

# EMPIRE *and* AFTER

## ENGLISHNESS IN POSTCOLONIAL PERSPECTIVE

Edited by Graham MacPhee and Prem Poddar

*This is an intellectually rigorous collection of essays ... and [a] timely intervention into analyses of the continuing significance of empire in understanding English/British identity and culture.*

—English Historical Review

*Empire and After: Englishness in Postcolonial Perspective is a valuable addition to what ... has been "a sustained renewal of interest in British national identity" across diverse disciplines .... a remarkably coherent volume.*

—College Literature

*This excellent collection of essays addresses with great range and significant insight urgent questions that have long haunted and are again animating the relation of Englishness to Britishness, of nationalism to imperialism, of local cultural grammars to global political forms. ... [T]he editors have done a superb job of reminding readers why the many paradoxes of "Englishness" are vital not only to the long history of the formal British Empire but to the moment of flexible imperialism we currently inhabit. This is a timely and striking addition to the field.*

—Ian Baucom, Duke University

In recent years there has been a sustained renewal of interest in British national identity at the popular, political, and academic level. A striking common feature in each case has been the concern to differentiate between "British" and "English" and to define a distinct sense of Englishness. Drawing together original research on imperial history and contemporary British culture, this volume reflects the interdisciplinary nature of this topic and clearly demonstrates that far from being idiosyncratic or self involved, the question of Englishness and its relationship to British national identity offers an important avenue for thinking about the politics of national identity in our postcolonial and globalized world.

**GRAHAM MACPHEE** is Associate Professor of English at West Chester University. He is the author of *The Architecture of the Visible: Technology and Urban Visual Culture* (Continuum, 2002) and *Postwar British Literature and Postcolonial Studies* (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).

**PREM PODDAR** has taught at universities in India, Britain, and Denmark, and is currently a Fellow at Southampton University. He is the author of *Violent Civilities* (Aarhus UP, 2003), and the co-editor of *A Historical Companion to Postcolonial Thought* (Edinburgh UP/Columbia UP, 2005), and *A Historical Companion to Postcolonial Literatures in Continental Europe and Its Empires* (Edinburgh UP, 2008).



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