Protestantism and National Identity

This volume traces the complex contribution which protestantism made to national identity in the British Isles between the Stuart and Victorian ages. It therefore examines an essential – if ambiguous – foundation of British patriotism in the period when the United Kingdom was formed and emerged as a world power.

Often challenging existing work, the essays both question whether nationalism was a secular and ‘modern’ phenomenon, and ask whether protestantism could support any simple vision of a united, imperial and ‘elect’ Britain. Covering a wide variety of subjects, the authors show that whilst the reformed faith was always central to British self-awareness, it could also divide the peoples of Britain and Ireland, could cast doubt on their greatness, and could dissolve any insistence on the uniqueness of these nations. The collection thus takes the study of religion’s contribution to nationality beyond simple acknowledgement of its importance, and suggests radical new ways to understand British and Irish development during the ‘long eighteenth century’.

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Protestantism and National Identity

*Britain and Ireland, c.1650–c.1850*

*Edited by*

Tony Claydon and Ian McBride
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Abbreviations

AHR  American Historical Review  
BL    British Library  
BM    British Museum  
Bod.  Bodleian Library, Oxford  
CSPD  Calendar of State Papers Domestic  
CUL   Cambridge University Library  
EHR   English Historical Review  
EUL   Edinburgh University Library  
HJ    Historical Journal  
HMC   Historical Manuscripts Commission  
IHS   Irish Historical Studies  
JBS   Journal of British Studies  
JEH   Journal of Ecclesiastical History  
JMH   Journal of Modern History  
NLS   National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh  
NLW   National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth  
P&P   Past and Present  
PD    Prints and Drawings  
PRO   Public Record Office  
RO    Record Office  
SCH   Studies in Church History  
SHR   Scottish Historical Review  
SRO   Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh  
SP    State Papers  
SPCK  Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge  
THSC  Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorian  
TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society  
WHR   Welsh History Review  

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