

Levillain, Charles-Edouard, ***Vaincre Louis XIV: Angleterre, Hollande, France. Histoire d'une relation triangulaire 1665-1688*** (Collection Epoques; Seyssel: Éditions Champ Vallon, 2010, 452 pp., ISBN 978 2 87673 527 9).

This is an important book that provides a new interpretation of French foreign policy and strategic interests from the perspective of two of France's rivals, England and Holland. The focus is on a triangular relationship (England-Holland-France) as opposed to a bipolar approach (France-England, France-Holland, England-Holland). The chronological range of the book is from the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667) to the outbreak of the Revolution of 1688, although the introductory section cleverly extends back to earlier developments in the seventeenth century covering key events and themes from 1609. The book is organised into three main parts covering France between two maritime powers: the Second Anglo-Dutch War (part one), the Third Anglo-Dutch War (1672-1674) and the problem of universal monarchy (part two), and Between arbitration and arbitrary: Charles II and William III against the wars of Louis XIV (1674-1684) (part three). Thereafter there is a general conclusion that covers the years 1685-1688. Useful appendices to the text are also provided. Brief biographies of the key protagonists are given, although there is a strong emphasis on English personalities compared to the other two countries. Chronological appendices take the form of the History of England and international relations, 1665-1688, based on internal politics and wars and treaties, with another appendix listing the key dates in the History of the United Provinces, 1559-1688. Further appendices include two maps of Britain and the key area of Europe relevant to the book, and two genealogical tables relating to the respective Houses of Orange and Stuarts.

One of the major strengths of this book is the range and breadth of its research base and archive coverage. The author has consulted 25 libraries and archives in Europe, Britain and the United States. An exhaustive range of sources have been consulted,

including personal diplomatic correspondence and parliamentary debates. Indeed, the coverage is all encompassing, embracing maritime, political, military, institutional and social history (in the context of examining the triangular relationship also in terms of internal domestic issues. The Dutch context of this was particularly striking for me in terms of internal Dutch social and political history).

For this reviewer, the importance of this book is how it should impact on historians of early modern British history, albeit it has an anglocentric focus. 'The New British History' of previous decades has tended to concentrate on the period 1637-1651, and the Pocockian model that includes The First War of the Three Kingdoms in its terminology. Such a model moved away from a traditional emphasis on the English Civil War to include greater analysis of events in Scotland and Ireland. It would be fair to say, however, that recently there has been not only a return to the English Civil War as the dominant event in the eyes of several English historians, but also more generally a retreat into national histories. The 'Second War of The Three Kingdoms', circa 1688-1691, as defined by the Pocockian model marked a move away from a traditional triumphalist anglocentric assertion of the 'Glorious Revolution' to look at the wider Scottish and Irish dimensions of the Williamite war in Ireland and the First Jacobite Rising in Scotland.

The 1688-1691 period received less attention than the earlier period, but in recent years there has been a refocusing on the latter period, most notably in the work of Tim Harris (with two large books covering the period from the Restoration to 1720), Edward Vallance, Steve Pincus (with Pincus arguing that 1688 was the first modern revolution) and Lisa Jardine (with a broader social contribution on the Dutch impact on English life). Levillain's detailed study of the triangular relationship between England, Holland and France 1665-1688 therefore makes an invaluable contribution to these historiographical developments on the later period. There is no direct engagement with this in the book, however, and Scotland and Ireland are

neglected at the expense of England's dominance within the three kingdoms of the Stuart monarchy. This is unfortunate given the fact that the author consulted archive material in England. Furthermore, the stability of Scotland and Ireland was important for the strategic security of the Stuarts and indeed Scotland was the ancestral family kingdom. There were fears in England that Scotland was being used as a testing ground for Stuart 'absolutism' that would thereafter be imposed on the English kingdom. The 1681 Scottish Parliament and the 1685 session of the 1685-1686 Parliament of James VII both passed legislation acknowledging the hereditary rights of the Duke of York to succeed to the Scottish throne and much of the parliamentary language was 'absolutist' in tone. Yet, the refusal of the 1686 Scottish Parliament to grant full religious toleration for Roman Catholics in Scotland was viewed as an important triumph for the Protestant cause. From a different perspective, many Scots were in the United Provinces in the post-Restoration as a result of religious persecution. The United Provinces were therefore a safe haven, these Scots were overwhelmingly Williamite and many came over in William's invasion fleet. Indeed, the Scots Brigade in Holland played an important military role in the Revolution, as did the returning exiled Scots in the establishment of the Revolution in Scotland. The Catholicisation of the army in Ireland was an important development in Ireland and Irish and Scottish Jacobitism had to be defeated in order to cement the Williamite regimes in Ireland and Scotland. Levillain's study ends in 1688, but the outbreak and progress of the Revolution/Revolutions in Scotland, England and Ireland need to be viewed in a wider European context in terms of contemporary continental European power politics and geopolitics resulting in the Nine Years War. I would argue that this book does indeed have a wider impact and relevance than its content and coverage.

This is an important and detailed book, bursting with information drawn from a wide range of archives. It redefines our historical understanding of English-Dutch-French relationships. It should appeal

to scholars of early modern power politics and international relations, as well as historians of early modern England, France and the United Provinces. Yet it should also have a broader appeal in early modern British and Irish history, and it is a salutary reminder to parochially minded British historians of the importance of continental European archives for a greater understanding of the early modern period.

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Eijnatten, J. van (ed.), *Preaching, Sermon and Cultural Change in the Long Eighteenth Century* (A New History of the Sermon 4; Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2009, xiv + 413 blz., ISBN 978 90 04 17155 8).

Voorliggende bundel geeft de resultaten van gedegen historisch literatuur- en bronnenonderzoek naar het fenomeen van de preek in de lange achttiende eeuw. De verschillende preekvormen (zondagpreek, weekdagpreek, begrafenispreek, jubileumpreek, boetepreek, missiepreek, openluchtpreek, preken naar aanleiding van speciale kerkelijke en politieke feesten, enzovoort), de theologie van de preek (het soteriologisch-sacramenteel aspect van het *verbum efficax*), de plaats van de predikant (priester, leek, vrouw), de preekinhouden (moraliserende thema's, dogmatische stellingen, dagelijkse besommingen en levenskeuzes) worden vanuit verschillende hoeken belicht. Het praktische verloop van de preek (tijdsduur, voertaal, verplicht karakter zowel voor predikant als voor het publiek), de didactiek die in de preek verborgen zit, de receptie van de preek bij de toehoorders die sliepen of aandachtig luisterden, de werking van de preek als vorm van massacommunicatie, de voorschriften voor wat aangezien werd als een goede preek tot en met de boekgeschiedenis van het drukken van preken komen in negen artikelen onderverdeeld in vier hoofdstukken aan bod. Het boek is meteen het