

Edited by Isabelle Fernandes

Publish and Perish

The Practice of Censorship in the British Isles in the Early Modern Period

SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

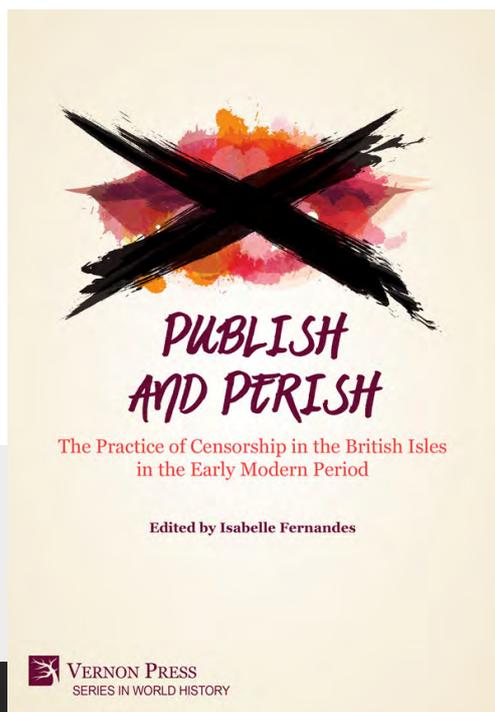
Summary

The development of printing practices during Tudor rule led both to the dissemination of religious and secular knowledge, and the development of a legal arsenal to control it. While the vast majority of studies on censorship regard it as being at the origin of the notion of authorship, critics tend to disagree on its actual influence on early modern writings. Who, among the Church and the secular state, were its main supporters? Did it aim at destroying or removing, punishing or protecting, hampering or regulating? Did it propagate a culture of secrecy or, on the contrary, did it help to circulate new ideas and knowledge by controlling them and making them more acceptable to the masses?

If the answers to these questions are bound to differ according to the aesthetic and religious biases of both censors and censored, they all lead to one major point of debate: did censorship really work to stop some marginal threat or did it simply improve the lot of early modern writers who turned its limited negative effects into a comforting shield of self-publicity? By suggesting it suppressed neither artistic creativity nor subversive practices, this volume analyses censorship in Britain and Ireland during

the Tudor and Stuart periods as an instrument of regulation, rather than a repressive tool.

Ideal for both graduate students and general readers interested in Early Modern History, the work sheds new light on a topic as fascinating as it is often misunderstood.



About the author

Isabelle Fernandes has been Associate Professor at Université Clermont Auvergne for 15 years. She specializes in Early Modern British History (from the Tudors to the Stuarts), with a particular focus on religious and political power, its representation and the multiple ways it is enforced and defied. She published a biography of Mary Tudor (*Marie Tudor. La Souffrance du Pouvoir*) and a work on John Foxe (*Le Sang et l'encre. John Foxe et l'écriture du martyre protestant anglais*, Presses Universitaires Blaise Pascal), both in 2012, and co-edited *A Godly and Fruitfull Sermon preached at Grantham by Francis Trigge, 1595*, in 2013. She is currently working on a biography of Mary Stuart and on a collection of essays on martyrdom in early modern Europe.

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