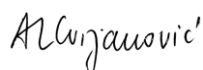


Review of the manuscript titled INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
by Sanja Ignjatović

Introduction to British History and Culture by Sanja Ignjatović is a cutting-edge textbook, and as such represents an invaluable resource for students and other readers interested in the topic. It is meticulously structured to provide clear contexts and overviews which conclude with useful study guides and suggested reading that lists up-to-date resources. The author is focused and highly systematic without limiting the text's scope, so frequent references to contemporary, especially the most recent social, political and cultural phenomena, as well as brief parallels with the historical and cultural circumstances in the Balkans make the textbook particularly relevant and insightful.

Starting from crucial definitions of community and nation, the textbook proceeds through an outline of concepts perceived as typically British to the details of its geographical and political constitution, and their historical and contemporary transformations. Significantly, the introductory chapters highlight some of the most burning issues of contemporary British society, such as the economic impact of Brexit, gender pay gap and minority rights. The chapters that follow offer a thorough overview of British history and culture from their earliest beginnings to the present, reminding the reader of the fundamental roles of language and narrative, and explicating significant demographic, political, social and cultural changes. Importantly, the textbook delves into British colonialism and its demographic, economic and cultural consequences within and outside the British context. Throughout, the author demonstrates profound knowledge and understanding of historical and cultural processes. The book concludes with a list of notable Brits from different historical eras and fields, as well as important historical and cultural landmarks. Its theoretically grounded approach to history and culture is nuanced and comparative, providing a network of parallels and anecdotes that absorb the reader and help explain the complex details of, for instance, religious conflicts, hereditary rules, political and economic interests, or historiography. The textbook invites active reading as numerous comments and questions pepper the text to encourage readers to think and draw parallels between different contexts, including their own.

Introduction to British History and Culture by Sanja Ignjatović is informative, unexpectedly thorough for an introduction, and favours an unconventionally entertaining approach. Together with a refreshingly lively style and a sense of humour, such an approach is perfectly suited to the book's purpose: to teach history and culture across contexts as amusing rather than boring, and vital for understanding contemporaneity. In short, this innovative textbook is highly valuable and therefore merits publication.



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