

THE SHAPING OF FRENCH NATIONAL IDENTITY

The Shaping of French National Identity casts new light on the intellectual origins of the dominant and 'official' French nineteenth-century national narrative. Focusing on the historical debates taking place throughout the eighteenth century and during the Restoration, Matthew D'Auria evokes a time when the nation's origins were being questioned and discussed and when they acquired the meaning later enshrined in the official rhetoric of the Third Republic. He examines how French writers and scholars reshaped the myths, symbols, and memories of pre-modern communities. Engaging with the myth of 'our ancestors the Gauls' and its ideological triumph over the competing myth of 'our ancestors the Franks', this study explores the ways in which the struggle developed, and the values that the two discourses consecrated, the collective actors they portrayed, and the memories they evoked. D'Auria draws attention to the continuity between ethnic discourses and national narratives and to the competition between various groups in their claims to represent the nation and to define their past as the 'true' history of France.

MATTHEW D'AURIA is a lecturer in Modern European History at the University of East Anglia. His main research interest lies in the relationship between images of the nation and discourses about Europe. Among his many publications on this topic are, with Mark Hewitson (eds.), *Europe in Crisis: Intellectuals and the European Idea, 1917–1957* (Berghahn, 2012) and, with Jan Vermeiren (eds.), *Visions and Ideas of Europe During the First World War* (Routledge, 2019). He is currently coediting, with Cathie Carmichael and Aviel Roshwald, *The Cambridge History of Nationhood and Nationalism* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

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THE SHAPING OF FRENCH NATIONAL IDENTITY

Narrating the Nation's Past, 1715–1830

MATTHEW D'AURIA

University of East Anglia



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*To my parents
For their loving care and their unwavering support*

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Parma, 25th March 2020

MATTHEW D'AURIA

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