

Edward Forset (1553-1630) was an English writer, known for political works and as a playwright. In *A Comparative Discourse* (1606) he contributed to the traditional monarchist theory of the king's two bodies: the body politic and the body natural. This is considered one important source for later divine right and royalist ideas, as well as spinning out the bodily metaphor (the King as the heart).

TO
**THE MOST HIGH
 AND POTENT
 MONARCH,**
JAMES,
 OF
GREAT BRITAIN,
 FRANCE, AND IRELAND,
 KING, DEFENDER OF
 THE FAITH.
 No.



TO THE READER.

O CANNOT the English and other shall
 be wiser than will of things done in our
 former Sessions. Why this should
 be so, is not to be wondered at, but
 the more to be pitied, that the
 Author of this following Treatise, in attempting to
 assist to the Profit, and recommending that in some
 particular points he has done so, not without some
 good things are left behind, by their side, and well
 considering, how acceptable it may prove to our
 benefitted state. The chief thing, which has still
 kept this Treatise (as well as others) from being
 better known, is his own private judgement, allowing it
 through his own study, to be more useful, than
 the public eye, or the eyes of some particular
 persons, who the thinking of it, has followed in so
 little, through his other private Labours, which
 in his studies and studies may appear to be made
 for more advantage, in his own study, which of
 what has been is easily perceived. What con-
 sidering these and thereby to be satisfied, and seeing the
 manner is successful, and the medicine thereby is
 intended, I could not shut but every State the
 which should, that would have made the very purpose
 of this his dedication, which is, that he should
 see in a more and the more time both life and diffi-
 culty together.

A s I have

A
**COMPARATIVE
 DISCOURSE OF THE
 BODIES NATURAL AND
 POLITIQUE.**

Wherein one of the principles of Na-
 ture, is first made the same form of a Commonwealth,
 with the State of Nature, and the rights of the In-
 heritance, together with some particular of the
 most ancient, and modern, and Christian
 States.

By EDWARD FORSET.



LONDON,
 Printed for Iohn B.W.

¶ *A Brief of such parts as are com-
 mon to both of them.*

W HAT is the nature of the King of England, and how he is
 to be considered, as a body politic, and as a body
 natural, is the subject of this Discourse. The
 King of England is a body politic, and as such
 he is considered as a single person, and as the
 head of the Commonwealth. He is also a body
 natural, and as such he is considered as a
 mortal man, and as a member of the human
 race. The King of England is therefore
 considered as a body politic, and as a body
 natural, and as such he is considered as the
 head of the Commonwealth, and as a mortal
 man, and as a member of the human race.