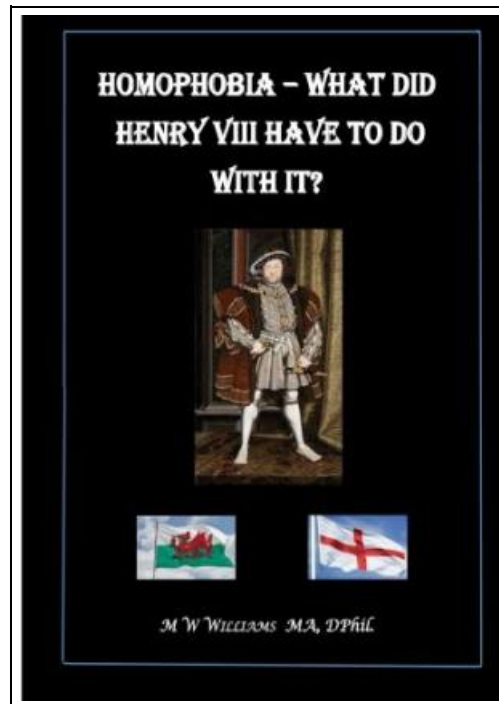


Homophobia - What Did Henry VIII Have to Do with It?



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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 254 x 178 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Homophobia is escalating alarmingly in some countries, whereas progress is being made in others. The author explores this phenomenon worldwide in terms of power and religion, which have always been related. England, half a century ago, was the most virulently homophobic of all developed countries, and yet neighboring Wales was gay friendly, where don t ask, don t tell prevailed. This difference is attributed to unintended consequences of major acts instigated by Henry VIII: the Act of Union in which Wales was annexed into England, and the Protestant Reformation in which he established the Church of England, separate from Rome and Catholicism, and set himself up as its head. Even though extreme homophobia was rampant in England, homosexuality was discretely acceptable among the upper classes and was even protected by the police, a polarization totally in keeping with the rigid English class system. It is suggested here that as a cover for that, members of the powerful English establishment which emerged at the height of the British Empire in the late 19th century, generated an intense aura of homophobia and projected it onto the populace at large, a phenomenon known as false homophobia. For some of these, cultural life was made more tolerable by alignment with the Anglo-Catholic Church. False homophobia did not exist in Wales because, as a consequence of Henry VIII s two acts, the landed gentry had deserted Wales for England, leaving Wales a socially egalitarian country, a process that was complete by the end of World War II. The Act of Union forcibly integrated, administratively and legally, two countries having very different origins and cultures, and the Welsh landed gentry chose to become anglicized...



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