

DOWNLOAD PDF IMAGINATION AND POLITICS IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Chapter 1 : Imagination and Politics in Seventeenth-Century England: 1st Edition (e-Book) - Routledge

By focusing not on reason or the will but on the imagination, Butler uncovers a political culture in seventeenth-century England that is far more shifting and multi-polar than has been previously recognized.

This is a book that will have appeal for a generalist reader looking for a broad-spectrum understanding of the subject as well as a more specialist reader whose specific interests lie in one of the aspects of the legal profession. This is a book that will appeal, and be of great value, to anyone who is beginning their research in legal history. Not only does it provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject, it also extensively lists both the primary and secondary sources available on the subject. This is a significant work that will assist researchers and students for many years. Diana Jefferies Sydney, N. This is an original contribution to the crowded scholarly field that investigates intellectual history and the scholarly and artistic circles of seventeenth-century England. He is largely concerned with manifestations of imaginative capacity during this time, especially as shown in the court masques and political crises of the era. His approach throughout is strongly multi-disciplinary, drawing on constitutional history, literature, scientific discourse and other seventeenth-century approaches to the imagination. He broadens familiar scholarly conceptions of a clash between King and Parliament into a reading of the Civil Wars as a cognitive process and an assessment of the very real political power which resided in imaginative capacities. Overall, Butler asserts the power which resided in imagination. Butler also places historical debates about the implications of imagination into an English context, especially the religious contests about images which occurred during the Tudor period under King Edward VI. Again, Butler argues for the imagination as conveying potentially dangerous insights and provoking harmful thoughts. His chapters further express the ambivalent place occupied by the imagination in seventeenth-century English thought. His first chapter reveals this ambivalence in the writings of Francis Bacon, who argued for imagination as a primary element of human thought in his *Advancement of Learning*. Yet as Butler points out, modern interpreters of Baconian science have tended to view Bacon as hostile to imaginative capacities p. Caroline masques have received extensive scholarly attention. For many years, it seemed that Stephen Orgel and Roy Strong had had the last word on them, not simply through cataloguing plot, music and costume but in reading them within the context of the history of ideas. Yet Butler shows imagination to have been a contested property during the Caroline period, especially popular imagination. Overall the text would have benefited from a slightly sharper focus. Given that Butler argues for the intersection of imagination and politics, his treatment of the constitutional history was at times disjointed, as political events loated in and out of his analysis as occasion demanded, rather than receiving systematic treatment. But his central idea of the nexus of politics and the imagination is clear and strong and this is a fresh and valuable contribution to existing studies, not only of seventeenth-century politics, but also the History of Ideas. This book provides a unique perspective on attitudes to marriage, concubinage and social mobility amongst the Venetian Patriciate in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Records survive for the investigations into the social and moral backgrounds of approximately women who wished to marry into Parergon

Chapter 2 : Todd Butler | English | Washington State University

Todd Butler here proposes a new epistemology of early modern politics, one that sees-as did writers of the period-human thought as a precursor to political action. By focusing not on reason or the will but on the imagination, Butler uncovers a political culture in seventeenth-century England that is.

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