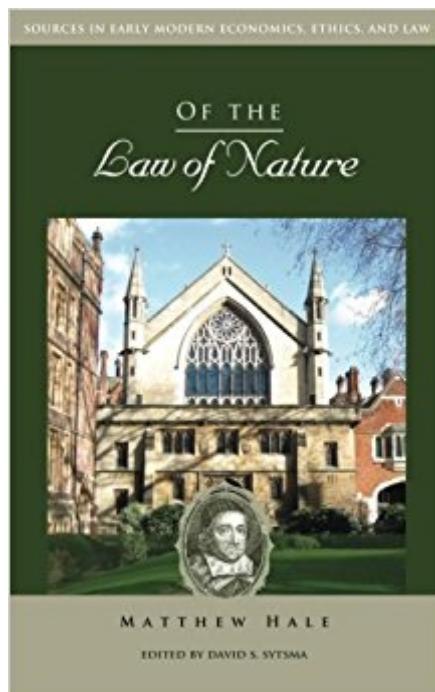


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Of The Law Of Nature (Sources In Early Modern Economics, Ethics, And Law)



Synopsis

This critical edition is the first ever publication of Hale's *Of the Law of Nature*, which previously existed only in manuscript form. After discussing and defining law in general, Hale examines the natural law in particular, its discovery and divine origin, and how it relates to both biblical and human laws. Hale's treatise, which was likely written as part of his personal meditations and was circulated among English lawyers after his death, reveals not only the close relationship between law and theology in his thought, but also the importance of natural law to early modern legal thought.

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Sir Matthew Hale (1609–1676) is widely regarded as one of the greatest jurists of the common law tradition. Hale's monumental legal treatises, *Historia placitum coronae* and *History of the Common Law of England*, shaped two centuries of legal scholarship. Hale reached the pinnacle of the English legal profession in 1671 when he was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench.

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