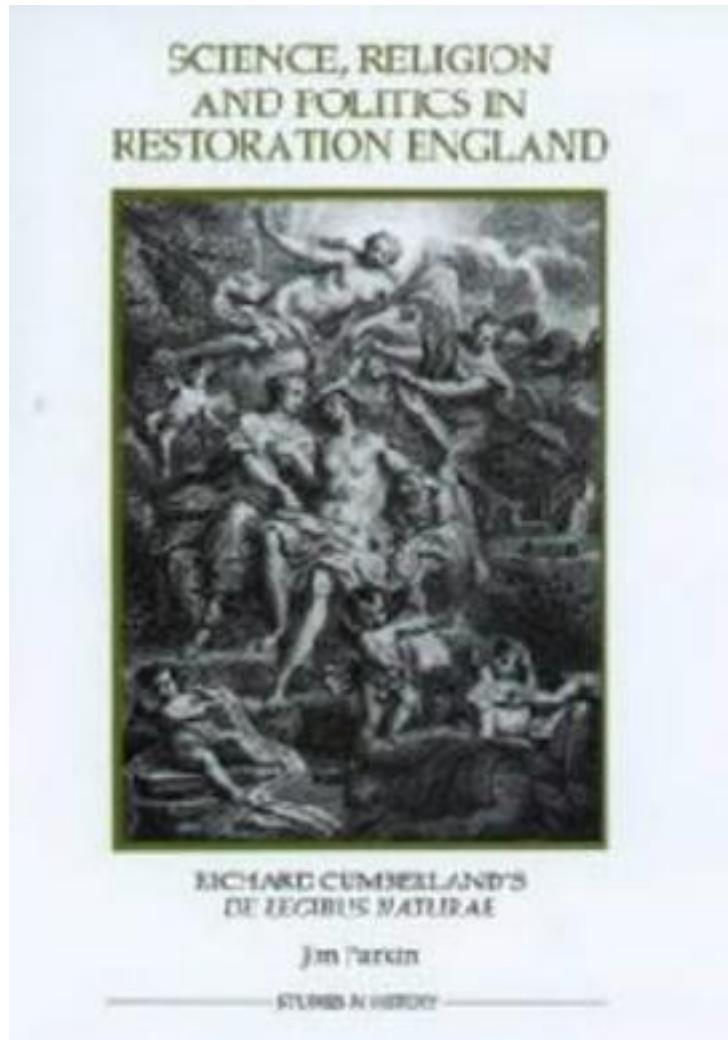


Science, Religion and Politics in Restoration England



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Richard Cumberland is one of the seventeenth century's most interesting political theorists. His masterpiece, the *De legibus naturae* (1672), has rarely been examined on its own terms, but by tracing the political, religious and intellectual circumstances of the composition of this puzzling work, and showing its importance as a critique of Thomas Hobbes, author of the *Leviathan*, Dr Parkin demonstrates how Cumberland created a new political and ethical theory which absorbed and neutralised many of Hobbes's insights. He also examines the science of the Royal Society as a basis for Cumberland's natural law theory and its influence on such thinkers as Samuel Pufendorf and John Locke. Overall, the book provides an important new perspective on the interaction of science, religion and politics in Restoration England. Dr JON PARKIN teaches in the Department of History at King's College, London.

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