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Franziska Slivková

University of Pardubice

Faculty of Art and Philosophy

**The Concept of Englishness and the Interwar English Culture in  
A.G. Macdonell's *England, their England***

Franziska Slivková

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Jméno a příjmení: **Franziska Slivková**  
Osobní číslo: **H19190**  
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Studentka ve své práci představí kulturně historický koncept meziválečné britské společnosti, především na dobové národní stereotypy a dobové národní sebeurčení v Anglii. Zaměří se také na obecnou charakteristiku národní identity, národního citění a nacionalismu. Ve vybraném literárním díle bude tyto teoretické poznatky konfrontovat literárním obrazem národní identity v díle *England, their England*.

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Vedoucí bakalářské práce: **Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph.D.**  
Katedra anglistiky a amerikanistiky

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**doc. Mgr. Jiří Kubeš, Ph.D.** v.r.  
děkan

**Mgr. Olga Roebuck, Ph.D.** v.r.  
vedoucí katedry

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Prohlašuji:

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Franziska Slivková

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## **ANOTATION**

The bachelor thesis presents and analyses how the depiction of English national identity in the Interwar period in the novel *England, their England* by A.G. Macdonell. In order to understand the concept and the epoch in which the novel was written, the bachelor thesis will provide historical, socio-economic and cultural context of the Interwar period and English national identity. The novel simultaneously reflects notions and perspectives of a real historical epoch in a hyperbolic nature.

## **KEY WORDS**

English national identity, Interwar period, economic crisis, The “Long-Weekend”, countryside

## **NÁZEV**

Koncepty anglické národní identity a anglické meziválečné kultury vyobrazeny v románu A.G. Macdonella, *England, their England*

## **ANOTACE**

Tato bakalářská práce představuje a analyzuje vyobrazení anglické národní identity meziválečného období v románu A.G. Macdonella, *England, their England*. Pro pochopení konceptu a období, ve kterém byl román napsán, poskytne teoretická část bakalářské práce historický, socioekonomický a kulturní kontext. Román zároveň hyperbolicky odráží náhledy a perspektivy skutečné historické epochy.

## **KLÍČOVÁ SLOVA**

Anglická národní identita, Meziválečné období, ekonomická krize, Termín pro meziválečné období “Long Weekend”, venkov

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## Introduction

Perhaps one of the most overlooked epochs of British history is the Interwar Period, jovially nicknamed “The Long Weekend.” The interwar period, which spanned from the end of the First World War in 1918 to the beginning of the second armed conflict in 1939, was a time of significant social, cultural, and political change in Britain. As the country struggled to recover from the devastation of the First World War and grappled with economic and political uncertainty, the question of what it meant to be English became increasingly complex and contested.

This thesis will explore the ways in which the concept of Englishness evolved during the Interwar period, examining the social, cultural, and political factors that influenced its development. Through an analysis of a range of cultural artifacts, this thesis will argue that Englishness during this period was characterized by a tension between traditional notions of English identity and the challenges posed by a rapidly changing world. This thesis aims to understand the complex ways in which national identity is constructed and contested, particularly in the interwar period and in relation to the concept of Englishness. It provides insights into the multifaceted nature of national identity, and discusses the historical context that has shaped contemporary debates about Englishness and national identity. English national identity has reportedly already emerged in the Elizabethan era of the Golden Age of the British Empire.<sup>1</sup> However, that marks the beginning of a lost sense of national identity, as the English kept expanding their Empire, they slowly lost nationalistic feelings.<sup>2</sup> A new surge these feelings emerged with the end of the First World War, as the English people were seeking any form of unity and tranquillity, to heal the wounds of past traumas.

The objective of this thesis is to assess the concept of English identity in this particular period and find correlations to its contemporary literary counterpart.

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<sup>1</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. ,431

<sup>2</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 428

One literary source is used, the satirical novel *England, their England*, written by Archibald Gordon Macdonell. Written in 1933, at the prime of the Interwar period.

The thesis contains two sections. The historical, socio-economical and topical backgrounds are introduced in the theoretical part, as they the backbone and key to understand England's national evolution. In the second chapter, the concept of leisure is introduced, as it played a vital role in the formation of the newly acquired sense of national identity. The third chapter introduces the concept of Englishness and its historical and contemporary development. All the significant arguments are in relation to the concept of Englishness in the Interwar period. In the practical part, all the enquired information will be used to analyse excerpts from the novel *England, their England*. The theoretical background will compare, contrast and identify similarities between the literary representation of Englishness and the scientific and research-based Englishness.

## The Interwar period in Great Britain

With the First World War coming to an end, a whole nation was recovering itself from, at that time, the most draining and bloodshed military conflict of this scale in history. Not only was the nation tired and exhausted, but so was the economy, which suffered not only due to expenses on the war, but also later, in 1929, due to the Wall Street Stock Market Crash, further plummeting the economy into greater depths of recession. The Interwar Period also nicknamed “The Long Weekend”, denotes a time of social unrest, economic instability and a new sense of understanding one’s identity in a cluster comprised of many newly discovered and revived nationalities, after the fall of many empires during the First World War.

Following the First World War, Britain’s economy experienced extreme instability, which had huge social and economic repercussions. For a majority of workers and their families, living became difficult as a result of the collapse of industries that had contributed to the war effort, high unemployment rates, and increasing tax rates. When men returned from the war, women were obliged to quit their employment, which not only led to social revolts but also represented a squandered chance for the economy to benefit from their skills and labour.

With the end of the First World War, a general desire to improve the world for those who had suffered and made sacrifices during the fight had emerged. Robert Tombs notes that peace led to a worldwide economic upswing and a shared aspiration to enhance the lives of ordinary people, whom Lloyd George referred to as the “heroes” for their sacrifices during the war.<sup>3</sup> Not only the government itself, but also the people and businesses who had to endure these tragic events found themselves at a point of reverting to a time of prosperity and security dating back to the Edwardian period. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister from 1916 to 1922, made it one of his main priorities to reconstruct the country after the war and foremostly provide provisions for the weary and heroic veterans of the war. It is debateable to which extent there even was an “economic boom”, as referred to by Tombs. Another point of view on this matter is that after the war, the economy collapsed and fell into recession, which resulted in a fair number of unemployment

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<sup>3</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015, 655

and therefore caused social unrest among many workers. As the authors of *Captivating History* state, shipbuilding, coal mining, and steel manufacture were no longer required to assist the war effort. The post-war economy collapsed, and thousands of women who had worked while men fought were compelled to give up their employment to returning troops.<sup>4</sup> Not only was there a decrease in job opportunities for many male workers, but the newly found freedom and perhaps meaning of life for the “left-at-home” women had been stripped away from them the minute the men returned from the war. This not only meant that women could not work anymore and perhaps earn more money for their households, but there was a missed opportunity of abandoning old stereotypes of gender roles altogether. Furthermore, the authors of *Captivating History* add the following; as industries unionized, strikes became more frequent. In 1919, miners' and railway workers' strikes aimed to increase wages, but resulted in high unemployment rates in other sectors.<sup>5</sup> Union trades formed in major UK companies and industries, adopting a proactive strategy. Strikes by miners and railroad workers aimed to boost wages but these actions led to higher unemployment rates in other sectors.

This shows that the strikes had a knock-on effect on the economy as a whole, affecting not only those said industries, but other industries, in a large part depend on them, as well. In addition, the government raised taxes to fund reconstruction amidst high unemployment, causing hardship especially for those living on the brink of poverty. Continuing with the further development of the post-war economic state of Britain, Glyn Williams and John Ramsden assert that the Conservatives were most concerned about the financial repercussions of reconstruction reforms. Taxation had rocketed dramatically to pay for the war.<sup>6</sup> This statement argues with Tombs' previously mentioned remark about the economic boom. The weak economy led the Conservative Party to see no other choice but to raise taxes for the state's budget. Moreover, Williams and Ramsden note that Britain paid a larger share of war costs than other major participants, causing its national

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<sup>4</sup> *Captivating History, History of England: A Captivating Guide to English History, Starting from Antiquity through Rule of the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, and Tudors to the End of World War 2.* –p. 64

<sup>5</sup> *Captivating History, History of England: A Captivating Guide to English History, Starting from Antiquity through Rule of the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, and Tudors to the End of World War 2.* –p. 64

<sup>6</sup> Williams, Glyn. Ramsden, John. *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain 1688-1988.* Essex: Longmann Group, 376

debt to skyrocket from 1 billion to 8 billion pounds. This resulted in long-term debt and opposition to new spending plans.<sup>7</sup> In essence, the war's significant debt hindered the government's ability to finance new programs or projects due to the high tax rates set to repay the debt. This also led to a decline in people's quality of life, which had already been tested by the war. Despite high taxation rates, some of the privileged ones had enough monetary resources to either invest in business or spend it however they desire, as these were usually individuals with perspective companies that were essential for war production. Tombs mentions as rations and regulations were lifted; people were able to put the hardships of the war years behind them. Those who had saved more money were able to spend. Companies took out loans to restock and invest in their stock portfolios.<sup>8</sup> This points to a shift and simultaneously a desire to lead ordinary lives, for some of the more privileged people, this was the case, however, lower-class individuals were not as fortunate enough to be able to enjoy spare time activities in the same scope as the upper-class people. At the same time, companies were also looking for methods to alleviate the impact of the declining economic situation, searching for tools in traditional economic teachings, in hope of preventing greater financial losses, which they achieved by taking out loans and reinvest in their own stocks. Generally, this statement emphasizes the positive developments that took place after the war, when the economy began to revive, and certain individuals could experience greater levels of affluence.

Circling back to the previous paragraph, economic imbalance was not the only reason for social unrest and crucial government measures. Numerous reforms emerged pre and post The Great War, improving Victorian working conditions and allowing for more leisure time. This led to a new society with diverse interests and hobbies. However, only the privileged upper-class benefited from this, while the working-class continued to, even if not silently, suffer. This remained unchanged even at the turn of the decade, with the 1929 Wall Street Crash plunging the nation into another crisis. David McDowall highlights class differences and the government's inadequate response to the depression in Britain. The areas that drove the industrial revolution suffered the most, with the working class living in dire

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<sup>7</sup> Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain 1688-1988 – p.376

<sup>8</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015,655

conditions and facing shorter life expectancies and higher infant mortality rates. Lack of investment compounded the bleak outlook for these communities, as there was no one ready to invest money required to resurrect these industries.<sup>9</sup> This excerpt emphasizes how the post-war crisis differed in its effects on various areas in Britain and how the government mishandled the crisis. The emphasis on particular areas affected by the recession highlights the significance of comprehending the various effects of economic crises on different people and regions, as well as the need for specific responses to address their particular issues. Yet, there was no definite answer from either party in the government. Fair few improvements in the form of social and working reforms saw the light of day even before the First World War, yet many were also realised after the war. Some of them, which Tombs listed, range from unemployment benefits, a higher percentage of equal pay between men and women, house building programmes or improvements in public health.<sup>10</sup> David MacDowell shares a similar view, stating that after the war, the government made many promises to improve the lives of returning soldiers. However, the subsequent building initiative aimed at boosting health and education fell short of public expectations.<sup>11</sup> The lack of expenditure due to lack of monetary resources was met with disappointment. Yet, there was endeavour to resolve, at least, a part of the issues Britain was left to face with. This, however, was not enough for lesser well-off people. Referring back to Tombs' statement about certain groups of people having more privilege in terms of finances that are available for expense, there were industries and companies owned by individuals, who were slowly gaining wealth without the help of the government.

Nearing the end of the Interwar period and the beginning of the next armed conflict, we can observe a steady economic improvement, as yet again, certain industries were slowly preparing for another conflict, despite the nation's attitude towards previous armament and its involvement in any other global conflicts. Yet, that was not the only reason the economy was booming, as many technological advancements made its way into the homes of people. Enjoying the luxuries of the

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<sup>9</sup> McDowall, David. *An Illustrated history of Britain*. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 165

<sup>10</sup> *The English & Their History* – Robert Tombs – p. 655 + reference number 36 (someone else also)

<sup>11</sup> McDowall, David. *An Illustrated history of Britain*. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 161

slow economic recovery, even redistributing some of the classes to different living locations. McDowall exemplifies how the Midlands' car industry drove new development, transforming towns and countryside. The middle class migrated to rural areas, creating small homes near highways with convenient amenities like stores and cinemas.<sup>12</sup> This statement is inconspicuously indicating a shift farther from cities into more tranquil and secluded places. As lines between suburbs and villages near cities started to slowly blur. As it was already alluded to, the unsteady and fluctuating economy was slowly growing as the next armed conflict loomed around the corner. McDowall explains; during that time, the fear of another war actually improved the economy. Hitler's Germany aimed to regain its position in Europe through aggression, which caused alarm. Although the public was against war, Britain had to swiftly rebuild its military, resulting in a significant investment in heavy industry. With American aid, British factories were able to produce weapons, aircraft, and equipment for combat by 1937.<sup>13</sup> Despite the nation's attitude regarding prior weapons and its engagement in any future worldwide battles, as the Interwar period concluded and the next armed conflict loomed, we can see a gradual economic progress as key businesses prepared for another military conflict. However, that was not the sole reason for the economy's growth, as many technical developments found their way into people's homes. Taking advantage of the comforts of a steady economic recovery, even relocating some classes to new living areas.

In terms of societal changes, Tombs through his research points out a common pattern visible all over Europe. the First World War also sparked a rebirth of traditional cultural forms and a determination to preserve national traditions.<sup>14</sup> Further affirming ideas from previous chapters, how a boom in nationalistic feelings emerged after the collapse of numerous empires, comprised of several separate nations wanting to gain their own independence and finding their own voice and identity. Additionally, Tombs describes this “New Age” by declaring that the First World War is often seen as a cultural turning point, with new ideas,

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<sup>12</sup> McDowall, David. *An Illustrated history of Britain*. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 165

<sup>13</sup> McDowall, David. *An Illustrated history of Britain*. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 165

<sup>14</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015, 657

morality, and artistic forms emerging as a result of the war, which shattered obsolete orthodoxies and fixed social hierarchies.<sup>15</sup> Yet Tombs simultaneously opposes his own deduction on how the First World War impacted women's rights. While women had made progress even before the war, Tombs argues that gender equality regressed after Armistice. This stance on women's rights cemented gender inequalities and confined women to domesticity.<sup>16</sup> A new era, which brought minor, yet important changes to an overall picture of a long-lost Victorian period, were the first steps to a slowly easing up society. The voices that called for change were louder than ever before. Eventually, women gained the right to vote thanks to the Suffragette movement, which also fought for more rights and equal circumstances. As McDowall confirms, women over the age of thirty, who met certain property requirements, were granted the right to vote in 1918. The voting rights regained an equal status in 1928.<sup>17</sup> Gradual social changes were on the rise, as the Victorian period was slowly being replaced with a modern and evolutionary outlook on life.

An eventful period which saw the pains and damages of two economic crises, which begged questions about previously unresolved social discontent. Due to the recession right after the end of the First World War, inflation and unemployment were a cause of a nation-wide unrest. Strikes became a symbol of this period, as it was the main communicative device between the people of this nation and its leaders. Despite disappointing results, the strikes were fruitful to some extent and brought reforms in the form of higher wages, unemployment benefits, building programmes, improvements in public health, or a broader electorate containing women as well. A greater divide between the poor and the rich has emerged, resulting in an inner separation of the nation. Even after a second wave of economic misfortune, the economy was eventually able to stabilize again and ensure middle- and upper-class people with a freedom of spending and new possibilities of enjoying one's life.

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<sup>15</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015, 656

<sup>16</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015, 656

<sup>17</sup> McDowall, David. *An Illustrated history of Britain*. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 162-163



## Leisure time in the Interwar period

Following a period of trauma, the English sought normalcy and escape through leisurely pursuits reminiscent of pre-war times. Improved wages and reduced working hours allowed individuals from all backgrounds to participate, leading to a diverse range of activities. This expansion of interests and appreciation for natural beauty strengthened the nation's identity.

During the Interwar period, going to the pub was a popular pastime. Pubs played a crucial role in socializing and strengthening community bonds even before The Great War. One might assume that the pub is not a place for intellectual or occupational discussions. Contrary to popular belief, the pub is not dull. In fact, the pub is a significant social hub and is also a place to let loose. Geoffrey Hunt and Sandra Satterlee argue Khimunina's, Konon's and Walshe's argument about pubs being too wild to have meaningful interactions with anyone. Pubs served as more than just drinking spots but were crucial social hubs for older working-class men. Landlords often acted as sources of information, from local events to job opportunities. Essentially, pubs functioned as a community notice board, disseminating important news and updates. They were the go-to spot for locals seeking information about their town, village, or neighbourhood.<sup>18</sup> Pubs were essential to community life, especially of smaller places, like villages. Ben Clarke suggests that the term "public house" implies inclusivity and familiarity.<sup>19</sup> Indicating that individuals across England and the United Kingdom are likely to have a general understanding of what to anticipate from such establishments. Clarke further explains that pubs create genuine communities beyond self-interest, though entry may require purchasing a drink.<sup>20</sup> Despite economic differences, pubs positively impact community life by strengthening relationships and moving away from individualistic lifestyles.

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<sup>18</sup>Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 523

<sup>19</sup>Clarke, Ben. "The poor man's club": *The Middle Classes, the Public House, and the Idea of Community in the Nineteen-Thirties*. University of Manitoba. 2012, 39

<sup>20</sup> Clarke, Ben. "The poor man's club": *The Middle Classes, the Public House, and the Idea of Community in the Nineteen-Thirties*. University of Manitoba. 2012, 40

When it comes to pubs, bars and taverns in the countryside, the demeanour of locals can play an important role in how visitors or newcomers are being welcomed and integrated into the community. Hunt and Satterlee explored aspects of "pub culture" that include a shared professional experience, occupational subculture, blending of work and non-work responsibilities, close-knit social groups, and a strong sense of village identity.<sup>21</sup> Even neighbouring villages can show discrepancies in traditions, as certain features can be passed down through generations. This can cause confusion for strangers visiting a new location. Hunt and Satterlee suggest that pubs hold varying significance for locals and outsiders. Locals may view the pub as the centre of their social circle, providing familiarity and comfort. For newcomers, the pub may contribute to their idealized image of a village.<sup>22</sup> Newcomers may have a false idea of what a certain local village pub looks like and misunderstand its power dynamics. Hunt and Satterlee note that newcomers may desire a welcoming village tavern with cheerful locals sharing stories of traditional life. However, locals may view outsiders as hostile, leading to possible conflict at the pub.<sup>23</sup> Secluded communities may find it challenging to adjust to outsiders disrupting their peaceful way of life. Although locals may share values and aspects such as origin or habits, divisions and hierarchies are still present within each community.

Yet, when it comes to a well-known community, pubs are well-known social gathering places where people relax and connect after work. Hunter and Satterlee state that pubs encourage camaraderie and discussions on a variety of topics, including business, community events, and personal plans.<sup>24</sup> During the interwar period, pubs faced criticism for being associated with declining morals and illicit activities, but they continue to serve as important hubs for working-class neighbourhoods.<sup>25</sup> Today, pubs remain an integral part of community life, bringing people together to share stories and connect.

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<sup>21</sup> Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 522

<sup>22</sup> Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 523

<sup>23</sup> Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 523

<sup>24</sup> Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 527

<sup>25</sup> "The poor man's club": The Middle Classes, the Public House, and the Idea of Community in the Nineteen-Thirties, p. 46

In the 1920s, pubs were the go-to spot for socializing, serving as a hub for entertainment and community interaction, as Khimunina, Konon, and Walshe state.<sup>26</sup> With limited technology, pub-goers enjoyed the company of talented performers and each other's stories over a pint.<sup>27</sup> The lively atmosphere of the pub provided a distraction-free environment for connecting with others. Today, the beloved institution of the pub continues to offer a warm and welcoming space for people to come together and enjoy life's simple pleasures.

However, a few years later, the technological advancements would catch up with even the pub culture. Clarke observed in his research that pubs were seen as welcoming and united social settings. However, new forms of entertainment like football pools, cinema, radio, and newspapers were replacing authentic social connections with consumerism, leading to individuals becoming isolated and communities being threatened. These media forms failed to create a sense of shared experiences, instead emphasizing individual experiences without any shared emotions, interests or conversations.<sup>28</sup> The proposed changes are so monumental that they would change the essence of British society as we know it. The evolution of pub culture will be influenced by these changes, and it will be interesting to see how the industry adapts and responds to the new landscape.

When it comes to leisure, interests and hobbies have become more individualistic, leading to isolated groups and a lack of connection between people. People now enjoy their own niche hobbies, which has caused a decline in social events that used to bring everyone together, such as local village events. Hunter and Satterlee note that kin involvement in leisure activities varies between middle-class and working-class families, as discovered by numerous researchers.<sup>29</sup> Not only does it come down to the availability of monetary resources, but also as Hunter and Satterlee stated, to the involvement of one's own family and perhaps inner circle of people.

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<sup>26</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975, 189

<sup>27</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975, 189

<sup>28</sup> Clarke, Ben. *"The poor man's club": The Middle Classes, the Public House, and the Idea of Community in the Nineteen-Thirties*. University of Manitoba. 2012, 47

<sup>29</sup> Hunt, Geoffrey. Satterlee, Sandra. *Cohesion and Division: Drinking in an English Village*. Institute of Great Britain: Royal Institute. 1986, 531

The English weekend has become a crucial aspect of their culture, particularly in the 20th century. The countryside has become a refuge for the exhausted, sparking a newfound appreciation for national traits. This led to an increase in leisure activities and the promotion of the South as a desirable tourist spot, revealing England's overlooked treasures. Social classes differ in how they spend their free time, as previously stated. The Interwar period, also known as 'The Long Weekend,' saw a surge in popularity for the peaceful English countryside, despite economic crisis and the aftermath of England's lost Empire. In the golden age of the upper class, house parties were an indispensable fixture of their social calendar. These grandiose affairs were frequently hosted at opulent summer estates and required careful planning to ensure a seamless and unforgettable weekend. As Adrian Tinniswood so eloquently describes, guests were treated to days of non-stop entertainment, often spanning over 48 hours.<sup>30</sup> Yet, amidst all the glamour and luxury, John Galsworthy offered a critique of the monotony that often characterized these countryside house parties organized by the affluent. These events, lasting for several days, followed a strict schedule with every activity meticulously planned and adhering to a set of rules.<sup>31</sup> Although the upper class revelled in these events, they were often criticized for their repetitive nature and lack of spontaneity. Despite this, house parties remain an emblem of the grandeur and extravagance of the wealthy and provide us with a nostalgic glimpse of a bygone era.

Another fairly popular hobby was anything connected to sports. From either playing them to simply observing them or even trying to earn a profit by betting. Sports provided satisfaction to a large plethora of audiences. According to Cambridge's Professor of History, Robert Tombs, organized sports emerged as a global cultural innovation during the Victorian era. Its founders aimed to instil moral values, while the public viewed it as entertainment.<sup>32</sup> Organized sports were intended to teach moral values like discipline and teamwork, but the public viewed it mostly as entertainment. This indicates a potential disconnect between the founders' goals and the public's perception. Many sports and activities originated from the weekend

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<sup>30</sup> Tinniswood, Adrian. *The Long Weekend, Life in the English Country House, 1918-1939*. United States: Basic Books. 2016, 9

<sup>31</sup> Tinniswood, Adrian. *The Long Weekend, Life in the English Country House, 1918-1939*. United States: Basic Books. 2016, 9

<sup>32</sup> Tombs, Robert. *The English & Their History*. Great Britain: Penguin Books. 2015, 629

countryside trend, enjoyed in the beautiful and untouched national, lush and invigorating, scenery. Khimunina, Konon, and Walshe ascertain the point that the English love competitive sports and discussing them even when not actively participating or observing.<sup>33</sup> The main centre of attention in *England, their England*, is cricket. A sport with a rich history and tradition that could be compared to the grandeur and popularity of football. The authors Khimunina, Konon and Walshe note that amateur cricket matches are held on Saturdays by club teams, with cricket clubs being present in almost every hamlet in the far north. The quintessential image of England is brought to life on village cricket pitches.<sup>34</sup> Furthermore, Khimunina, Konon and Walshe note; A top-level English county cricket match lasts for three days, with six hours of play each day. The pace is relaxed, allowing spectators to enjoy a sandwich and beer and even take a nap in the afternoon sun.<sup>35</sup> The game is played in a leisurely manner, making many of the spectators, and maybe even players, take naps or relax. The relaxed nature of cricket and its strong association with the English culture has ensured its enduring popularity, making it a beloved national pastime. According to Khimunina, Konon, and Walshe, cricket can have lunch or tea breaks and may be interrupted by bad weather. While it may be seen as a lengthy and unexciting pastime to watch, it is still the most popular summer sport, with football taking the lead in winter.<sup>36</sup> Breaks, be it due to weather or tea, add to the quintessentially English scene.

Upon examining this chapter, it is clear that pubs played a vital role in community life, both during the Interwar Period and today. They serve as places where people can connect and share news, as well as relax and have a good time. The wealthy spent their weekends in the country, hosting house parties that were a staple of their social calendars. Cricket was the most popular summer sport. However, the impact of technology on pub culture cannot be ignored. It has led to a shift away from authentic social connections and towards more individualistic experiences. This has changed the way people interact in pubs, and some may argue that it has had a

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<sup>33</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975, 158

<sup>34</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975, 158

<sup>35</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975, 158

<sup>36</sup> Khimunina, T.N. Customs, Traditions and Festivals of Great Britain. Prosveshchenie: Leningradskoe otd-nie.1975,160

negative impact on the sense of community that pubs traditionally foster. Finally, it is important to note that locals may view newcomers with misunderstanding, potentially leading to conflict. This is a complex issue that requires further examination, but it underscores the importance of understanding the role of pubs in community life and the need to respect the traditions and values that they represent.

## The Concept of National Identity and Englishness in the Interwar Period

The origins of Englishness cannot definitely be traced back to one certain point in history. One of the most notable periods might be the reign of Queen Elizabeth I., during which the English nation and culture flourished in many aspects, such as economic prosperity, exploration, and expansion abroad, artistically and literary enriched the culture. Liah Greenfeld, mentioned in Krishan Kumar's research paper claims English identity and nationalism were said to have emerged during the Elizabethan era.<sup>37</sup> Anthony D. Smith, a nationalism expert, contends that nationalist ideas surfaced in the late 17th to early 18th century.<sup>38</sup> Smith overlooks the era's significance in shaping British and English identity, but his statement about the absence of nationalistic tendencies aligns with the Elizabethan era's nature. Quite the opposite was happening during that period. Their openness to expansion and enriching their culture with novelties from their explorations, opposing the ideas of nationalism. Krishan Kumar, specializing on the British and English national identity, aims to disprove the notion that a unique English identity existed during Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Despite this, England has consistently held a powerful and influential position in European and global politics throughout its history.<sup>39</sup> Due to that, a distinct picture of the British Empire is engraved in our minds. Yet, how do the individual nations see themselves, especially the English? Kumar essentially points out England's role in its "overarching Empire", describing it as the leading force and supervisor of the entire "larger whole", further developing his point that England had not enough space to create an identity of its own.<sup>40</sup> England's focus on building and maintaining its Empire left little room for developing its own unique

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<sup>37</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 431

<sup>38</sup> Smith, D. Anthony. *National Identity*. London. Penguin Group. 1991., 84

<sup>39</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 428

<sup>40</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 428

identity separate from the overarching British one.<sup>41</sup> This shows how eager the English were in making decisions and choices on their own, showing the lack of involvement of the other nations residing on the British Isles (the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish) in any important political (foreign or domestic) development of their own government and political situations in their “homeland”. Nevertheless, Kumar touches upon, what he believes, the first distinctive trait the English have developed is – presiding over people.<sup>42</sup> However, Linda Colley adds to that argument that the English needed to integrate the rest of the nations in the British Empire in its governance, and simultaneously act humbly and modestly in terms of national successes. This turn of events further hampered the development of their own national identity, as they were downplaying the essence of its own people by claiming that their patriotism lies in fulfilling this greater purpose – the purpose of building and managing the “larger whole”.<sup>43</sup> Matthew Grimley offers another insight into why the English had a difficult process of acquiring an identity. According to Grimley, the view that the English were people rather than a race was shared by almost all authors on national character. The English were a racially mixed people who could not be recognized from the rest of Europe. True, racial characteristics influenced national identity, but most experts felt that they were less essential than environmental or cultural variables.<sup>44</sup> Any biological or ethnic heritage did not play a role in their feelings of identity, as not only did the rest of the nations on the British Isles share the same ancestors, as their heritage dates back to numerous tribes and ethnic groups such as Celts, Angles, Saxons, Jutes and even Normans, invading England during the battle of Hastings. Their cultural evolution closely mirrored that of neighbouring nations, hindering their ability to stand out. Influences from nearby tribes and ethnic groups led to a culture similar to those with shared ancestry, further limiting their self-perception.

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<sup>41</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 429

<sup>42</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 430

<sup>43</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 430

<sup>44</sup> Grimley, Matthew. *The Religion of Englishness: Puritanism, Providentialism, and National Character, 1918 – 1945*. Cambridge University Press. 2007., 8



Finally, Kumar's statement concludes that various of these factors and events resulted in "a lack of tradition of reflection on English national identity, a denial even for the need for it."<sup>45</sup> (Kumar, *English and British National Identity*, 2006) What has become evident is that England has taken on a leadership role, neglecting to foster a stronger connection between its people and their socio-cultural roots. This has led to a focus solely on their own identity, rather than their obligations to the rest of the British Empire. While a national identity has yet to fully emerge, a shift began in the 19th century as English intellectuals began to prioritize their homeland and shape the search for a solely English identity.

As the 19<sup>th</sup> century approaches, the first theories about nationalism and national identity saw the light. This new curiosity sparks the interest of many intellectuals, begging the question: What makes up our national identity? Who are we as a nation and a society? Kumar has investigated and gathered aspects and features, which he believes, shaped the spirit of "Englishness". Kumar points out that after centuries of expansion and inner political turmoil, a new idea of what "Englishness" meant emerged: First, the English language became standardized, becoming the national language. Poets and writers started appreciating the "South Country" more (Kent and Sussex). English literature felt more natural and sincere compared to the pompous and artificial French literature. "Whig interpretation" of English history, which presented history as a journey from a dark and terrible past to a "glorious present". And finally, "uncovering classical music from the Elizabethan era, as well as folk songs, which were combined and helped developing a specific type of "English folksong"<sup>46</sup> These are features that later appeared to be cherished by its own people, the English perceived it as a symbol of national pride, hope and peace. Another important fact that needs to be emphasized is the inclusion of both historical viewpoints on culture from a historical point of view and a relatively modern, contemporary one. It helps to shape and develop a sense of identity as the new aspects influence the already established ones. Particularly one of these aspects, the re-discovering and appreciating of the South Country, will become

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<sup>45</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 434

<sup>46</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 435

significantly important in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The countryside will become an escapist paradise for the ones in need of recuperation.

The Interwar period marks the beginning of not only finding a place where time seems to stand still and the hardship of life vanishes, but also finding a place that might have been overlooked for centuries and did not play a significant role in people's perception of what defines their nation. Fighting the consequences of the industrial revolution almost as in trying to reverse the initial mentality of the English throughout history – constantly working on improving the nation, the Empire, always striving for something greater, for something better, as already mentioned by Kumar, how the English were occupied with tending to its shared, yet mostly self-build empire. Kumar suggests that pastoral literature played a significant role in shaping the rise of "Cultural Englishness" during and after the First World War, as it had a calming effect amidst the turmoil of the war.<sup>47</sup> This collective fondness of a particular literary movement and aesthetic marks a beginning for a shared appreciation, that is what essentially connects people. This shared search for healing and finding purpose in dire times also develops the craze for leisure time spend outside of the hustle and bustle of cities. Kumar referenced D.H. Lawrence who defined Englishness as a preference for a simple rural unpretentious countryside life, in opposition to urban industrialism.<sup>48</sup> This became the next trend in the English way of living that left a deep mark in its peoples' consciousness and traditions. Kumar comments on this matter of fact, stating that the sense of longing appears to have been best satiated for the English by turning away from the squalor of urbanisation and industrialism and instead contemplating the "timeless" existence of the English countryside.<sup>49</sup> Another interesting point of view is the one Christine Berberich points out, declaring, that there even is an image of England that was curated simply for the purpose of showcasing it.<sup>50</sup> Grimley agrees, stating that the surge in travel literature depicting the English landscape was due to both the increasing popularity of automobiles and concerns about its impact

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<sup>47</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 435

<sup>48</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *English and British National Identity*. University of Virginia: Blackwell Publishing, 2006., 436

<sup>49</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Making of the English National Identity*. University of Cambridge. Press Syndicate. 2003., 230

<sup>50</sup> Berberich, Christine. *England? Whose England? (Re)constructing English identities in Julian Barnes and W. G. Sebald, National Identities*. London: Routledge, 2008., 170

on the countryside.<sup>51</sup> With the advancement of new technologies comes also the fear of how they might affect not only us, but also the environment. This newly unlocked fear must have raised the awareness and developed a certain “protectiveness” in the people’s conscious. Ironically enough, it is the technological advancement, which undoubtedly was a concern, that enabled the people from the urbanised and industrialised cities to enjoy the landscape of the countryside much easier and more often. Berberich briefly mentions that the creation of the notion of England as mythical and as a green and lush landscape, is reflected in the pastoral image of England.<sup>52</sup> Confirming Kumar’s observations and research, mentioned before by Kumar when listing the aspects that helped shape the English identity. Another point of view was provided by George Santanaya, who stated: ‘(...) There is, or was, a beautifully healthy England hidden from most foreigners; the England of the countryside, and of the poets, domestic, sporting, gallant, boyish, of a sure and delicate heart’<sup>53</sup> (Kumar, *The Making of the English National Identity*, 2003). Only confirming what was established earlier. The need for a private value, not shared with the rest of the world, belonging only to the people of its homeland. Lastly, this argument would also contribute to the concept created by Mary Fulbrook - “Lieux de memoir”, which could be translated as “a place of memory”. It describes a tangible object or place – a landscape, person, building or intangible abstract idea – a literary piece of work. This concept evokes a sense of tradition and nostalgic/historical mood. It creates a certain imagery in our minds, which we can usually find reflections of in descriptive passages in novels.<sup>54</sup> This is what drives the nature of A.G. Macdonell’s novel, *England their England*, which will be later demonstrated by excerpts from this novel in the practical part of this thesis. Yet, it was not only the individually shared fascination for a tranquil place, but there were also more socially influential events that lifted the spirit of the nation’s people. The English in fact took pride in their exclusive discovery. Something that was accessible only for them as they knew where to go look for it, where to find it. It

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<sup>51</sup> Grimley, Matthew. *The Religion of Englishness: Puritanism, Providentialism, and National Character, 1918 – 1945*. Cambridge University Press. 2007., 7

<sup>52</sup> Berberich, Christine. *England? Whose England? (Re)constructing English identities in Julian Barnes and W. G. Sebald, National Identities*. London: Routledge, 2008., 167

<sup>53</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Making of the English National Identity*. University of Cambridge. Press Syndicate. 2003., 231

<sup>54</sup> Berberich, Christine. *England? Whose England? (Re)constructing English identities in Julian Barnes and W. G. Sebald, National Identities*. London: Routledge, 2008., 168

demonstrated a shared appreciation for a collectively shared “secret” that slowly started uniting the nation and helped create a backbone to a new concept of an English identity, a new angle of looking at the English people.

Newly found appreciations, ideals and even leisure or pastime activities, all deriving from the devastating events of the First World War, led to the dawn of a new mentality among the nation’s people. Kumar points out that students of Britain's post-war national identity have noticed a certain retreat, a certain turning in and turning away from the world's chaotic political affairs. The tragedy of the First World War, the war's entirely unforeseen ferocity and brutality in the trenches, as well as the unparalleled impact on civilian populations, had stripped away some of the lustre from tales of grandeur and courage.<sup>55</sup> Due to this, the Englishman's identity, self-expression, and self-perception were transformed in a unique manner. Kumar studied the writing and mainly the depiction of a typical English person in contemporary writings. Kumar's research suggests that a "feminized" national character replaced the previously dominant manly attitudes of effort and sacrifice. This shift was a response to the backlash against the aggressive and blustering persona of the John Bull-like persona. The era of the "small man" was depicted in cartoons and the typical Englishman was seen as closer to Mr Pickwick than the daring protagonists of adventure stories. George Santayana's *Soliloquies in England* (1920), which portrayed a peaceful and modest England rooted in the countryside, was a popular and influential work during the interwar period.<sup>56</sup> This commences the period of the “elegant, benevolent and gentlemanly” picture of an Englishman, who is of a shorter stature and of larger proportions. Another aspect that is connected to the self-perception of the English is excessive concentration on the needs of its own people, on domestic matters, which might correlate to the continuation of the politics of appeasement during the First World War and throughout the Interwar Period. Kumar researched interwar writings of historians concluded that they all agree on the fact that a shift from “high politics” of traditional interpretations of English history occurred.<sup>57</sup> They concluded that

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<sup>55</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Idea of Englishness. English Culture, National Identity and Social Thought*. University of Virginia. Ashgate Publishing Limited. 2015., 145

<sup>56</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Idea of Englishness. English Culture, National Identity and Social Thought*. University of Virginia. Ashgate Publishing Limited. 2015., 145

<sup>57</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Making of the English National Identity*. University of Cambridge. Press Syndicate. 2003., 231

historical events were influenced by social and economic factors, rather than just the actions of ruling elites. English craftsmen, inventors, and industrialists have long been recognized for their unique and independent style, which embodies the essence of Englishness. This, according to nineteenth-century Whig historians, protected England from extreme political ideologies, as seen in Italy, Germany, and Russia.<sup>58</sup> English identity shifted post-war towards domestic priorities, embracing a "feminine" approach. Kumar's research on interwar historians recognized social and economic influences on history. Proud of their self-reliant approach, English artisans, innovators, and industrialists were praised for safeguarding the nation from radical politics.

Exploring the struggles of the English to develop a distinct and distinguished identity throughout the course of its history demonstrated what role the English played in the British Empire. The English had to look after an entire empire, they presided over their Celtic neighbouring nations as well as over overseas nations. All the political decisions were made only by their representatives. In order to distinguish themselves from the other neighbouring Celtic nations, they started curating their identity based on the cultural attributes of the glorious and flourishing Elizabethan period, blending it together with the newly found appreciation of the simple lifestyle of the countryside. This assisted in the conception of a unique "image" of the English self-perception. The atrocities of the First World War called for a place of refuge. They felt more closely drawn to the countryside, as the 19<sup>th</sup> century poets and writers were accentuating its beauty, opposed to the corrupt nature of the urban settings. That also led to a certain case of "showing off" the landscape, marketing it as a tourist spot. Nonetheless, a phenomenon known as "Lieux de memoir" became a popular device in literature, as writers tried to capture a mental picture of the beauty of the everyday life in the countryside. Lastly, a shift the nation's mentality had changed, as their intentions were directed inward, towards the people of this nation. The brutality of the war changed the demeanour of men, who might have displayed traits, at that time, deemed less masculine. Yet, prioritizing the needs of its own people, achieved by the politics of appeasement, was a healing plaster the nation so desperately needed. Many of the above-

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<sup>58</sup> Kumar, Krishan. *The Making of the English National Identity*. University of Cambridge. Press Syndicate. 2003., 231

mentioned aspects have helped to shape a national identity that is evolving until this day.

## **Englishness depicted in *England, their England***

A.G. McDonell, wittily naming his novel *England, their England*, referencing one of the greatest essayist's works, George Orwell's *England, your England*, which coincidentally deals with the topic of English culture as well. A.G. Macdonell's interpretation

Macdonell's *England, their England* is a satirical novel following the adventures of Scottish journalist Donald Cameron, who is sent to cover a village cricket match in rural England. As he travels through the countryside, he encounters a range of eccentric characters, each of whom embodies a different aspect of English society. The novel is a humorous exploration of English culture and identity, as seen through the eyes of an outsider. Macdonell uses his characters to satirize various English stereotypes, including the genteel aristocrat, the rural farmer, and the working-class socialist. At the same time, he celebrates the quintessentially English qualities of fair play, self-deprecation, and a love of tradition. *England, their England* is often cited as one of the best examples of the "comic novel" genre. It has been praised for its sharp wit, vivid characterizations, and astute observations of English life. The book has remained popular over the years and has been adapted for radio and television. It is considered a classic of English literature and an important cultural artifact of its time.

In the first part of the practical section, excerpts and passages about leisure, country life and sport are being dissected and studied.

"Splendid!" said Mr. Hodge warmly. "You're just the man we're looking for. I'm raising a side to play a village in Sussex. Saturday week."<sup>59</sup>

In this particular passage, McDonell has made a quite amusing observation about Mr. Hodge's ownership of a small estate situated in the delightful and much-adored "South Country", which specifically refers to the regions of Kent and Sussex. As per the insights of Krishan Kumar, this particular region gained immense popularity and fame, all thanks to the influence of poets and authors who began to extol the virtues of the Southern countryside. Kumar emphasizes that the charm of this

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<sup>59</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 44

location lies in the tranquil and calming nature of the poetry that emerged from it, which had the ability to mend both physical and emotional wounds.

Kumar further adds that it was an idyllic and "escapist paradise" that has become a highly sought-after destination for many, particularly those who possess the means to indulge in leisurely pursuits amidst the countryside. Macdonell paints Mr. Hodge as a typical Englishman, who in the recent years let himself be charmed and enticed to the infamous South Country.

Venturing into the appreciation of one's land, the serene and picturesque beauty of the English countryside has long been a source of solace for those seeking to escape the frenzied pace of urban life. Its bucolic and rustic charm has captured the hearts of many, inspiring them to embark on weekend getaways to this idyllic landscape. And for the elite members of society, in particular, house parties have become a cherished activity, steeped in history and tradition. The elegance and sophistication of these occasions are a reflection of the timeless traditions and values that have been passed down through generations of aristocratic families. Indeed, the English countryside and its upper class have an undeniable allure that continues to captivate and inspire us, evoking a sense of nostalgia and admiration for a bygone era of refinement and elegance. It is a place where time seems to stand still, and where the beauty of nature and the traditions of the past combine to create a truly magical and unforgettable experience.

The mere mention of the South Country never fails to ignite a sense of wonder and intrigue, leading one to delve into the captivating concept of "Lieux de memoir" by Mary Fulbrooks. This powerful idea has taken the literary world by storm, as authors strive to capture the essence of the idyllic countryside and its inherent beauty. Through the use of "Lieux de memoir", writers are able to transport their readers to a world brimming with everyday wonders and the simple joys of rural life. It is truly remarkable how this concept has enriched and expanded the literary landscape, inspiring countless authors to delve deeper into the intricacies of the human experience through their writing. A.G. Macdonell's novel is a shining example of the power of "Lieux de memoir". His humorous depiction of a cricket match in a quaint rural English village brings the scene to life, evoking a sense of nostalgia and longing for a simpler time. The picturesque landscape is so vividly



described that it could easily be transformed into a postcard or a cherished piece of memorabilia. This is exactly what Christine Berberich refers to when she emphasizes the importance of showcasing these types of moments and landscapes. It is a certain image of England, an immaculate and untouched one, that creates a timeless picture of a collectively appreciated scenery and circumstance. Truly, "Lieux de memoir" has revolutionized the literary world, allowing readers to escape into a world of beauty and simplicity, and inspiring writers to capture the essence of the human experience in their works.

In the excerpt, Mr. Hodge is inviting the main character, Donald Cameron, to a cricket match in a remote village. It is truly remarkable to witness the immense love and passion that the English people have for the sport of cricket. It comes as no surprise that Macdonell, too, was captivated by this national obsession and dedicated an entire chapter to a cricket game set in the picturesque countryside. As Khimunina, Konon, and Walshe have eloquently explained, cricket is not just a game, but rather an embodiment of the perfect weekend activity - one that is steeped in tradition, camaraderie, and a deep sense of community. The English have truly elevated cricket to an art form, and it is a testament to their unwavering devotion to this beloved sport that it continues to thrive and evolve to this day. Cricket has become a living relic of the pinnacle of Englishness in the 1920's.

Adding another point of view to the mentioned excerpt, Kumar's research delves into the concept of rebranding the traditional male persona and the activities that define it, drawing a parallel with the brutality experienced on the battlefields. The once dominant and rugged John-Bull like image has been replaced by a more effeminate and less hardened version of the modern man. However, there is a debate as to whether team sports, such as football, are now considered more feminine-like. Once solely seen as a masculine activity, the luxurious lifestyles of the upper-class have blurred the lines. The image of the "English gentleman" is now associated with the upper-middle and upper-class, living a lavish life filled with non-productive and time-consuming activities. This lifestyle is not accessible to those of lower social status due to a lack of monetary resources and time. As such, it could be argued that the "English gentleman" is viewed from an emasculated perspective, as his lifestyle goes against the traditional sense of masculine structure and diligence.

The next excerpt further elaborates on the previously discussed cricket discourse.

"Oh, by the way, since I saw you last I've found out something about the English. There are two things you must never, never rag them about. One is the team spirit in cricket. You must never suggest in any sort of way that there are any individuals in cricket. It's the highest embodiment on earth of the Team."<sup>60</sup>

The passage appears to be delving into the cultural nuances and sensitivities of the English when it comes to the beloved sport of cricket. According to the speaker, there is a certain unspoken rule or taboo when it comes to making jests or mocking individual players within the context of this team-oriented game. In fact, cricket is regarded as the ultimate embodiment of teamwork, which suggests that the English place a high value on cooperation, mutual support, and collective success over individual glory or accolades. It is therefore crucial to show respect for these cultural norms and practices, and to take the time to fully grasp the underlying values and beliefs that inform them. By doing so, we can foster greater understanding and appreciation for the rich diversity of human cultures and traditions. The speaker is urging the listener to exercise caution when discussing certain topics with English individuals. Specifically, there are two areas that should never be mocked or criticized. The first of these is the team spirit that is deeply ingrained in the sport of cricket. It is crucial to understand that cricket is not just a game to the English, but a representation of their collective identity and national pride. Overall, the excerpt provides insight into the cultural significance of cricket in England and how it is perceived by the English people. It highlights the importance of teamwork in cricket, and how this is deeply ingrained in the English culture. In contrast to the way in which the atrocities of war often lead to a sense of fragmentation and separation, team sports - and, indeed, cricket in particular - can provide a means of fostering a sense of camaraderie and unity that is simulated but nonetheless valuable. This is because the nature of team sports involves working together towards a common goal, with each individual player contributing to the overall success of the team. In this way, the sense of shared purpose and the bonds that are formed between teammates can help to mitigate some of the negative effects

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<sup>60</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 48

of war and other traumatic experiences. While it is certainly true that the horrors of war cannot be fully replaced by the joys of sports, it is nonetheless worth recognizing the value of team sports in providing a sense of community and belonging that can be sorely lacking in times of crisis.

In the next passage of the practical part, political and leadership issues are analysed.

"Cameron dropped his cigarette. "He used to do what? " "Used to put out fires in shell-dumps." "But what ever for? " "He said that shells cost five pounds each and it was everyone's duty to save Government money. "<sup>61</sup>

In response to Cameron's inquiry, the other person provided an explanation for their actions. It appears that the individual believed it was their duty to save the government money, and that the cost of each shell was five pounds. This suggests that the person who took it upon themselves to put out fires in shell-dumps was motivated by a sense of duty and responsibility to the government and the larger community. It is worth noting that this conversation may be part of a broader discussion about war or military operations. The passage highlights the critical importance of resource management and conservation during times of conflict.

It also sheds light on the sacrifices and efforts made by individuals who may not be directly involved in fighting, but who still contribute to the war effort in their own ways. Furthermore, it is worth noting that a noticeable transformation occurred in the way the nation perceived its priorities, with a shift towards the well-being of its citizens. This change in mindset was highlighted by Kumar, who cited the work of scholars studying Britain's national identity in the aftermath of the First World War. According to Kumar, there has been a tendency to retreat from global political turmoil and focus inwardly, but it is possible that this trend began during the war itself. It is evident from the historical records that during the conflict, every individual was needed and played an essential role, reflecting a high level of engagement in the war effort. Nevertheless, as Kumar's research has also shown, the reality was different for some people. The devastating events of the First World War, especially the

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<sup>61</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 10

unexpected brutality and impact on civilians, have challenged the traditional narratives of heroism and bravery. This has led people to question the cost of risking their lives for a cause that may not ultimately benefit them.

The veracity of this passage remains a topic of fervent discussion, as some argue that the government would go to great lengths to persuade the common folk that the pain and misery they endured was justified. However, the population harboured a sense of betrayal and disillusionment, dismantling the very fabric of the truth behind the war and leaving many questioning the authenticity of their experiences.

This next demonstration exemplifies the hypocrisy the British leadership, as this issue dates many centuries ago, with the expansion of the British Empire. Creating an image of a strong global powerhouse, which at the same time ignored domestic issues present on the British Isles.

"If an earthquake devastates North Borneo, they dash off to the Mansion House and block up all the traffic for miles round trying to hand over money for earthquake-relief, but do you think they'll lift a finger to abolish their own slums?"<sup>62</sup>

It appears that the excerpt touches upon the topic of philanthropy and whether some individuals and groups are more willing to give aid to foreign countries than to address problems in their own communities. While it is important to provide aid to those in need regardless of their location, it is also necessary to address issues within one's own community, such as the existence of slums. By addressing both local and international issues, more progress can be made in creating a better world for all. In relation to this matter, the excerpt delves into the notion of the "Two-Face" concept, which pertains to the inclination of its leaders to exhibit contradictory or incongruous conduct. This can be discerned in their spoken and demonstrated behaviours, which frequently appear to clash with one another. It is a phenomenon that has garnered much attention and discourse among both the general public and political experts.

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<sup>62</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 11

Kumar delves into a noteworthy aspect that he firmly believes the English have cultivated over time - the act of overseeing individuals or groups. It is an aspect that has been deeply ingrained in the English psyche, and one that has been exercised with great efficacy across the globe. However, it is important to acknowledge and consider Kumar's perspective on this matter, as it sheds light on a darker side of this practice that has been overlooked for far too long. Despite the English government's focus on increasing the country's prestige, it has come at the expense of its own people. The leaders have been so consumed with projecting an image of power and control to the rest of the world that they have overlooked the domestic issues that plague their own citizens. The handful of influential representatives have been pompously creating a certain image of the country, while the rest of the population has been left unmanaged and overlooked. Even the rest of the United Kingdom has had no say in what will happen to them, as the English leaders have been hungry for power and control. This has resulted in a sense of loss of identity after the end of the war, as the people realise that they have been used as pawns in the game of global politics.

In light of the aforementioned, it is imperative for us to re-evaluate the practice of monitoring individuals and consider the impact it has had on the people it is meant to safeguard. We must question whether the quest for global dominance is worth compromising the well-being of our own citizens, and whether the hunger for power and control is justifiable even if it hurts our own people. Only then can we create a society that truly cares for its people, rather than one that merely projects an image of dominance to the outside world.

“If there is one social custom which distinguishes the Anglo-Saxon from the Latin, from the Slavonic, from the Basque, the Turanian, and the Greek, it is the Saturday-to-Monday hospitality in the country.”<sup>63</sup>

Upon reading the excerpt, it becomes apparent that the author is making a statement regarding the social custom of weekend hospitality in the Anglo-Saxon countryside. This particular custom is said to distinguish the Anglo-Saxon culture from other cultures such as the Latin, Slavonic, Basque, Turanian, and Greek. According to the

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<sup>63</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 63

author, hosting guests for the entire weekend, from Saturday to Monday, is a custom that is unique to the Anglo-Saxon culture. The custom of weekend hospitality is undoubtedly an essential aspect of Anglo-Saxon society, but it is essential to understand its nuances and complexities to fully appreciate its significance.

As Tinniswood mentioned in previous chapters, county house party guests were often treated to days of non-stop entertainment, which often spanned over 48 hours. Tinniswood also mentioned the infamous Saturday-to-Monday way of hosting events. This has somewhat become a token for the upper-class hosts of country house events.

The given excerpt presents a bold assertion regarding a social practice that is believed to be exclusive to the Anglo-Saxon community. As per the author, this practice pertains to the concept of hospitality from Saturday to Monday in rural areas. This assertion suggests that the Anglo-Saxon culture places significant importance on spending weekends in the countryside with loved ones, showcasing their fondness for communal gatherings and relaxation. It also implies that this particular custom is not as widespread in other cultures, highlighting the uniqueness of the Anglo-Saxon way of life.

The following excerpt serves to dive deeper into the “Anglo-Saxon” way of life and discusses the Saturday-to-Monday event from the perspective of an active guest

“[...] the student of sociology may learn about the English week-end, [...], he learnt that the Saturday-to-Monday period was invariably devoted by the entire house-party to profound and brilliant and soul-searing self-analysis. It seemed, from these works, that the English *fin-de-semaine*, when spent in sufficiently rural surroundings, was of an inspissated gloom, a tenebriferous melancholy, that made Strindberg's studies of demented lighthouse-keepers seem regular rollicks. Nothing ever happened except a fearful lot of heavy thinking and, from time to time, symbolical down-pours of rain which gave scope for some beautiful English prose.”<sup>64</sup>

The excerpt describes three sources from which one can learn about the English weekend, and the perception of the weekend presented in lesser lady novels. The

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<sup>64</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 64

speaker notes that according to these novels, the Saturday-to-Monday period is devoted to profound and soul-searing self-analysis, often resulting in a gloomy and melancholic atmosphere in rural surroundings. The exaggerated comparison to Strindberg's studies of demented lighthouse-keepers suggests a heavy, introspective mood. The description of symbolic down-pours of rain that inspire beautiful English prose creates a romanticized picture of the English countryside.

Despite the glamour and luxury, John Galsworthy offered a critique of the monotony that often characterized these countryside house parties organized by the affluent. These events, lasting for several days, followed a strict schedule with every activity meticulously planned and adhering to a set of rules. Instinctively having fun usually means doing things in a spontaneous matter, but as Galsworthy mentions, many of the affluent weekend parties might not seem as enjoyable and entertaining as they might at first glance seem. Attenders of these events seem to enjoy spiralling into one's own thoughts instead escaping the everyday sorrows of a busy city life.

The excerpt describes the three main sources from which one can learn about the English weekend, as explored by Donald. One of these sources is the "lesser lady novelist", who present the Saturday-to-Monday period as a time for profound self-analysis. The novels describe the weekend as a time of inspissated gloom and febriferous melancholy, characterized by heavy thinking and symbolic downpours of rain.

The excerpt employs humour and exaggeration to convey the exaggerated, perhaps even absurd, portrayal of the English weekend in these novels. The use of terms such as "inspirational gloom" and "tenebriferous melancholy" is ironic, as these are not commonly used phrases in everyday language. The mention of "symbolic down-pours of rain" also adds to the comedic tone of the excerpt.

Through the use of humour and exaggeration, the excerpt highlights the tendency of some writers to portray the English weekend in a negative light. It suggests that these portrayals may be exaggerated or even absurd and provides insight into the ways in which cultural traditions and practices can be distorted or misrepresented in literature.

In this section Mr. Hodge is yet again indulging in another pastime activity, as a well-off publisher.

"So far from arriving at a clear notion of Mr. Hodge's personality, he was now completely befogged, and the only conclusion he could come to was that either Mr. Hodge was away holiday-making, leaving behind him a most erratic staff, or else that the editorial chair was occupied by a syndicate to which Mr. Hodge simply lent his name. "<sup>65</sup>

Holiday making is often viewed as a pastime that is reserved for those who possess a certain degree of financial affluence. It is highly probable that individuals who indulge in frequent vacations hold a position in the upper echelon of society and are considered members of the esteemed High Society. It is no secret that such individuals typically belong to a higher income bracket than their subordinates, and it is safe to assume that they have amassed a considerable amount of wealth over time. Given that Mr. Hodge is a prominent newspaper publisher, it is reasonable to surmise that he is quite prosperous and can be evaluated accordingly.

"Mr. Hodge's party, appreciating the immense power of an organized minority, formed itself into a compact phalanx and quickly pushed its way to the counter, where it deployed to the right and left of the grey bowler, annexed all the available stools, and got down to business. "<sup>66</sup>

Mr. Hodge is a member of a group that is actively seeking to secure space and seating in a public area. The purpose of this endeavour is presumed to be a business or other activity that requires a specific location. The text emphasizes the cohesive nature of the group, referring to them as a "compact phalanx", a kind of brigade, that operates with a clear sense of organization and purpose. Their concerted efforts are evident as they work together to achieve their goal.

It cannot be denied that the presence of pubs in communities had a profound impact on the strengthening of bonds among its members. These establishments were not just mere places for drinking and socializing, but rather served as a central hub for information exchange and dissemination. By providing a platform for people to come together and engage in dialogue and discussion, pubs played a crucial role in

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<sup>65</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 38

<sup>66</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 45



shaping a shared sense of national identity. In this way, they became a vital source of cultural and social cohesion, helping to foster a sense of belonging and connectedness among individuals from diverse backgrounds.

“At 1 o'clock the bar of the Black Cat was filled almost to bursting-point, and then Mr. Harcourt announced that no gentleman could drink in such a damnable place, and suggested "an adjournment"—a curious Parliamentary phrase, thought Donald—to the Pink Mouse in Something-or-other”<sup>67</sup>

The character Mr. Harcourt is portrayed as being uncomfortable with the atmosphere and clientele of the Black Cat bar, which implies that it is not a respectable establishment. He uses the phrase "no gentleman" to imply that the other patrons of the bar are beneath his social standing. He then suggests that they adjourn to the Pink Mouse, which may be a more upscale establishment that he deems more suitable for a person of his class.

As mentioned in the second chapter, different social groups usually do not feel welcomed or comfortably in a pub or public venue that is not in alignment with your social status. As secluded communities find it challenging to adjust to outsiders disrupting their peaceful way of life, locals may share the same values and aspects such as origin or habits, but divisions and hierarchies are still present within each community.

“And both teams spent the evening at the Three Horseshoes, and Mr. Harcourt made a speech in Italian about the glories of England and afterwards fell asleep in a corner, and Donald got home to Royal Avenue at 1 o'clock in the morning, feeling that he had not learnt very much about the English from his experience of their national game.”<sup>68</sup>

This particular sentence provides an account of the activities undertaken by two teams during an evening spent at a venue known as the Three Horseshoes. The reference to "their national game" indicates that the teams were likely engaged in a sport that holds immense popularity in this case cricket. This could be another instance of somewhat a “Lieux de memoir”, as they spent the evening enjoying the

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<sup>67</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 46

<sup>68</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 124

simple things in life, blending in with the background of the pub, enjoying the weekend to the fullest.

Overall, this sentence creates a vivid picture of a social gathering characterized by sports, and alcohol.

“And, of course, there were the ladies and gentlemen who were going to risk their bones, perhaps even their necks, for the sake of sport. The first thing that struck Donald was the drabness of the feminine hunting-kit and the gorgeousness of the masculine. The women mostly wore queer-shaped bowler hats and black habits, with here and there a touch of white. But the men wore shiny toppers and scarlet coats and white or pale-yellow breeches and huge orange-topped boots and high stocks, and they strode about the Green like captains of Spanish galleons, or colonels of Napoleon's light cavalry, seeing no one except each other, but allowing themselves to be seen by everyone, chins out, heads high, superbly disdainful, like the camels of Bactria who alone know the hundredth name of God.”<sup>69</sup>

As Cameron describes the crowd, he highlights the stark contrast in the attire of the men and women. The men are all dressed in flashy and colourful clothing, while the women are dressed more conservatively in black habits and bowler hats. The men are described walking about with an air of superiority and disdain for everyone else, while the women seem to blend in more with their surroundings.

The passage is written in a satirical tone, as the author is poking fun at the gender roles and social norms of the time. The men are portrayed as arrogant and self-important, while the women are relegated to the background and forced to wear unflattering clothing. This suggests that the author is critical of the rigid gender roles that existed in society at the time and is using humour to point out their absurdity.

In this passage, the author highlights the gender disparities and social hierarchies of the early 20th century and expresses their disdain for them. This circles back to the picture of a typical “English man.” The lifestyle and fashion choices made it easier for them to look and appear less “manly-like”, as the lifestyle usually

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<sup>69</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 248

demanded artistic sense and or refined taste in lavishness, frivolously indulging in the finer things in life.

On the contrary the next excerpt tells a different story on masculinity of the “English Gentleman”

“Mr. Fielding was waiting on the platform. He was a man of about sixty—broad-shouldered, pink-cheeked, white-moustached, who looked as if he spent a good deal of time in the open air and not very much time in the study.”<sup>70</sup>

Despite Mr. Fielding’s age, he is, by the main character Donald Cameron, described as “not typically intellectually.” He is deemed someone of a broad build, despite his age. Not every intellectual or elitist man has to look like they have never in their life seen physical labour. However, A.G. Macdonell also suggests that Mr. Fielding is not even an academic or a studious person, as he does not spend much time in the study. Instead, he seems to spend a lot of time outdoors, which is indicated by his pink cheeks and broad-shouldered appearance. The author may be trying to create an image of a rugged, outdoorsy character who does not have intellectual interests, who is in contrary with the typical “English Gentlemen” discussed in the previous paragraph.

“Davies, a big, pleasant man whose five-and-thirty years were an exception to the general youthfulness of liaison officers, with steel-rimmed glasses and a heavy black moustache, "and I must admit I find the English are extraordinarily difficult to understand.”<sup>71</sup>

Somehow the description of Davies falls in between as he seems to be the ideal type of man that does not get ridiculed by Macdonell. Davies appears to be the depiction of a real-looking person, as the rest of the debated men sounded rather cartoonish.

Summarizing the novel *England, Their England*, most of the theoretical ideas correlated with A.G. Macdonell's satirical and hyperbolic depiction of common English traits and aspects. The various excerpts discuss different aspects of English culture, including the allure of the countryside, the importance of teamwork and

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<sup>70</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 222

<sup>71</sup> Macdonell, Archibald Gordon. *England, their England*. London: Macmillan. 1933, 9

community in cricket, political and leadership issues, the unique culture of hosting guests, the role of pubs and nature in English culture, and the impact of war on leadership and society. Each excerpt sheds light on different facets of English society and offers insights into what makes the culture unique and enduring. Overall, these excerpts suggest that community, tradition, and a deep connection to the land are central to the English way of life.

A portion of the novel takes place in a peaceful village landscape, mainly depicting the characters in the act of playing cricket. Cricket has been deemed a national team sport, first surfacing during the Victorian period. In those times, team sports were used to dictate and enact strict moral rules, keeping those who engaged in the activity obedient. However, cricket has become a perfect weekend activity, as even many small communities engaged in this sport activity. As it was presented, cricket was the epitome of camaraderie, it created a deep sense of community. Cricket is regarded as the embodiment of teamwork, suggesting that the English place a great importance on collaboration, mutual aid, and group achievement over individual glory or plaudits. This sense of unification was already present during the war, but now the sense of camaraderie can be simulated in a made-up game. It imitates the same feeling of joy when working for a common goal. A common goal that is not about surviving an armed conflict.

The countryside served as a medicine for the soul, celebrated in pastoral literature and being centrepiece of many poems. The countryside was also a gather point for many wealthier individuals who were fortunate enough to own a country house. The upper-class mostly revelled in the luxurious way of living and mostly host weekend celebrations, which almost resembled a vacation of gateway, as those “house parties” were a “Saturday-to-Monday” event.

When it comes to defining a true "English gentleman", one can agree with Kumar's deduction. The wealthier English man is portrayed as someone who is more preoccupied with his array of hobbies and pastime activities. He would not be associated with hard work in heavy industries of somewhere in the countryside. That is probably why the "English gentleman" was seen as a softer and more feminine figure. A.G. Macdonell also expressed a critical perspective on rigid gender roles is expressed humorously, which highlights gender disparities and

social hierarchies, expressing disdain for them and pointing out their absurdity. Additionally, the lifestyle and fashion choices of the time allowed for men to appear less "manly," emphasizing a focus on refinement and indulging in luxury. A.G. Macdonell seems to admire men, who have a natural-looking image. As he fairly mocks men with extraordinaire clothing,

The English fell in love with their beautiful nature and landscape and felt the need to somehow make it permanent. That is where the concept of "Lieux de memoir" comes to play, as it is used as a literary device to evoke a peaceful moment, usually in the beautiful English landscape and enjoying the simpler things in life.

In other excerpts, the aspect of Englishness in terms of a political identity was debated. The leaders of the country had created a specific English trait – residing over others. This was already established during the times of the British Empire, but the English leadership was of a "Two-Face" nature and was more concerned with how the country appeared from the outside, rather than dealing with domestic issues. The government also tried to justify heroism of the war, even though the country itself was left in shambles and headed into an economic crisis. The people felt betrayed by the optimism of war.

Certain attributes of "Englishness" are rather a question of taste and priority or even a matter of trend and fashion. However, certain characteristics are far more than just superficial stickers that you put on someone, depending on their looks or outfit. Englishness can be a philosophy, approving of everything that has some cultural value, that one deems representative and respectful enough to be seen as culturally yours. It might even be part of your own personal history, or the history of your kins. On the other hand, Englishness can be a mood present in society. A collective feeling of togetherness and belonging, Englishness might mean a different thing to different people and the pinpointing certain characteristics, yet as a majority of people living in a shared society, those cultural aspects are easier to be shared with.

## Conclusion

This thesis examined how the English population represented their national identity and sense of belonging during the Interwar Period, using academic research as a foundation. The theoretical framework presented described the historical, social, and cultural circumstances of the Interwar Period. Not only was the Interwar Period a time of fluctuating economic crises, social unrest, and the politics of appeasement, but it was also a time for reinvention. The English have long stood in the shadow of their Celtic neighbours, who displayed strong national and patriotic feelings. Nevertheless, it was not only the reinvention of the identity, but it was also the reinvention of the social aspect too. A period of change, which happened to slowly claw itself out of the obsolete Victorian thought process, The new English person thrived for change and reforms, for a government that understood their needs and struggles.

Reinvention occurred in the national identity as well, it manifested itself in the form of social sympathy and togetherness. English national identity is rooted in unification of the common people and their power to Many strikes saw the light of day during this period, as people collectively relied on each other as the forces of justice and reforms. Another deeply shared aspect was the longing for places designed for repose. Those places were at the same time inclined to be in nature, usually a picturesque scenery, which became so popular that it stroked a higher interest in preserving nature and stopping industrialization from completely destroying national treasures. As the economy gained traction near the beginning of the Second World War, many people of different social statuses other than upper-class, could slowly start enjoying the technological advancements that made it easier to travel and truly start appreciating one's homeland.

What is perhaps deemed the most "English thing" is perhaps the nature of the "English Gentleman." Relentlessly mocked by A.G. Macdonell, the "English Gentleman" might have been a mere product of the fashion of its time. Men became more effeminate and also were meant to be self-important and be striking with their demeanour and even fashion. Usually soft in statue, but nevertheless seen as elegant and self-assured, this type of man was perhaps as ordinary as any other village man.

“Englishness” can be subjective, based on taste, fashion, and cultural values. It can represent personal history or a collective feeling of togetherness and belonging and may vary in meaning for different individuals.

## Resumé

Tato bakalářská práce si dává za cíl pochopit a analyzovat nejen meziválečné období dvacátých a třicátých let dvacátého století ve Velké Británii, ale také pozoruhodný stav národního cítění Angličanů. Náhled do historické a kulturního podkladu v rámci

Během meziválečného období se ukázalo být národnostní cítění Angličanů silné a důležité. V této době bylo vnímáno jako důležité pro zachování, a pak zejména pro „znovuzavedení“ a posílení britské identity. To bylo reflektováno v mnoha aspektech společnosti, včetně kultury, politiky a vztahů s ostatními zeměmi. Angličané byli hrdí na svou historii a tradice a cítili se být součástí něčeho větší než jen samotného národa. Ve třetí kapitole, která pojednává o historii a soudobém národnostním cítění se nechal Krishan Kumar slyšet, že pro Angličany bylo všední být součástí něčeho většího. Kumar dává historii Anglie za vinu jakým způsobem v sobě pěstovala nadřazené postavení vůči ostatním státům například za doby Britského impéria, či vůči svým sousedům na Britských ostrovech. Avšak po první válce se zbídačené obyvatelstvo potřebovalo něčeho chytit. A tak spousta lidí začalo jezdit na venkov a objevovat krásy své země i svého národa. Lidé toužili po klidných, odlehlých místech, které viděli v cestovní literatuře či někde na pohlednici. Bohužel takový luxus si nemohl z kraje dvacátých let dovolit každý. Tato privilegia cestování a pobývání na venkovských sídlech byla doménou bohatší vrstvy společnosti. Ta chudší na rozdíl od toho často stávkovala a pociťovalo dopady ekonomické krize způsobené válkou. Tu se ale zrodil další charakterní aspekt anglického národa, a to semknutost v chvílích nesnáze. Angličané si byli sami sobě oporou a nacházeli sílu jeden v druhém. Celkově lze říci, že národnostní cítění Angličanů v meziválečném období bylo komplexní a mnohostranné. Bylo silně ovlivněno politickým a kulturními faktory a zahrnovalo jak pozitivní, tak negativní prvky.

Jediným zdrojem praktické části této bakalářské práce je román A.G. Macdonella s názvem *England, their England*. Jedná se o satirický román, který nás provází dobrodružstvími skotského novináře Donalda Camerona. Ten zrovna má za někoho zaskočit v kriketovém zápase, na anglickém venkově. Po jeho poutích venkovem se setkává s řadou excentrických postav, z nichž každá zosobňuje odlišný aspekt



anglické společnosti. Román pohlíží na Anglii očima cizince, který o anglických návycích a tradicích vůbec nic neví. Macdonell vyobrazuje stereotypní postavy, jimiž jsou například noblesní aristokrat, venkovský farmář, či socialistický dělník. Román je považován za klasiku a je skvělou literaturou, která podchycuje určité historické období se smyslem pro detail.

Spoustu charakteristických atributů z knihy jsou vypracované v praktické části bakalářské práce. Například analýza důvěry a názorů občanů na politické představitele království. Během války se vrcholní představitelé snažili veřejnost přesvědčovat, že účast ve válce je hrdinským počinem, na který by měl být každý pyšný i hrdý. Ale poukazuje i na dvojí metr, kdy vrcholní představitelé se snaží o jistou vnější zahraniční prezentaci, ale stav země této představě neodpovídá. Dále se v praktické části vyskytuje i analýza klasického anglického gentleman, který je v dobách meziválečného období vnímán více zženštile. Další pasáže ukazují vliv týmových sportů na semknutý anglický národ.

Některé charakteristické znaky jsou anglického národního cítění jsou spíše otázkou vkusu či vnitřního nastavení a priorit či dokonce nějakého módního trendu. Avšak většina těchto vlastností jsou více než jen pouhými nálepkami, kterými někoho zaškatulkujete. Anglické národnostní cítění může mít filozofický nádech. Vše, co má nějakou kulturní, historickou či osobní hodnotu může vámi být vnímáno jako národní atribut. Anglické národnostní cítění může na druhou stranu být i určitou společenskou náladou. Kolektivní pocit sounáležitosti, může pro různé lidi znamenat něco důležitého. Avšak sdílení společnosti vede k tomu, že se lidé a jejich okolí snáz ztotožňují s určitými kulturními aspekty.

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