"I AM NO FRIVOLOUS MINSTREL": THE WELSH BARDs AND KING EDWARD I

Abstract:
After his military and economic defeat of the Welsh in 1282, King Edward I of England realized the most effective means of controlling Wales was by undermining the efficacy of its culture. This thesis argues the definitive role of the Welsh bardic tradition in the historical context of Edward's understanding that cultural domination was as vital to the total sublimation of the Welsh as were their military and economic defeats. While many historians have examined Edward's military and economic campaigns against the Welsh, few have concentrated on his understanding that dominating thirteenth-century Welsh cultural coherence was Edward's most important methodology.

Subject:
bards; England; storytelling; Wales; Europe; History; European history;

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This enchanting lullaby has a Welsh origin. It was written by Edward Jones around 1784. Mr. Jones was an exceptional harp player. He moved from Wales to London in the 1770's where he taught and performed harp music. His talent soon had him tutoring wealthy families and he ultimately moved into the St. James Palace as the official harpist for the Prince of Wales. The original Welsh title of the lullaby was “Ar Hyd y Nos.” It is sung to a tune recorded in the Musical and Poetical relics of the Welsh Bards by Edward Jones. The lyrics are attributed to John Ceiriog Hughes. We have i