

**Marcela K. Perett**

*Re-discovered Kinship: Bohemia and England in the Early Fifteenth Century*

Jan Hus and the movement named after him are excellent examples of medieval phenomena that ought to be at the center of any account of late medieval religion but have customarily been relegated to the periphery of the field, barely mentioned in scholarly accounts and textbooks. The exclusion may be the result of outdated political, ideological and linguistic divisions, but it exacts a heavy price to historiographies on both sides of this dividing line. My argument here is twofold. I show that ignoring the Hussite revolution in Bohemia makes it impossible to understand the meaning of contemporaneous events in England. For example, the dangerousness of Wyclif's ideas fully dawned on his contemporaries only after Jan Hus had put them to practice, yet modern accounts of Wyclif leave out Hus altogether. My other point has to do with the state of Czech historiography. I argue that focusing on national history and its heroes to the exclusion of foreign connections distorts our understanding of what the key issues are and locks us into debates about irrelevant, but nationally charged, issues. We ignore such intellectual and cultural links between countries at our peril. It is only through them that we can understand the nature and extent of medieval multiculturalism, which, in my view, ought to be at the heart of our narrative of Europe and its place in the Global Middle Ages.