



Kin, People or Nation?

On European Political Identities

Victor Neumann

Translated by Gabi Reigh

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- An exploration of the way different linguistic communities have defined kin, ethnicity, citizenship and the nation
- Traces the idealistic philosophies that have intensified the division between East and West in terms of cultural norms, legislation and administration
- Other titles by Victor Neumann published by Scala - *The Banat of Timișoara* and *The Temptation of Homo Europaeus*

"Starting from the history of concepts, Victor Neumann shows how the variety of connotations associated with the ideas of 'nation' and 'people' have been circumscribed in south-eastern Europe, holding back the region over many decades. More important, with erudition and seriousness of purpose, he mounts a defence of a notion of identity that is neither fixed nor monocultural, and proposes a legal definition of 'nation' that can resist exclusivist or racist versions. In an age when counter-rational fantasies about identity seem to be prevailing, when many seem unaware of or have forgotten where such thinking leads, Neumann's is a much-needed voice of reason." — Dan Stone, Professor of Modern History, Royal Holloway, University of London

With a focus on the origins and evolution of political identity, this book explores the way different linguistic communities have defined kin, ethnicity, citizenship and the nation. As Neumann traces the transition over the last two centuries of European history, from the medieval to the modern age, he pays particular attention to the idealistic philosophies that have influenced the intellectual landscape and political discourse of European regions today, and which have intensified the division between East and West in terms of cultural norms, legislation and administration.

Victor Neumann is a Romanian historian, political analyst, Professor of Romanian and European Intellectual History at the Bucharest National University of Arts and Senior Researcher at the Romanian Academy of Sciences. He is a well-known specialist in the recent cultural and intellectual histories of Eastern and Central Europe.