



# Patriots: National Identity in Britain 1940-2000

*Richard Weight*

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## **Patriots: National Identity in Britain 1940-2000** Richard Weight

Who are the British today? For nearly three hundred years British national identity was a unifying force in times of glory and despair. It has now virtually disappeared. In *Patriots*, Richard Weight explores the decline of Britishness and the rise of powerful new identities in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Based on a wealth of original research, it is scholarly in depth and scope, yet never departs from a thoroughly readable and entertaining style.

'Here are the themes of Orwell's *The Lion and the Unicorn* stretched over the subsequent sixty years and widened to embrace the whole United Kingdom. Brimming with zest and feel this is politico-cultural history at its best.' Peter Hennessy  
'Wide-ranging, intelligent, sensible and important.' *Max Hastings, Sunday Telegraph*

'A marvellously rich, ambitious and at times iconoclastic study by a young historian of how, in the broadest sense, national identity in Britain has changed in the last 60 or so years' *David Kynaston, Financial Times*

'A major work: the fruit of long research, wide reading and hard thinking, engagingly written, bubbling with fresh ideas' *Stephen Howe, Independent*

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