England The Nation: Language, Literature, And National Identity, 1290-1340

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He explores how English writers in the half-century leading up to the outbreak of the Hundred Years War expressed their concepts of England as a nation, and how they exploited the association between nation, people, and language. The study forms a significant contribution to current debates on nationalism. Of course, the national language is a piece of a puzzle, which is called the â€œnational culture,â€ but not the biggest and not even the most important. The real culture is explored in everyday communication and interaction with the carriers of that culture and in the everyday life in that society. But not in a mechanical studying of the language, and in our age of the internet, movies, music and an enormous amount of material in different languages it is quite possible to do, even without the need to leave your native country. This book pays attention to the earlier fourteenth century in England as a literary period in its own right. It surveys the wide range of writings by the generation before Geoffrey Chaucer, and explores how English writers in the half-century leading up to the outbreak of the Hundred Years War expressed their concepts of England as a nation, and how they exploited the association between nation, people, and language. At the centre of this work is a study of the construction of national identity that takes place in the histories written in English. The contributions of romances and saints'