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank Ruth Reuter who read every word of this thesis, often multiple times, provided critical feedback, and still expressed enthusiasm. It is to her unfailing trust in my abilities, sometimes contrary to the evidence, and unconditional support that I ultimately owe this thesis.
ILLUSTRATIONS


2. *Iam redit Astraea, Redeunt Saturnia regna, Iam nova progenies, caelo*
   
   *Demittitur alto* (Now a new generation is let down from Heaven above),
   
   London, 1660, 87.

3. Frontispiece to *The Second Tome of An Exact Chronological Vindication and Historical Demonstration of our British, Roman, Saxon, Danish, Norman and English Kings Supream Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*, London, 1665, 112.


5. *The Committee; or Popery in Masquerade*, 1680, 181.


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# Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td><em>CJ</em></td>
<td><em>Journals of the House of Commons</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>CSPD</em></td>
<td><em>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oxford DNB</em></td>
<td><em>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SL</strong></td>
<td><em>The Statutes At Large from Magna Charta to the Twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of King George the Third</em>, inclusive, ed. Charles Runnington, 14 vols. 1786.</td>
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