



For Wales, See England: Language, Nationhood and Identity

By Martyn Ford

Amberley Publishing, United Kingdom, 2016. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 235 x 165 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. As the oldest living language in Europe (after Basque), Welsh is a unique aspect of British heritage. But, despite its official status and the proliferation of Welsh-medium schools, it has all but disappeared as a living language outside of a handful of communities in the west and north of Wales. In this book I trace the history of Welsh from the early medieval period, through the Act of Union between England and Wales in the sixteenth century, to industrial Wales in Victorian times, and then during the twentieth century. There is an analysis of the current state of the Welsh language and policies which attempt to protect it. I explore the relationship between identity and language, and argue that language has been the defining characteristic of Welsh identity. I suggest that the orthodox account - that Welsh was driven out by an imperialist British establishment, which enforced an English-only policy in the schoolroom - is misconceived. At a time when immigration and the free movement of people have become sensitive and controversial issues, it seems apposite to look at the one...



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