"His spirit was given only to warre": conflict and identity in the Scottish Gàidhealtachd, c. 1580-c. 1630


Abstract

This article examines aspects of Highland or Gaelic Society in the decades immediately preceeding and following the Union of the Crowns of England with Scotland in 1603. It examines crown and crown-sanctioned commercial and colonial initiatives in the Highlands both before and after the union and how this impinged on patterns of feud and violence in the area. Many (but not all) of the inhabitants of the Highlands and Islands were deemed barbarous, uncivil, and fit for expropriation and colonisation. This essay focuses on how people in various localities in the Highlands, often regarded as a militarised society, reacted to and identified with the Scottish state and with the new British state after 1603.
"His spirit was given only to warre": Conflict and Identity in the Scottish Gàidhealtachd c. 1580-c.1630 / Aonghas MacCoinnich, 143.

7. "Crisis of Identity? "Fighting for Identity is a step forward in the methodology of writing military history because it applies the theory of disengagement to military consciousness and the identity of the warrior." Mark C. Fissel, The Journal of Military History, vol. 69:1 (2005). "Fighting for Identity presents important new findings and successfully establishes identity as a key issue for military historiography. The volume should be of great interest to Scottish scholars and to historians of early modern Britain." Brian Sandberg, The Sixteenth Century Journal, XXXVI/4 (2004). The identity of Leslie's mother remains a matter of debate. Some authors claim that his mother was Ann Stewart of Ballechin, who married George in 1578. Others suggest that George Leslie married twice, with his second wife's identity being both unknown and sometimes dismissed as simply that of 'a wench in Rannoch'.

3. Copyright. It is enough here to note that his heritage lay in the lower strata of society and that the little we know of his background is something of the norm. The closeness of this fictive kinship tie was a crucial part of the Gàidhealtachd ideology, and is often noted as such by its scholars. 15 The practice of fosterage enabled families to reinforce kin ties and added support to their family structures, and the strength of the bond found ultimate expression in wartime. MacCoinnich, Aonghas. " "His Spirit was given only to warre": Conflict and Identity in the Scottish Gàidhealtachd c. 1580-c.1630." In Fighting for Identity: Scottish Military Experience c. 1550-1900, edited by Steve Murdoch and A. MacKillop, 133-61. Leiden: Brill, 2002. McCone, Kim. Pagan Past and Christian Present in Early Irish Literature. Maynooth: An Sagart, 1990. — Echtrae Chonnlai and the Beginnings of Vernacular Narrative Writing in Ireland. Maynooth: Department of Old and Middle Irish, 2000.