

## **The New Body Politic of the Renaissance in the Works of John Fortescue and Claude de Seyssel**

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**Abstract:** The use of corporal analogies, where the state was compared with the human body, had been a frequent occurrence in medieval political theory starting from the twelfth century and they can be encountered in some of the most influential political treatises of that period. It was a strong metaphor employed in order to strengthen the author’s message – therefore, its use continued past the Middle Ages and well into the Renaissance period. Yet, the respective metaphor did not remain unchanged – on the contrary, the many changes which occurred during the fifteenth century had a noticeable impact upon it, leading to alterations in the traditional version, while retaining many of the old features. This article aims to provide an analysis of the shift which occurred during late fifteenth century and early sixteenth century by analyzing the cases of two of the most significant political writers of that period in England and France: John Fortescue and Claude de Seyssel.

**Keywords:** body politic, Claude de Seyssel, John Fortescue, corporal analogy, humours.