

## REFORMED (PROTESTANT) POLITICAL TRADITION: FOUNDATIONAL TEXTS

- Calvin, John. 1559 *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, bk. iv, ch. 20  
French lawyer turned pastor/theologian; spent most of his adult life in Geneva as an émigré
- Beza, Theodore. 1575 *Concerning the Rights of Rulers over their Subjects and the Duty of Subjects toward their Rulers*  
French lawyer turned pastor/theologian; also an émigré in Geneva; Calvin's successor there
- Brutus, Junius Stephanus, the Celt (pseudonym--probable author: Mornay, Philippe du Plessis). 1579 *Vindiciae, Contra Tyrannos (or, Concerning the Legitimate Power of a Prince over the People, and of the People over a Prince)*  
French noble; Huguenot leader; almost murdered in the St. Bartholomew's Day massacre (1572); later the chief advisor to King Henry IV (France's only Protestant monarch)
- Buchanan, George. 1579 *De Jure Regni apud Scotus (or, the Rights of the Crown in Scotland)*  
Scot; academic; moderator of the Church of Scotland; tutor to James I (later to be James VI of England)
- Althusius, Johannes. 1603 *Politica—Politics Methodically Set Forth and Illustrated with Sacred and Profane Examples*  
German/Dutch academic; eventually became a civil magistrate in Emden (Netherlands)
- Rutherford, Samuel. 1644 *Lex Rex (or, the Law and the Prince: A Dispute for the Just Prerogative of King and People)*  
Scottish clergyman; took part in the Westminster Assembly; eventually martyred
- Williams, Roger. 1644 *The Bloody Tenent of Persecution*  
English clergyman, Puritan dissenter in New England; founder of Providence Plantation (Rhode Island)
- Milton, John. 1649 *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates—A Defense of the People of England*  
English poet; staunch Puritan; political activist; official spokesman for Cromwell's government
- Sydney, Algernon. 1698 *Discourses concerning Government*  
English nobleman; member of the Long Parliament; fought in the English Civil War; republican who came to despise the monarchy
- related texts (by authors with a Reformed background)
- Grotius, Hugo. 1625 *De jure belli ac pacis libri tres (or, On the Law of War and Peace)*  
Dutch lawyer and diplomat; lay theologian; exiled for his heterodox theological views
- Locke, John. 1685-92 *Letters concerning toleration*  
\_\_\_\_\_. 1688/89 *Two treatises of civil government*  
  
Whig political activist; arguably the most influential political thinker ever in the English speaking world (in part because of his influence on the American founding)