

Acknowledgements

Looking back across the arc of my career, I can detect the seeds for this book in my PhD thesis and the book I researched as a postdoc, both during the 1980s. Those were detailed studies of the social history of two Dutch towns in the eighteenth century. The topics I encountered then have continued to fascinate me and inspired subsequent work on European and global history. In this sense, this book has been in the making for more than twenty-five years. That is a long time, but I think it is fair to say that it is also a big topic. In the process I accumulated numerous intellectual and other debts, which cannot be properly settled in a brief acknowledgement. Nevertheless, I want to express my gratitude to a number of people who, willingly or not, have made a contribution to this project.

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Universität in Münster (Friso Wielenga, 2010) allowed me to think about the argument of this book as a whole. In Münster I also made the acquaintance of Christoph Dartmann, who initiated me into medieval Italian history; Michele Campopiano in Utrecht (now in York) taught me the basics of the Italian language when I discovered that it would be impossible to write this book without that skill. Sabbatical leaves, again at the London School of Economics (2011, Janet Hunter) and Christ's College Cambridge (2012, Phil Withington, David Reynolds) enabled me to start writing.

In 2013 the European Commission (EC) decided to award a substantial grant to a consortium of twenty-six universities, led by Utrecht University (Sybe de Vries, Law School), to investigate modern European citizenship. Albeit reluctantly, the EC allowed the inclusion of a historical work package in this bEUcitizen project.¹ Our Work Package 3 team – consisting of Clare Crowston at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Christopher Kissane, Chris Minns and Patrick Wallis from the London School of Economics; Bert De Munck and Raoul De Kerf from the University of Antwerp and Marcel Hoogenboom, Ruben Schalk and myself from Utrecht University – was able to collect and analyse data that are used in the first part of this book in particular.

I am deeply indebted to all these colleagues and institutions for the support they have given to my work. This is the third book that I have published with Cambridge University Press. I am grateful to my editor, Michael Watson, for his unflinching support and helpful suggestions throughout these various projects, and this one in particular.

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Phil Withington suggested the title, Engin Isin invented it.² Lars Behrisch, Marc Boone, Christoph Dartmann, Jessica Dijkman, Ewout Frankema, Regina Grafe, Emma Hart, Dariusz Kołodziejczyk, Patrick Lantschner, Marco van Leeuwen, Debin Ma, Gary Nash, Şevket Pamuk, Auke Rijpma, William Rowe, Nico Wilterdink and Phil Withington commented on individual chapters; Jonathan Barry, Bas van Bavel, Oscar Gelderblom, Arie van Steensel, Michael Watson, Jan Luiten van Zanden, and especially Patrick Wallis, as well as three anonymous reviewers commissioned by the publisher, carefully read the entire manuscript. Murray Pearson improved my English; Rex Panneman assisted with the Index. They, and Ami Naramor, all identified errors and forced me to clarify my argument. I thank them for their valuable criticisms and helpful suggestions. I'm sure that at times I have misunderstood them, and at other times found myself incapable of doing them justice. For this and many more reasons, I accept full responsibility for what now appears in print.