Reviews
'a comprehensive introduction...detailed, scholarly and persuasive...the book's continued relevance to our contemporary arguments and language makes his account particularly stimulating.' - Brian Cox, Times Educational Supplement

Description
Unlike other histories of the language, this book abandons traditional divisions into Old, Middle and Modern English to focus on episodes which more accurately reflect the shifting attitudes to and developments within 'standard' British English.
Thorough coverage, not only of the historical and sociological background against which the language and its varieties have developed, but also of changes in phonology, vocabulary and syntax, make this book an invaluable and comprehensive introduction to the subject. Close readings of a range of texts give practical demonstrations of English in all stages of its development and enable the readers, especially those coming new to the subject, to come to a proper understanding of the processes of language change as they affect English. A detailed glossary of technical linguistic terms and a range of illustrations and maps will be of particular use to students and non-specialists.
Stimulating, comprehensive and accessible, A History of the English Language will be welcomed by everyone interested in how English has evolved as a national and a world language.

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