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RELIGION  
AND  
NATIONAL IDENTITY

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For the Ecclesiastical History Society  
BASIL BLACKWELL, OXFORD

## Religion and National Identity

Edited by Stuart Mews

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Religion and nationality have been two of the most potent forces in human history. Christianity, whilst holding up a vision of a universal church, has both contributed to a sense of national identity and been shaped in its institutional forms by national consciousness. The question of the extent to which a sense of nationhood as opposed to regional, linguistic and other cultural ties, was a factor in the late antique world is considered in the opening pages of this volume. There then follows a group of papers which survey the religious contribution to the welding together of the kingdom of England in the two hundred years before 1150. France, Spain and Italy provide examples of other societies facing, at least potentially, similar problems. The Reformation era proved to be crucial for the development of the European concept of nationalism and several papers explore the origin and development of English Protestant nationalism while the question of Catholicity and nationality is considered in the north European counter-reformation. The tensions engendered by conflicting and complementary religious and national loyalties are still present in the modern world and the volume closes with discussions of such vexed contemporary questions as Ulster Presbyterianism and Irish nationalism, the project of a national Catholicism in modern Spain and the tangled web of confused religious and ethnic alignments in post-war Yugoslavia.

RELIGION AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

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PAPERS READ AT  
THE NINETEENTH SUMMER MEETING AND  
THE TWENTIETH WINTER MEETING  
OF THE  
ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY SOCIETY

EDITED BY  
STUART MEWS

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