

tity and self-identity. She does not seem to have considered the positions of the marginal subgroups which, it can be argued, are central to the production of identity at both personal and group levels. The contribution of subcultures, for instance, to culture change and to the mediation of ethnicity between different groups is an important feature not just of contemporary societies but also of the past.

Specific complaints about the book are few. Some of the figures appear gratuitous rather than illustrative of the text (for instance figure 2.6, a location map showing Hertfordshire and Essex in the late Iron Age, which also contains some strange spell-

ings (such as Braucher for Braughing)) and there is a distinct impression that they were an afterthought. The ultimate reliance on social constructionist thought is (personally) irritating, but not insuperable.

Overall, this is a useful introduction to current social theories of ethnicity and a concise summary of archaeological approaches to it. It deserves to be widely read and ought to form a springboard for further exploration. As the author would no doubt agree, it is a starting-point, not a final statement.

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