

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910459653503321
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Titolo	Postmodern fiction and the break-up of Britain / Hywel Dix
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London ; New York, : Continuum, 2010
ISBN	1-4725-4272-X 1-282-52598-0 9786612525988 1-4411-1795-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (177 p.)
Collana	Continuum literary studies series
Disciplina	823/.91409
Soggetti	English fiction - 20th century - History and criticism Regionalism in literature Regionalism - Great Britain National characteristics, British, in literature
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (pages [164]-167) and index
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1.The Novel - and Britain - in Transition -- 2. Voyages In -- 3.The Spatial Turn -- 4.Feminist Satires of Monarchic Culture -- 5. A Borderless World -- 6. Race, Reading and Identification -- Conclusion -- Bibliography
Sommario/riassunto	This study explores how British identity has been explored and renegotiated by contemporary writers. It starts by examining the new emphasis on space and place that has emerged in recent cultural analysis, and shows how this spatial emphasis informs different literary texts. Having first analysed a series of novels that draw an implicit parallel between the end of the British Empire and the break-up of the unitary British state, the study explores how contemporary writing in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales contributes to a sense of nationhood in those places, and so contributes to the break-up of Britain symbolically. Dix argues that the break-up of Britain is not limited to political devolution in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is also an imaginary process that can be found occurring on a number of other conceptual coordinates. Feminism, class, regional identities and ethnic communities are all terrains on which different

writers carry out a fictional questioning of received notions of Britishness and so contribute in different ways to the break-up of Britain
