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THE SIX BOOKS OF A COMMONWEALE. By Jean Bodin. (A Facsimile Reprint of the English Translation of 1606 Corrected and Supplemented in the Light of a New Comparison with the French and Latin Texts. Edited with an Introduction by Kenneth Douglas McRae.) Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1962. Pp. Axi+ A214+794. \$22.50.

Richard Knolle's translation of Jean Bodin's *République*, which appeared ten years after Bodin's death, was based on both the French and the Latin editions. The French edition, first published in 1576, was reprinted several times (three revised, corrected, and augmented

editions appeared in three years, 1577, 1578, 1579) before the appearance of the Latin *De Republica* in 1586, which was rewritten with major changes in order, contents, and doctrine. The English edition was small and was not reprinted, and no new edition of the entire work (as distinguished from selections and adaptations) has appeared in French or Latin since the seventeenth century. The facsimile reproduction of the Knolle translation, accompanied by detailed notes concerning the source of the translation and the differences

between the French editions and the Latin text, is for many reasons preferable to a new translation based exclusively on a French or Latin version. Professor McRae sets forth our information and our problems concerning Bodin's life clearly and provides aids to understanding the texts and the historical setting of the *République*. There is a detailed and excellent index nominum and an index rerum. It is an important and a well-organized edition.

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