



SPANISH IDENTITY IN THE AGE OF NATIONS

José Álvarez-Junco

First published in Spanish in 2001, this book was quickly recognised as a monumental achievement by one of Spain's most original and engaging historians. Álvarez-Junco's book is a path breaking study of the development of Spanish national identity ('the idea of Spain') from the end of the eighteenth to the twentieth century. It breaks away from an academic obsession with the sub-nationalism of Catalonia and the Basque Country to examine the predominant form of national consciousness, against which they reacted.

This book traces the emergence and evolution of an initial collective identity within the Iberian Peninsula from the Middle Ages to the end of the *ancien régime* based on the Catholic religion, loyalty to the Crown and Empire. The adaptation of this identity to the modern era, beginning with the Napoleonic Wars and the liberal revolutions, forms the crux of this study. Nonetheless, the book also embraces the highly contested evolution of national identity in the twentieth century, including both the Civil War and the Franco Dictatorship.

This remarkable volume ranges widely over diverse subjects such as representations of the past in Spain, the role of the arts and sciences in creating national consciousness, the impact of religion and Catholic ideas, the use of cultural symbolism, and the significance of contemporary events and political movements.

Its translation into English will be welcomed by historians of Spain and of Europe.

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'El dos de Mayo en Madrid',
Francisco de Goya y Lucientes.
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