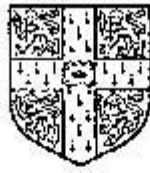


UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
FACULTY OF HISTORY



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English republicanism in transnational context:  
Edmund Ludlow's Protestant network in seventeenth-century  
Switzerland

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## The paper

The historiography of seventeenth-century English republicanism to date has suffered from two major shortcomings. First, historians have to a large extent focused on the secular side of republican thought at the expense of the religious. Secondly, most historians of political thought have studied English republican thinkers primarily in a relatively narrow national context. This relative neglect of the religious and transnational elements of English republicanism seems somewhat surprising, given that liberty of conscience for non-conforming Protestants was a key demand on the republican agenda, while a common Protestant cause joined English republicans to their co-religionists across Europe.

This paper aims to locate English republican thought and writing more firmly in a wider European context and to understand the personal connections that aided the distribution and reception of English republican ideas abroad. It does so through the case study of a little-known pamphlet published by the English regicide Edmund Ludlow during his exile in Switzerland after the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660. *Les juges jugez, se justifiant* (1663) was a French translation of the dying speeches and other miscellaneous texts of some of the English regicides, produced in Geneva and subsequently printed in Yverdon with the help of Ludlow's local Protestant network. Rather than propagating a secular republican ideology, Ludlow offered his work to a European Protestant audience in the language of Geneva, promoting a primarily religious cause in an attempt to make martyrs out of political activists. It is therefore to Ludlow's Protestant networks that we need to turn to find out more about the transmission of English republican ideas in francophone Europe and beyond.