

## **Becoming the Gentleman (Global Masculinities)**

Jason D. Solinger



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Becoming the Gentlemanexplains why British men and women in the long eighteenth century were haunted by the question of what it meant to be a gentleman. It argues that our modern conceptions of gender, class and labor came into view in the course of redefining masculine gentility. Supplementing recent work on femininity, this book not only identifies a corpus of texts that address masculinity-male conduct books, novels, poems and an entire magazine industry-it also provides a corrective lens by historicizing a masculine figure that has been regarded as unchanging. Becoming the Gentlemanidentifies this effort to redefine the gentleman as a struggle over cultural capital conducted discursively. A synthetic study of literary (e.g. Addison, Pope, Burney, Austen & Scott) and extra-literary texts (e.g. Locke, Adam Smith, and diverse instructional authors), the book will appeal to scholars and advanced students of history, literature, gender, education, and culture.

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