Clanship, commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788

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Abstract

This is an appraisal of clanship both with respect to its vitality and its eventual demise, in which the author views clanship as a socio-economic, as well as a political agency, deriving its strength from personal obligations and mutual service between chiefs and gentry and their clansmen. Its demise is attributed to the throwing over of these personal obligations by the clan elite, not to legislation or central government repression. The book discusses the impact on the clans of the inevitable shift, with the passage of time, from feudalism to capitalism, regardless of the "Forty Five". It draws upon estate papers, family correspondence, financial compacts, social bonds and recorded oral tradition rather than the biased records of central government.

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41 Allan I. Macinnes, Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788 (East Lothian: Tuckwell Press, 1996), 56-87; Jane Ohlmeyer, “‘Civihzinge of Those Rude Panes’—The Internal Colonization of Britain and Ireland, 1580s-1640s’, in Nicholas Canny (ed.) Ochiltree imprisoned island chiefs and appointed outside commissioners, from whom he demanded strategies to civilize the Isles.47 The Statutes of Icolmkill (1609) legislated to restore decayed religion, encourage hospitality, discourage idleness, begging, drunkenness and the keeping of firearms, and thereby remedy the ‘grite crueltie and inhumane barbaritie’, ‘ignorance and incivilitie’ in the Isles, albeit at the expense of the clans’ traditions of sociability and militarism.48. The regal union between England and Scotland after 1603. 4. Allan I. Macinnes, Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603–1788 (East Lothian: Tuckwell Press, 1996), argues that “the immediate aftermath of the ’Forty-Five was marked by systematic state terrorism, characterised by a genocidal intent that verged on ethnic cleansing” (p. 211). Colin Kidd, “Ethnicity in the British Atlantic World, 1688–1830,” in A New Imperial History, ed. Wilson, claims that such an argument “involves a considerable measure of exaggeration” (p. 273). Also see Thomas William Heyck, The Peoples of the British Isles: A New History from 1688 to 1870 (Belmont: Wadswor