

Literature, nationalism, and memory in early modern england and wales

Schwyzzer, Philip, author

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Abstrak

The Tudor era has long been associated with the rise of nationalism in England, yet nationalist writing in this period often involved the

denigration and outright denial of Englishness. Philip Schwyzzer

argues that the ancient, insular, and imperial nation imagined in the works of writers such as Shakespeare and Spenser was not England but Britain. Disclaiming their Anglo-Saxon ancestry, the English sought their origins in a nostalgic vision of British antiquity.

Focusing on texts including *The Faerie Queene*, English and Welsh antiquarian works, *The Mirror for Magistrates*, *Henry V*, and *King Lear*, Schwyzzer charts the genesis, development, and disintegration of British nationalism in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

An important contribution to the expanding scholarship on early modern Britishness, this is the first study of its kind to give detailed

attention to Welsh texts and traditions, arguing that Welsh sources crucially influenced the development of English literature and identity.