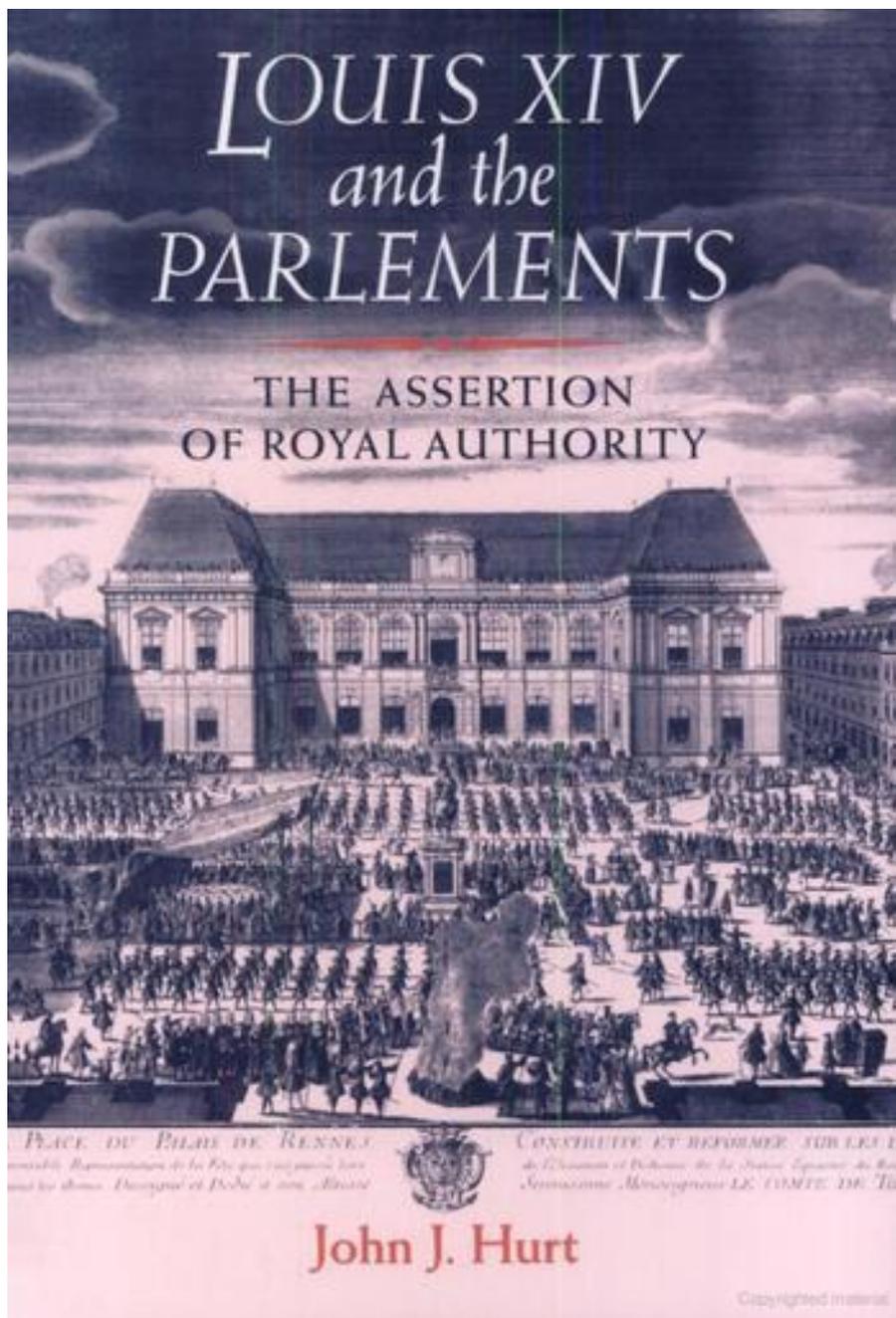


Louis XIV and the Parlements: The assertion of royal authority

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Abstract This is the first scholarly study of the political and economic relationship between Louis XIV and the parlements. The author explains how the king managed to overcome the century-old opposition of the parlements to new legislation during this reign, and only this reign, is known. Hurt shows that the king built upon that discipline to extract large sums of money through forced loans and office sales, thus damaging their economic interests. When the king died in 1715, the regent, Louis XV, through compromise, resorted to the authoritarian methods of Louis XIV and perpetuated the Sun King's policies. This revisionist understanding of the reign of Louis XIV and insists that, after all, absolute government had a harsh side. The parlements will be of interest to all students of the history of early modern France and the monarchy.
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