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A wide-ranging and original re-interpretation of England’s history and national identity during the vital century (1660–1760) in which the country emerged as the leading world power and developed its peculiarly free political culture. Disputing the insular and xenophobic image of the English in the period, and denying that this was an age of secularisation, Tony Claydon demonstrates instead the people’s active participation in a ‘Protestant international’ and their deep attachment to a European ‘Christendom’. He shows how these outward-looking identities shaped key developments by generating a profound sense of duty to God’s foreign faithful. The English built a world-beating state by intervening abroad to defend Christendom and the reformation, and their politics were forged as they debated different understandings of these international entities. England may have diverged from continental norms in this period but this book shows that it did so because of its intense religious engagement with that continent.

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1. Frontispiece of Gilbert Burnet, *The history of the reformation of the church of England* (1681). Reproduced by kind permission of the Syndics of Cambridge University Library page 71


3. Frontispiece of *The most Christian Turk: the life and bloody reign of Lewis XIV* (1690). By kind permission of the British Library 190
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NOTES ON STYLE

Dates before 1752 are give old style (i.e. according to the Julian calendar standard in England until that year), but the year is assumed to have begun on 1 January, not Lady Day, as some contemporaries held. Place of publication is London unless otherwise stated. I eschew a bibliography which would merely reproduce information in references.
### Abbreviations Used in References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIHR</td>
<td>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJ</td>
<td>Commons Journals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHR</td>
<td>English Historical Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLQ</td>
<td>Huntington Library Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJ</td>
<td>Historical Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JBS</td>
<td>Journal of British Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEH</td>
<td>Journal of Ecclesiastical History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JMH</td>
<td>Journal of Modern History</td>
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<tr>
<td>LJ</td>
<td>Lords Journals</td>
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