This seminar extends the inquiries of the Center for the History of British Political Thought in two novel directions: from the Three Kingdoms and their Atlantic extensions to the relations between the British polities and their European neighbours, and from the history of political thought to the history of international thought. The defining subject of political thought has traditionally been the state in its internal, domestic or municipal capacities; it has rarely encompassed the relations between states, or what might be called "international thought". The origins of modern international thought have been variously traced to the emergence of balance-of-power doctrines in late fifteenth-century Italy, the birth of international law in sixteenth-century Spain, the publication of Hugo Grotius’s De Jure Belli ac Pacis (1625) or the Peace of Westphalia (1648). These are not moments in British history, though the extent to which they included or affected the British polities deserves examination. With the help of distinguished visiting faculty, the seminar will reconstruct the history of early-modern international thought from the French invasion of Italy (1494) to the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) by examining transnational communities of envoys, clerics and professors and the treatises, treaties, and diplomatic manuals they generated. This approach will offer new genealogies of such Janus-faced concepts as sovereignty, rights, and the balance of power and will provide the outlines of conceptual and political geographies of "Britain" and "Europe" that are both idiomatic to the early-modern period and relevant to current discussions in political theory, philosophy, international law, and the theory of international relations.

1. Thursday 16 May: The History of International Thought


2. Friday 17 May: The New Diplomacy of the Renaissance

Nicolò Machiavelli, Legations, in The Historical, Political, and Diplomatic Writings of Niccolò Machiavelli, trans. Christian E. Detmold, 4 vols. (Boston, 1882), IV,


3. Thursday 23 May: Rights and the "Origins" of International Law

Visiting Speaker: Kenneth Pennington (Catholic University of America).


4. Thursday 30 May: Grotius I: The East Indian Context

Visiting Speaker: Peter Borschberg (National University of Singapore).


Hugo Grotius, "Defence of Chapter V of the Mare Liberum," *Bibliotheca Visseriana*, 7 (1928), 154-205.


5. Friday 31 May: Grotius II: The Rights of War and Peace

**Visiting Speaker**: Benedict Kingsbury (New York University).

Hugo Grotius, *De Jure Belli ac Pacis* (1625), Prolegomena; Book I, ch. 1; Book II, chs. 22, 25; Book III, chs. 7-8, 25.


Hersh Lauterpacht, "The Grotian Tradition in International Law," *British Yearbook of International Law*, 23 (1946), 1-53, rptd. in Dunn and Harris, eds., Grotius, I, 396-448.


6. Thursday 6 June: 1648 and All That

**Visiting Speaker**: Franz Bosbach (Universität Bayreuth).


7. Friday 7 June: Sovereignty after Westphalia

Richard Zouche, Juris et Judicii Fecialis, sive, Iuris Inter Gentes (1650), ed. T. E. Holland (Washington, DC, 1911), pp. 1-7, 57-60 (I. 1-2; II. 1).

Friedrich Meinecke, Machiavellism, pp. 207-16, 224-43.
F. H. Hinsley, Sovereignty (New York, 1966), chs. IV-V.

8. Thursday 13 June: European Union and Perpetual Peace

William Penn, An Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe by the Establishment of an European Dyet, Parliament or Estates (1693), ed. Peter van den Dungen (Hildesheim, 1983).


9. Friday 14 June: Utrecht and Beyond


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