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Shakespeare, Renan and Weber: an interdisciplinary study of the violence paradigm and what it means to law and the nation-state

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Shakespeare, Renan and Weber

An interdisciplinary study of the violence paradigm
and what it means to law and the nation-state

R.C.G. BROUWER

This study addresses the question how Shakespearean tragedy relates to legal science, state theory, and the philosophy of law. More specifically, what does violence, as shown in Shakespearean tragedies, have to do with the creation, maintenance, or demise of a nation-state and the rule of law?

This work examines three tragedies: nation forming is central in *Macbeth*, the nation-state *per se* in *Hamlet*, and the decline of the nation-state in *Julius Caesar*.

What the tragedies have in common is the *violence paradigm*: the tragic process of violence. Even though the three tragedies are entirely different as far as contents and outcome are concerned, the format of their *violence paradigms* is always the same.

Where Renan and Weber have mapped out the theorizations behind nation and state, the Shakespearean tragic paradigm of violence (the *violence paradigm*) provides a profound insight into the critical success – or failure – factors of both nation-state forming and its maintenance.

This is a volume in the series of the Meijers Research Institute and Graduate School of the Leiden Law School of Leiden University. This study is part of the Law School's research programme 'Exploring the Frontiers of International Law'.

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