Introduction
In the Dutch Republic, an intimate relationship existed between politics and pamphlets. Political tracts, edicts, resolutions, correspondence, poems, sermons, songs, plays, dialogues, petitions, eyewitness reports, news stories and commentary were printed in enormous quantities and spread ever more speedily throughout the Republic. Walking through a Dutch town of some size in the middle of the seventeenth century, one would inevitably run into a print shop or a bookstore selling pamphlets reflecting or commenting on political developments, and when visiting one of the many weekly or monthly markets, one would see – and hear – pedlars selling all sorts of publications. A stop at an inn or a trip on a barge involved hearing political news that was often read from popular printed publications, and debating the contents with fellow travellers. In short, printed pamphlets were everywhere in the Dutch Republic, constituting, reflecting, influencing and shaping politics.

Print culture fundamentally changed the political culture of the early modern period and pamphlets played a crucial role in this process. Historians of early modern England have explored the many ways in which pamphlets and politics complemented each other. Jason Peacey, for example, has stressed the impact of print on “practical political life and political processes”, while according to Joad Raymond, the seventeenth century was not only politicised and polarised, “but

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