

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910955618703321
Autore	Grotius Hugo <1583-1645.>
Titolo	Commentary on the law of prize and booty // Hugo Grotius ; edited and with an introduction by Martine Julia van Ittersum
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Indianapolis, : Liberty Fund, 2006
ISBN	1-61487-803-X
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xxvii, 632 p
Collana	Natural law and enlightenment classics
Disciplina	343.09/6
Soggetti	Presa (Derecho marítimo) Botín de guerra Guerra marítima (Derecho internacional) Prize law Booty (International law) War, Maritime (International law)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Incluye bibliografía e índice
Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Hugo Grotius, Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty -- Front Matter -- Title Page -- Copyright Details -- Table of Contents, p. xi -- Introduction, p. xiii -- Note on the Text, p. xxiii -- Acknowledgments -- Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty -- Table of Contents, p. 3 -- Chapter I, p. 9 -- Chapter II, p. 19 -- Chapter III, p. 51 -- Chapter IV, p. 68 -- Chapter V, p. 89 -- Chapter VI, p. 92 -- Chapter VII, p. 101 -- Chapter VIII, p. 127 -- Chapter IX, p. 182 -- Chapter X, p. 190 -- Chapter XI, p. 243 -- Chapter XII, p. 300 -- Chapter XIII, p. 391 -- Chapter XIV, p. 437 -- Chapter XV, p. 462 -- Appendix A. Table of Rules and Laws Compiled from Chapter II of the Commentary, p. 499 -- Appendixes to the Liberty Fund Edition, p. 501 -- Appendix I. Documents Listed by Grotius at the End of the Manuscript, p. 503 -- Appendix II. Archival Documents Relating to De Jure Praedae, p. 528 -- Bibliography for Introduction and Notes, p. 557 -- Suggestions for Further Reading, p. 561 -- Indexes -- Author Index, p. 565 -- Subject Index, p. 587.
Sommario/riassunto	The history of Commentary on the Law of Prize and Booty is complex. When Grotius's personal papers were auctioned in The Hague in 1864,

scholars discovered that *Mare Liberum* was just one chapter in a manuscript of 163 folios, written in justification of the capture of the Portuguese merchantman *Santa Catarina* in the Strait of Singapore in February 1603. Robert Fruin persuaded the scholar H. G. Hamaker to transcribe and publish it in 1868. Knud Haakonssen, the General Editor of the *Natural Law and Enlightenment Classics* series, states, "Grotius's work on the right of prize and booty is unusual. It has been argued in some of the most prominent recent scholarship that the work, while never published by Grotius himself, was the intellectual resource for much of his most important work. One chapter of the manuscript was used for his famous work on the free sea, *Mare Liberum*, and many of the most important features of his greatest work, *De Jure Belli ac Pacis* (The Rights of War and Peace), are either derived from, or revised versions of, the earlier writing." The Liberty Fund edition is based on the one prepared by Gwladys L. Williams and Walter H. Zeydel for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It combines the original text and new material. Martine Julia van Ittersum is a Lecturer in History at the University of Dundee. Knud Haakonssen is Professor of Intellectual History and Director of the Centre for Intellectual History at the University of Sussex, England.

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