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Edited by Len Scales and Oliver Zimmer  
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## POWER AND THE NATION IN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Few would doubt the central importance of the nation in the making and unmaking of modern political communities. The long history of 'the nation' as a concept and as a name for various sorts of 'imagined community' likewise commands much acceptance. But when did the nation first become a fundamental political factor? This is a question which has been, and continues to be, far more sharply contested. A deep rift still separates 'modernist' perspectives, which view the political nation as a phenomenon limited to modern societies, from the views of scholars concerned with the pre-industrial world who insist, often vehemently, that nations were central to pre-modern political life also. This book represents the first attempt to engage with these questions by drawing on the expertise of medieval, early modern and modern historians.

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OLIVER ZIMMER is Reader in Modern European History at the University of Durham. His previous publications include *A Contested Nation: History, Memory and Nationalism in Switzerland 1761–1891* (2003) and *Nationalism in Europe, 1890–1940* (2003).

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*Patrick Wormald*  
*In Memoriam*

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