



Politics, Religion and the British Revolutions: The Mind of Samuel Rutherford (Cambridge Studies in Early Modern British History)

John Coffey

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This is the first modern intellectual biography of the Scottish Covenanters' great theorist Samuel Rutherford (c. 1600–61). The central focus is on Rutherford's political thought and his major treatise, *Lex, Rex*, written in 1644 as a justification of the Covenanters' resistance to King Charles I. The book demonstrates that while *Lex, Rex* provided a careful synthesis of natural-law theory and biblical politics, Rutherford's Old Testament vision of a purged and covenanted nation ultimately subverted his commitment to the politics of natural reason. The book also discusses a wide range of other topics, including scholasticism and humanism, Calvinist theology, Presbyterian ecclesiology, Rutherford's close relationships with women and his fervent spirituality. It will therefore be of considerable interest to a range of scholars and students working on Scottish and English history, Calvinism and Puritanism, and early modern political thought.

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