

imagining spain historical myth and national identity

****Imagining Spain: Historical Myth and National Identity****

imagining spain historical myth and national identity invites us on a fascinating journey through the stories and symbols that have shaped the Spanish nation over centuries. Spain's rich tapestry of history is woven with legends, cultural narratives, and a complex interplay of regional identities that have contributed to a unique national consciousness. Understanding how myth and history intertwine helps us appreciate the deep roots of Spanish identity that continue to influence the country's culture, politics, and societal values today.

The Power of Myth in Shaping Spain's National Identity

Myths are more than just old stories—they serve as collective memories and symbols around which societies rally. In Spain, myth and history have long been intertwined, creating a powerful narrative that has helped define what it means to be Spanish. From the medieval tales of heroic reconquest to the romanticized vision of a united Catholic monarchy, these stories have shaped national imagination.

The Reconquista: Myth and Reality

One of the central myths in Spanish history is the Reconquista—the centuries-long series of battles and political maneuvers through which Christian kingdoms gradually reconquered the Iberian Peninsula from Muslim rule. While it is a historical fact, it has also been transformed into a mythic foundation story, portraying Spain as a land destined for Christian unity and strength.

This myth has been used throughout history to forge a sense of national purpose and identity, especially during periods of political consolidation, such as the reign of the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella. The narrative of overcoming adversity and reclaiming the homeland resonates deeply and continues to be referenced in cultural celebrations and national discourse.

El Cid: The Legendary Hero

Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar, better known as El Cid, is another towering figure in the mythic imagination of Spain. The medieval epic "El Cantar de Mio Cid" elevates him as a paragon of loyalty, honor, and martial prowess. El Cid's story embodies ideals that many Spaniards have embraced as part of their national character—courage, resilience, and the quest for

justice.

This blend of historical figure and mythic hero has helped consolidate a shared cultural memory, one that highlights virtues admired across Spain's diverse regions. El Cid's legacy serves as a cultural touchstone that unites Spaniards beyond linguistic or regional differences.

Historical Myths and Regional Identities

Spain is not a monolith; it is a mosaic of distinct regions, each with its own languages, traditions, and historical narratives. The imagining of Spain's historical myth and national identity must, therefore, account for this complexity, as regional myths often intersect with or challenge the wider national story.

Catalonia and the Myth of the “Catalan Nation”

Catalonia, with its distinct language and culture, has long nurtured its own historical myths that emphasize autonomy and resilience. The narrative of Catalonia as a “nation” with a unique past and destiny plays a crucial role in contemporary debates over independence and self-governance.

The mythic narrative here often includes references to the medieval Crown of Aragon, Catalonia's historical institutions, and the repression experienced under various Spanish regimes. These stories serve as a foundation for a regional identity that both complements and contests the broader Spanish national myth.

Basque Mythology and Identity

Similarly, the Basque Country has a rich tradition of myth and folklore that contributes to a strong sense of identity. The Basques have often emphasized their ancient origins and linguistic uniqueness, creating a narrative of endurance and cultural survival.

This mythology interacts with political aspirations and historical experiences, crafting a narrative that both integrates and differentiates the Basque people from the rest of Spain. Understanding these regional mythologies is essential to grasping the full picture of Spain's national identity.

How Historical Myths Influence Modern Spain

The imagining of Spain through historical myth is not confined to the past; it actively influences contemporary society, culture, and politics. These myths inform everything from national celebrations to political rhetoric and educational curricula.

National Symbols and Celebrations

Many Spanish national symbols derive from historical myths. The Spanish flag, the anthem, and national holidays often commemorate events or figures that have been mythologized to represent unity and pride. For example, the National Day of Spain (Fiesta Nacional de España), celebrated on October 12, commemorates Columbus's arrival in the Americas—a moment laden with mythic significance as a symbol of Spain's global influence and historic destiny.

Myth in Political Discourse

Political leaders frequently invoke historical myths to foster national cohesion or justify policy decisions. The narrative of Spain as a historically united and Catholic nation has been a potent tool in different eras, from Franco's regime to contemporary political debates.

At the same time, these myths are contested and reinterpreted by various political movements, especially those advocating for regional autonomy or independence. The battle over historical narratives underscores how powerful and enduring these stories are in shaping national identity.

Education and Cultural Narratives

Schools play a crucial role in transmitting the imagining of Spain's historical myth and national identity to younger generations. Textbooks and curricula often emphasize key events and figures that reinforce a shared sense of history and belonging, though the content can vary significantly depending on regional autonomy and political priorities.

Moreover, literature, cinema, and art continue to explore and reinterpret Spain's myths, allowing new generations to engage with their heritage in creative and meaningful ways.

Reimagining Spain: A Dynamic National Identity

The imagining of Spain historical myth and national identity is not static; it evolves as society changes and new perspectives emerge. Contemporary Spain grapples with its colonial legacy, multiculturalism, and the tension between unity and diversity.

The Role of Memory and Reconciliation

Efforts to confront and reconcile with difficult aspects of Spain's past—such as the Civil War and dictatorship—reflect a growing willingness to challenge traditional myths and embrace a more nuanced understanding of national identity. This process involves recognizing multiple histories and voices, contributing to a richer and more inclusive imagining of Spain.

Spain in a Globalized World

Global influences and migration have added new layers to Spain's identity, blending historical myth with contemporary realities. The national identity is continuously redefined, incorporating diverse cultural elements while still drawing on the deep well of historical myths and symbols.

This dynamic interaction ensures that Spain's national identity remains vibrant and relevant, capable of inspiring pride and reflection in equal measure.

Imagining Spain through the lens of historical myth and national identity reveals a complex, multifaceted story—one that balances myth and history, regional diversity and national unity, tradition and modernity. By exploring these narratives, we gain insight into how Spain sees itself and how it continues to shape its future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of historical myths in shaping Spain's national identity?

Historical myths in Spain play a crucial role in shaping national identity by providing a shared narrative that unites diverse regions and cultures within the country. These myths often emphasize heroic figures, pivotal events, and cultural values that foster a sense of pride and belonging among Spaniards.

How does the myth of El Cid influence Spain's perception of its historical identity?

El Cid, a legendary Castilian nobleman and military leader, symbolizes bravery, honor, and the struggle for Reconquista. His myth reinforces ideals of chivalry and national unity, contributing to Spain's historical identity as a nation forged through conflict and heroism.

In what ways do regional identities in Spain challenge the notion of a singular national identity?

Spain's diverse regions, such as Catalonia, Basque Country, and Galicia, have distinct languages, cultures, and historical narratives that sometimes conflict with the dominant national myth. These regional identities challenge the idea of a homogeneous Spanish identity, highlighting the complexity and plurality within the nation.

How have Spanish historical myths evolved in modern

times to reflect contemporary national identity?

Modern reinterpretations of Spanish historical myths often seek to promote inclusivity and reconciliation, acknowledging past conflicts while emphasizing shared values and democratic principles. This evolution reflects Spain's ongoing negotiation between tradition and modernity in defining its national identity.

What role does the Spanish Civil War play in the construction of Spain's national myths?

The Spanish Civil War is a pivotal event around which competing national myths have developed, with different groups emphasizing themes of sacrifice, resistance, or victimhood. These narratives continue to influence contemporary political discourse and collective memory in Spain, affecting national identity formation.

How does the concept of 'La Reconquista' feature in Spain's historical myth and identity?

La Reconquista, the centuries-long Christian reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from Muslim rule, is a foundational myth that highlights themes of religious and cultural unity. It has been used to construct a narrative of national perseverance and Christian identity that has shaped Spain's historical self-image.

Can the mythologizing of Spain's Golden Age affect contemporary views on national identity?

The mythologizing of Spain's Golden Age, marked by imperial expansion and cultural flourishing, often evokes national pride but can also obscure historical complexities such as colonialism and social inequalities. This selective memory influences contemporary debates about Spain's identity and its place in global history.

How do literature and art contribute to the imagining of Spain's historical myths and national identity?

Literature and art are vital in imagining and perpetuating Spain's historical myths by portraying iconic figures, events, and cultural symbols that resonate with the public. Through these mediums, national identity is both reflected and shaped, creating a dynamic dialogue between history and collective memory.

What challenges arise when reconciling Spain's diverse historical myths with a unified national identity?

Reconciling diverse historical myths involves addressing conflicting narratives, regional autonomy movements, and differing interpretations of history. Balancing these elements is challenging but essential for fostering social cohesion while respecting Spain's multicultural and historical complexity.

Additional Resources

Imagining Spain: Historical Myth and National Identity

Imagining Spain historical myth and national identity intertwines deeply with the country's complex past, cultural diversity, and political narratives. This intricate relationship between collective memory and national self-perception has shaped how Spain presents itself both domestically and internationally. Exploring the construction of Spanish identity reveals the powerful role that historical myths have played in forging a sense of unity amid regional differences and political upheavals.

The Role of Historical Myth in Shaping Spanish Identity

Spain's national identity cannot be fully understood without examining the myths that have been cultivated around its history. These myths often serve to legitimize political power, foster national pride, and create a cohesive narrative amid a fragmented cultural landscape. The romanticized notions of the Reconquista, the Golden Age of the Spanish Empire, and the figure of El Cid are prime examples of historical myths that have been instrumental in imagining Spain.

The Reconquista, the centuries-long Christian campaign to reclaim Iberian lands from Muslim rule, is one of the most potent myths in Spanish history. It symbolizes a heroic and unifying struggle that has been invoked to promote national cohesion. However, the reality was far more complex, involving alliances across religious lines and periods of coexistence. Despite this, the myth has been central to nationalist discourses, especially during the Francoist regime, which used it to underpin its ideology.

Similarly, the Golden Age myth celebrates Spain's imperial past, emphasizing cultural achievements, military prowess, and global influence. This narrative often glosses over the darker aspects of colonialism, including exploitation and conflict, yet it remains a cornerstone of Spain's self-image and cultural diplomacy.

Historical Myths as Tools of Political Legitimacy

Throughout Spain's modern history, political movements have harnessed historical myths to validate their agendas. The Franco dictatorship (1939–1975) is perhaps the most explicit example, where the regime propagated a homogenized vision of Spanish identity rooted in Catholicism, traditional values, and centralized authority. The regime's narrative selectively revived medieval and imperial symbols to foster unity and suppress regional identities, such as Catalan and Basque nationalism.

In democratic Spain, the challenge has been to reconcile these competing narratives and regional identities within a pluralistic framework. The 1978 Constitution recognized Spain as a nation composed of diverse "nationalities and regions," reflecting an ongoing negotiation of identity and memory.

Regional Identities and the Imagining of Spain

Spain's internal diversity complicates the process of imagining a singular national identity. Regions like Catalonia, the Basque Country, and Galicia possess distinct languages, cultures, and historical experiences that challenge the centralist myths of Spanishness. These regional identities have historically been framed in opposition to the dominant national narrative, leading to tensions and debates over autonomy and sovereignty.

Catalonia and Basque Country: Contesting National Myths

Catalonia's distinct language and history have fueled a powerful nationalist movement that critiques the Spanish state's historical myths as exclusionary. Catalan identity emphasizes its own medieval institutions, culture, and economic contributions, framing itself as a nation within a nation. The push for independence in recent decades is partly a reaction against the central government's version of Spanish identity, which many Catalans perceive as homogenizing and dismissive of their uniqueness.

The Basque Country offers another example where historical myth and national identity intersect with political activism. The Basque language and traditions underpin a strong nationalist movement that similarly challenges Spain's historical narratives. Unlike the centralized myths of Spain's imperial past, Basque nationalism often celebrates its distinctiveness and resilience.

Literature, Art, and Media in Imagining Spain

Cultural production has played a crucial role in both reinforcing and questioning Spain's historical myths. From the works of Cervantes to contemporary filmmakers like Pedro Almodóvar, Spanish literature and art contribute to the ongoing dialogue about identity.

- **Literature:** Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote" is often interpreted as a reflection on Spanish identity, mixing chivalric myth with social critique.
- **Visual Arts:** The paintings of Francisco Goya and Diego Velázquez highlight different facets of Spain's historical realities and myths.
- **Film and Media:** Modern Spanish cinema frequently explores themes of memory, identity, and historical trauma, offering nuanced perspectives on national myths.

These cultural expressions enable a more critical engagement with history, allowing Spaniards to imagine their nation beyond simplistic mythologies.

Tourism and the Mythmaking of Spain

Tourism also plays a significant role in perpetuating and shaping Spain's national myths. The global image of Spain as a land of flamenco, bullfighting, historic castles, and sun-drenched coasts is a curated narrative that attracts millions annually. While these images contribute economically, they can also oversimplify the complex realities of Spanish identity and history.

Tourism campaigns often emphasize iconic symbols such as the Alhambra, the Sagrada Família, and the Camino de Santiago, each loaded with historical and cultural significance. These sites serve as tangible representations of Spain's layered past, yet the stories told through tourism sometimes prioritize spectacle over critical historical engagement.

Challenges to the Established Narratives

In recent decades, there has been a growing movement within Spain to reassess and sometimes deconstruct the historical myths that shaped national identity. Academic research, public debates, and political movements push for a more inclusive and accurate understanding of Spain's past.

Memory and Reconciliation

The legacy of the Spanish Civil War and Franco's dictatorship remains a contentious element in national identity. Efforts like the Law of Historical Memory (2007) seek to acknowledge victims of the dictatorship and foster reconciliation. This process challenges the mythologized versions of Spain's past by confronting uncomfortable truths and diverse perspectives.

Multiculturalism and Modern Identity

Contemporary Spain is increasingly diverse, with immigration and globalization reshaping its social fabric. This evolution adds new dimensions to discussions about national identity, moving beyond historical myths towards a more dynamic and pluralistic understanding of what it means to be Spanish.

The integration of different cultures and identities challenges monolithic narratives and promotes a vision of Spain as a multicultural society. This shift also raises questions about how historical myths can remain relevant or need to be reimagined for future generations.

Imagining Spain historical myth and national identity continues to be a complex, evolving process. The interplay between myth, history, regional diversity, and contemporary realities shapes how Spain understands itself and is perceived by the world. While historical myths

offer a sense of continuity and pride, they also necessitate critical examination to embrace the full spectrum of Spain's rich and multifaceted identity.

Imagining Spain Historical Myth And National Identity

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imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Imagining Spain Henry Kamen, 2008 'Imagining Spain' is an analysis of the myths that Spaniards have held, and continue to hold, about themselves and about their collective past. The text discusses how perceptions of key aspects of early modern Spain were influenced by ideologies that continue to play a role in the formation of contemporary Spanish attitudes.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Otherness and National Identity in 19th-Century Spanish Literature, 2022-08-29 Which were the mechanisms by which certain groups were positioned at the margins of national narratives during the nineteenth century, either via their exclusion from these narratives or through their incorporation into them as 'others'? By engaging with shifting ideas of exclusion and difference, the authors in this book reflect upon the paradoxical centrality of the subaltern at a time when literature was deployed as a tool for nation building. The lasting presence of the Jewish and Moorish legacy, the portrayal of gypsy characters, or the changing notions of femininity in public discourse exemplify the ways in which images of marginal 'types' played a central role in the configuration of the very idea of Spanishness. ¿Cuáles fueron los mecanismos mediante los que ciertos grupos fueron relegados a los márgenes del relato nacional durante el siglo XIX, bien a través de su exclusión de dichos relatos, bien a través de su incorporación a ellos como otros? A través del análisis de las ideas de exclusión y diferencia, los autores de este libro reflexionan sobre la paradójica centralidad de lo marginal en una época en la que la literatura fue una herramienta fundamental para la construcción de la nación. La pervivencia del legado judío y morisco, la representación de personajes gitanos o las distintas nociones de feminidad presentes en el discurso público ejemplifican las formas en que las imágenes de tipos marginales desempeñaron un papel central en la configuración de la idea de españolidad.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Identity and Violence in Early Modern Granada Tanja Zakrzewski, 2023-04-15 In *Identity and Violence in Early Modern Granada: Conversos and Moriscos*, Tanja Zakrzewski argues that Conversos and Moriscos, despite being distinct sociocultural groups within Spanish society, still employed the same arguments and rhetorical strategies to establish and defend their place within society. Both Conversos and Moriscos relied on contemporary notions of honour, authority, and loyalty to emphasize that they are true Spaniards - not despite their New Christian heritage but because of it. This book offers an entangled narrative of their history and examines how their notions of honour and hispanidad shaped their socio-cultural identities during the time of the socio-cultural identities during the time of the Alpujarras Rebellion.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: The Rough Guide to Mallorca & Menorca Phil Lee, 2013-05-01 The new-look, full colour Rough Guide to Mallorca & Menorca goes beyond the sun, booze and high-rise hotels to reveal the surprising delights of these Balearic islands. Away from the handful of mega-resorts, discover the bustle of Mallorca's capital, Palma, the craggy mountains and medieval monasteries of the north coast, and the charming towns of the central plain.

Menorca, lying to the east, boasts an interior of rolling fields and wooded ravines in between its capital Maó, and the beautifully preserved town of Ciutadella, while a chain of conservation areas protect the pristine coves and beaches that are Menorca's real treasures. Stunning photos, suggested itineraries, day hike routes, colour-coded maps, trustworthy reviews and top five boxes, not to mention all the practical information you need, will help you enjoy the very best of both these islands. Make the most of your time with *The Rough Guide to Mallorca & Menorca*. Now available in ePub format.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: *Antiauthoritarian Youth Culture in Francoist Spain* Louie Dean Valencia-García, 2018-05-17 How did kids, hippies and punks challenge a fascist dictatorship and imagine an impossible dream of an inclusive future? This book explores the role of youth in shaping a democratic Spain, focusing on their urban performances of dissent, their consumption of censored literature, political-literary magazines and comic books and their involvement in a newly developed underground scene. After forty years of dictatorship, Madrid became the centre of both a young democracy and a vibrant artistic scene by the early 1980s. Louie Dean Valencia-García skillfully examines how young Spaniards occupied public plazas, subverted Spanish cultural norms and undermined the authoritarian state by participating in a postmodern punk subculture that eventually grew into the 'Movida Madrileña'. In doing so, he exposes how this antiauthoritarian youth culture reflected a mixture of sexual liberation, a rejection of the ideological indoctrination of the dictatorship, a reinvention of native Iberian pluralistic traditions and a burgeoning global youth culture that connected the USA, Britain, France and Spain. By analyzing young people's everyday acts of resistance, *Antiauthoritarian Youth Culture in Francoist Spain* offers a fascinating account of Madrid's youth and their role in the transition to the modern Spanish democracy.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: *An Overview of the Pre-suppression Society of Jesus in Spain* Patricia W. Manning, 2020-11-30 In *An Overview of the Pre-suppression Society of Jesus in Spain*, Patricia W. Manning offers a survey of the Society of Jesus in Spain from its origins in Ignatius of Loyola's early preaching to the aftereffects of its expulsion. Rather than nurture the nascent order, Loyola's homeland was often ambivalent. His pre-Jesuit freelance sermonizing prompted investigations. The young Society confronted indifference and interference from the Spanish monarchy and outright opposition from other religious orders. This essay outlines the order's ministerial and pedagogical activities, its relationship with women and with royal institutions, including the Spanish Inquisition, and Spanish members' roles in theological debates concerning casuistry, free will, and the immaculate conception. It also considers the impact of Jesuits' non-religious writings.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: *Habsburg Madrid* Jesús Escobar, 2022-04-08 With its selection as the court of the Spanish Habsburgs, Madrid became the de facto capital of a global empire, a place from which momentous decisions were made whose implications were felt in all corners of a vast domain. By the seventeenth century, however, political theory produced in the *Monarquía Hispánica* dealt primarily with the concept of decline. In this book, Jesús Escobar argues that the buildings of Madrid tell a different story about the final years of the Habsburg dynasty. Madrid took on a grander public face over the course of the seventeenth century, creating a "court space" for residents and visitors alike. Drawing from the representation of the city's architecture in prints, books, and paintings, as well as re-created plans standing in for lost documents, Escobar demonstrates how, through shared forms and building materials, the architecture of Madrid embodied the monarchy and promoted its chief political ideals of justice and good government. *Habsburg Madrid* explores palaces, public plazas, a town hall, a courthouse, and a prison, narrating the lived experience of architecture in a city where a wide roster of protagonists, from architects and builders to royal patrons, court bureaucrats, and private citizens, helped shape a modern capital. Richly illustrated, highly original, and written by a leading scholar in the field, this volume disrupts the traditional narrative about seventeenth-century Spanish decadencia. It will be welcomed by specialists in Habsburg Spain and by historians of art, architecture, culture,

economics, and politics.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: The Four Horsemen Richard Stites, 2014-01-09 The Four Horsemen narrates the history of revolution in Spain, Naples, Greece, and Russia in the 1820s, connecting the social movements and activities on the ground, in the inimitable voice of a renowned historian.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Muslim Europe Gavin Murray-Miller, 2024-12-15 Europe and the Islamic world have shared a long and conflicted history. From the Middle Ages to the global War on Terror, the image of two civilizations perpetually at war has endured. However, a closer look at the past suggests this was not always the case. Muslim Europe follows the lives of imperialists, journalists, and Muslim activists who attempted to challenge the idea of two opposing civilizations locked in eternal conflict. Rich in detail, it tells the stories of English officials who once declared Britain the greatest "Muslim power" on the face of the earth and recounts the extraordinary political campaign that saw a French Muslim elected to the National Assembly against all odds. The "age of empire" brought Islam into European public life like never-before, inspiring Muslims on the continent to take to the press and mount political movements guided by desires for greater social recognition. In chronicling the forgotten history of Europe's early Muslim communities across empires, Muslim Europe proposes a new history for Europe, highlighting the contributions made by Muslim subjects and citizens in search of a more just and tolerant society.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Spain William Chislett, 2025-05-08 Spain is now the Eurozone's third largest economy, the second most popular tourist destination in the world, and a major player in the current world order. The nation's path to this status has followed a long and often turbulent history, involving conquest, empire, civil war, dictatorship, and a hard-fought transition to democracy, now challenged by increasing fragmentation and polarization of political life. In the second edition of *Spain: What Everyone Needs to Know®*, veteran journalist William Chislett updates his comprehensive overview of Spain's history, economy, and politics to contextualize the country's situation in the 2020s. In the concise, question-and-answer format of the *What Everyone Needs to Know®* series, Chislett covers a range of topics, including the legacy of the early Muslim presence, the influx of immigrants and the separatist Catalan region, the transition to democracy after the death of General Franco, the creation of the welfare state, the impact of European Economic Community membership, the 2008-2014 banking and real estate crisis, and the changing political landscape in the last decade. New material analyzes the watershed 2015 general election and the rise of the far right, and presents the key challenges that will shape Spain's future in the years to come. Engaging and comprehensive, this book is an authoritative starting point for readers interested in the history and influence of the storied Spanish nation.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Race and Blood in the Iberian World María Elena Martínez, David Nirenberg, Max-Sebastián Hering Torres, 2012 Racism Analysis is a research series by LIT Verlag that explores racial discrimination in all its varying historical, ideological, and cultural patterns. It examines the invention of race, as well as the dimensions of modern racism, and it inquires into racism avant la lettre. *Race and Blood in the Iberian World* is the third volume in the *Race Analysis* series. This collection offers an historical approach to the topics of race and blood in the Spanish Atlantic world, with extended comparative glances toward other Iberian imperial contexts (Portuguese India) and periods (the modern). The contributions include: a proposition to analyze processes of racialization in plural before the modern period * the question of whether it is analytically appropriate to apply the concept of race to early modern Spanish and Spanish American contexts * the intricate dynamics of race and blood in Iberian discourses of otherness * an analysis of the discourse of *limpieza de sangre* in relation to Spain's Muslims and moriscos in New Granada * the meanings of the Spanish notions of race and its relationships with gender in colonial Mexico * the meaning of *casta*, *raza*, and *limpieza de sangre* in Goa * the place of Gypsies, indigenous people, and blacks within discourses of citizenship and nativeness * a discussion about how to transform colonial subjects into citizens * an exploration of the works of two scientists

of the inter-war period whose research in different ways contributed to what is called blood science. (Series: Racism Analysis - Series B: Yearbooks - Vol. 3)

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: *Amadis in English* Helen Moore, 2020-05-07 This is a book about readers: readers reading, and readers writing. They are readers of all ages and from all ages: young and old, male and female, from Europe and the Americas. The book they are reading is the Spanish chivalric romance *Amadis de Gaula*, known in English as *Amadis de Gaule*. Famous throughout the sixteenth century as the pinnacle of its fictional genre, the cultural functions of *Amadis* were further elaborated by the publication of Cervantes's *Don Quixote* in 1605, in which *Amadis* features as *Quixote*'s favourite book. *Amadis* thereby becomes, as the philosopher Ortega y Gasset terms it, 'enclosed' within the modern novel and part of the imaginative landscape of British reader-authors such as Mary Shelley, Smollett, Keats, Southey, Scott, and Thackeray. *Amadis in English* ranges from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, demonstrating through this 'biography' of a book the deep cultural, intellectual, and political connections of English, French, and Spanish literature across five centuries. Simultaneously an ambitious work of transnational literary history and a new intervention in the history of reading, this study argues that romance is historically located, culturally responsive, and uniquely flexible in the re-creative possibilities it offers readers. By revealing this hitherto unexamined reading experience connecting readers of all backgrounds, *Amadis in English* also offers many new insights into the politicisation of literary history; the construction and misconstruction of literary relations between England, France, and Spain; the practice and pleasures of reading fiction; and the enduring power of imagination.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: The Routledge Hispanic Studies Companion to Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture Rodrigo Cacho Casal, Caroline Egan, 2022-05-01 The Routledge Hispanic Studies Companion to Early Modern Spanish Literature and Culture introduces the intellectual and artistic breadth of early modern Spain from a range of disciplinary and critical perspectives. Spanning the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (a period traditionally known as the Golden Age), the volume examines topics including political and scientific culture, literary and artistic innovations, and religious and social identities and institutions in transformation. The 36 chapters of the volume include both expert overviews of key topics and figures from the period as well as new approaches to understudied questions and materials. This invaluable resource will be of interest to advanced students and scholars in Hispanic studies, as well as Renaissance and early modern studies more generally.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: Culture and Society in Medieval Galicia , 2015-07-28 In *Culture and Society in Medieval Galicia*, twenty-three international authors examine Galicia's changing place in Iberia, Europe, and the Mediterranean and Atlantic worlds from late antiquity through the thirteenth century. With articles on art and architecture; religion and the church; law and society; politics and historiography; language and literature; and learning and textual culture, the authors introduce medieval Galicia and current research on the region to medievalists, Hispanists, and students of regional culture and society. The cult of St. James, Santiago Cathedral, and the pilgrimage to Compostela are highlighted and contextualized to show how Galicia's remoteness became the basis for a paradoxical centrality in medieval art, culture, and religion. Contributors are Jeffrey A. Bowman, Manuel Castiñeiras, James D'Emilio, Thomas Deswarte, Pablo C. Díaz, Emma Falque, Amélia P. Hutchinson, Amancio Isla, Henrik Karge, Melissa R. Katz, Michael Kulikowski, Fernando López Sánchez, Luis R. Menéndez Bueyes, William D. Paden, Francisco Javier Pérez Rodríguez, Ermelindo Portela, Rocío Sánchez Ameijeiras, Adeline Rucquoi, Ana Suárez González, Purificación Ubric, Ramón Villares, John Williams †, and Roger Wright.

imagining spain historical myth and national identity: **A Companion to the Spanish Renaissance** Hilaire Kallendorf, 2018-10-22 A Companion to the Spanish Renaissance makes a renewed case for the inclusion of Spain within broader European Renaissance movements. Its introduction, "A Renaissance for the 'Spanish Renaissance'?" will be sure to incite polemic across a broad spectrum of academic fields. This interdisciplinary volume combines micro- with macro-history to offer a snapshot of the best new work being done in this area. With essays on

politics and government, family and daily life, religion, nobles and court culture, birth and death, intellectual currents, ethnic groups, the plastic arts, literature, popular culture, law courts, women, literacy, libraries, civic ritual, illness, money, notions of community, philosophy and law, science, colonial empire, and historiography, it offers breath-taking scope without sacrificing attention to detail. Destined to become the standard go-to resource for non-specialists, this book also contains an extensive bibliography aimed at the serious researcher. Contributors are: Beatriz de Alba-Koch, Edward Behrend-Martínez, Cristian Berco, Harald E. Braun, Susan Byrne, Bernardo Canteñas, Frederick A. de Armas, William Eamon, Stephanie Fink, Enrique García Santo-Tomás, J.A. Garrido Ardila, Marya T. Green-Mercado, Elizabeth Teresa Howe, Hilaire Kallendorf, Henry Kamen, Elizabeth A. Lehfeldt, Michael J. Levin, Ruth MacKay, Fabien Montcher, Ignacio Navarrete, Jeffrey Schrader, Lía Schwartz, Elizabeth Ashcroft Terry, and Elvira Vilches.

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