

## PART THREE

### *Pamphlets Up Close*

*Because previous chapters have been concerned primarily with general trends in pamphleteering, this section is devoted to close examination of four individual tracts. With thousands of titles to choose from, the process of selection was a difficult one. Multi-variate statistical techniques make it possible to measure the typicality or uniqueness of a pamphlet, based on a given set of variables. One could therefore select for close analysis those pamphlets which fit or defy the norms of the “early” and “later” periods. Yet even the most elaborate coding scheme cannot adequately capture every important feature of a given pamphlet. The four works presented below have been chosen not so much for their subjects, themes, typicality, or uniqueness, but because they reveal so explicitly the appeal of pamphlets and their place in Dutch politics.*

*In some ways, the four pamphlets examined here are fairly typical. All are quite brief. All convey the tone of political pamphleteering. Three take as their major topic the truce talks with Spain, which during the respective years of publication was a prominent issue. All four contain many of the themes outlined in Table 5 above. In other ways, they are atypical. Three of the four are dialogues, while only about one in 30 titles was of this form. Three are strongly critical of the government, while probably only about half or even fewer pamphlets fit this mold. Quantitatively, I have tried to represent fairly the two general periods, choosing one tract from before 1606 and three from after. The actual ratio was more like one-to-four, but the three later tracts should be sufficient. But again, these are all secondary considerations. Of greatest significance for this study are the specific details in the pamphlets, especially those about the groups of society being appealed to. These details offer a further look at the nature and importance of political discussion in the Dutch Republic.*