

The Collected Works of Spinoza

THE
Collected Works
OF
SPINOZA



Edited and Translated by
Edwin Curley

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS
PRINCETON AND OXFORD

Copyright © 2016 by Princeton University Press
Published by Princeton University Press, 41 William Street,
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
In the United Kingdom: Princeton University Press, 6 Oxford Street,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1TR
press.princeton.edu
All Rights Reserved
Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data
Spinoza, Benedictus de, 1632–1677.
The collected works of Spinoza.
Includes bibliographies and index. (v. 2: alk. paper)
ISBN 978-0-691-16763-3
1. Philosophy-Collected works.
I. Curley, E. M. (Edwin M.), 1937– . II. Title.
B3958 1984 199'.492 84-11716
(This listing was originally issued in 1984 for Volume I of this work,
ISBN 0-691-07222-1.)
British Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available
This book has been composed in Janson Text LT STD
Printed on acid-free paper. ∞
Printed in the United States of America
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

SOME WILL REMIND US of the saying “while the Romans deliberate, Saguntum is lost.” On the other hand, when the few decide everything, simply on the basis of their own affects, freedom and the common good are lost. For human wits are too sluggish to penetrate everything right away. But by asking advice, listening, and arguing, they’re sharpened. When people try all means, in the end they find ways to the things they want which everyone approves, and no one had ever thought of before.

—SPINOZA, *POLITICAL TREATISE*, IX, 14

