

The fascinating story of the so-called "Prayer Book Rebellion" of 1549 which saw the people of Devon and Cornwall rise up against the Crown

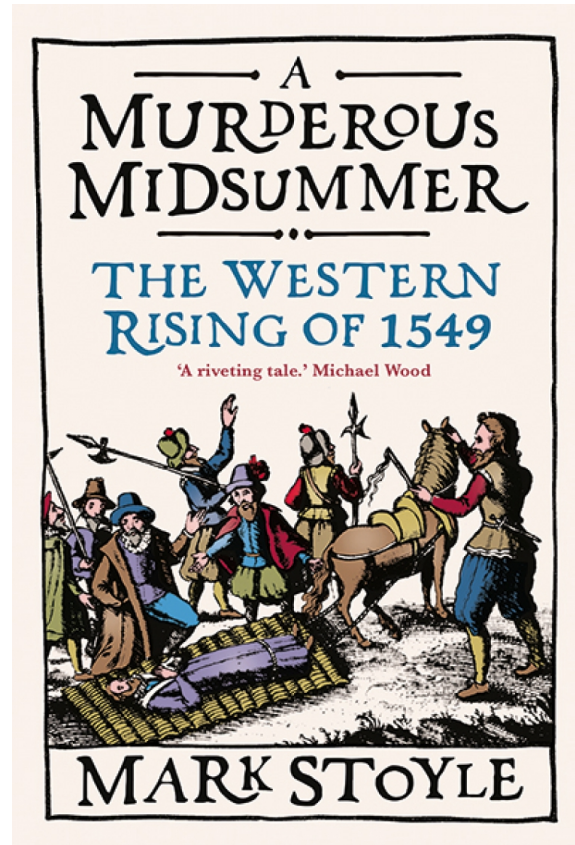
# A MURDEROUS MIDSUMMER

The Western Rising of 1549

MARK STOYLE

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The Western Rising of 1549 was the most catastrophic event to occur in Devon and Cornwall between the Black Death and the Civil War. Beginning as an argument between two men and their vicar, the rebellion led to a siege of Exeter, savage battles with Crown forces, and the deaths of 4,000 local men and women. It represents the most determined attempt by ordinary English people to halt the religious reformation of the Tudor period.

Mark Stoyale tells the story of the so-called "Prayer Book Rebellion" in full. Correcting the accepted narrative in a number of places, Stoyale shows that the government in London saw the rebels as a real threat. He demonstrates the importance of regional identity and emphasizes that religion was at the heart of the uprising. This definitive account brings to life the stories of the thousands of men and women who acted to defend their faith almost five hundred years ago.

"A riveting new account of the Western Rising of 1549. Combining empirical rigour and high narrative powers, Mark Stoyale stylishly recasts our understanding of an episode that has too often been written off as doomed to failure from the start. On the contrary, he shows how close the Cornish and Devonshire rebels came to subverting the Reformation and turning the Tudor world upside down."—**Alexandra Walsham**, author of *The Reformation of the Landscape*

**Mark Stoyale** is professor of early modern history at the University of Southampton. An expert on Tudor and Stuart Britain, he is the author of seven books, including *Soldiers and Strangers* and *The Black Legend of Prince Rupert's Dog*.

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