How have the English conceived of Scotland? Lorna Hutson’s book is an essential intervention in the contested narrative of British nationhood. It argues that England deployed a mythical ‘British history’ in pursuing dominion over its northern neighbour: initially through waging war, and then striving to make the very idea of Scotland vanish in new figurations of sea-sovereignty. The author explores English attempts at conquest in the 1540s, revealing how justifications of overlordship mutated into literary, legal and cartographic ploys to erase Scotland-as-kingdom. Maps, treatises and military propaganda are no less imaginative in their eradicative strategies than river poetry, chorography, allegory, epic, tragedies, history plays and masques. Hutson shows how Spenser’s The Faerie Queene, Shakespeare’s Henry V and King Lear, Plowden’s theory of ‘the King’s Two Bodies’, Camden’s Britannia, and the race-making in Jonson’s The Masque of Blackness are all implicated in England’s juridical claim and refusal to acknowledge Scotland as a sovereign nation.

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1.1 Queen Elizabeth I (‘The Ditchley portrait’) by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger. © National Portrait Gallery, London.


3.3 Laurence Nowell, map of Scotland, 1563. British Library, MS Cotton Domitian A XVIII, fols. 98 v-99 r. Reproduced with permission of the British Library.

3.4 Detail, Laurence Nowell, map of Scotland, 1563. British Library, MS Cotton Domitian A XVIII, fols. 98 v-99 r. Reproduced with permission of the British Library.


3.7 Mercator map of Arctic region, showing northern tip of Scotland, 1595. Bridgeman Images.
Abbreviations

CSP, Domestic, James I

CSP, Foreign

CSP, Scotland, 1547–1603

CSP, Venice

CWBJ

DOST ELR
A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue: https://dsl.ac.uk

HJ
The Historical Journal

HLQ
Huntington Library Quarterly

Holinshed

HP

Lo&P, Henry VIII

Navy

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List of Abbreviations

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<tr>
<td>ODNB</td>
<td><em>The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHR</td>
<td><em>The Scottish Historical Review</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SP</td>
<td><em>Studies in Philology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>SQ</td>
<td><em>Shakespeare Quarterly</em></td>
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