



Nation and Narration

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Bhabha, in his preface, writes 'Nations, like narratives, lose their origins in the myths of time and only fully encounter their horizons in the mind's eye'. From this seemingly impossibly metaphorical beginning, this volume confronts the realities of the concept of nationhood as it is lived and the profound ambivalence of language as it is written. From Gillian Beer's reading of Virginia Woolf, Rachel Bowlby's cultural history of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Francis Mulhern's study of Leaviste's 'English ethics'; to Doris Sommer's study of the 'magical realism' of Latin American fiction and Sneja Gunew's analysis of Australian writing, *Nation and Narration* is a celebration of the fact that English is no longer an English national consciousness, which is *not* nationalist, but is the only thing that will give us an international dimension.

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Review

'Manages to embrace a number of theoretical positions, and individual contributions sometimes achieve a commendable clarity and insight.' - *Mr D Hall, Norwich Art & Design Schl*

***Nation and Narration* is provocative in its rewriting of much received wisdom, and will foment debate on an area of literary criticism that has been neglected for far too long.'** - *Times Literary Supplement*

About the Author

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities, Chair of Afro-American Studies, and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University. In 1997 he was listed among Time magazine's '25 Most Influential Americans'. Gates' publications include *Figures in Black* (OUP, 1987), *The Signifying Monkey* (OUP, 1988), *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man* (Random House, 1997), *Wonders of the African World* (Knopf, 1999), *Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience* (Perseus, 1999), and *The African American Century: How Black Americans Have Shaped Our Century* (Perseus, 2000). One of the world's most prominent and influential figures in the fields of postcolonial studies and cultural theory, Homi K. Bhabha is Professor of English at Harvard University.

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