Between the early seventeenth and mid nineteenth centuries, major European political thinkers first began to look outside their national borders and envisage a world of competitive, equal sovereign states inhabiting an international sphere that ultimately encompassed the whole globe. In this insightful and wide-ranging work, David Armitage - one of the world's leading historians of political thought - traces the genesis of this international turn in intellectual history. Foundations of Modern International Thought combines important methodological essays, which consider the genealogy of globalisation and the parallel histories of empires and oceans, with fresh considerations of leading figures such as Hobbes, Locke, Burke and Bentham in the history of international thought. The culmination of more than a decade's reflection and research on these issues, this book restores the often overlooked international dimensions to intellectual history and recovers the intellectual dimensions of international history.

"In this masterly set of essays David Armitage considers the significance of globalisation for the past history of the European state and the political thought it generated. He sets the agenda for the next phase of research and writing on the great subject."

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"This brilliantly evocative collection of essays covers the evolution of international political thought all the way from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries. David Armitage has virtually created a new field of historical and political inquiry. He has also shown how important the visions of the past have remained to make the way we think about international politics today. We are all - historians, political philosophers, policy-makers, international lawyers - greatly in his debt."

Anthony G. Pagden, Professor, Department of History, UCLA

"Wide-ranging, informed by a striking unity of purpose and consistently engaging, this book instantly becomes one of the staples - about founding fathers, watershed events and the gulf between the domestic and international spheres - that have long been at the heart of international studies."

Jennifer Pitts, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago