INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT

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To W. A. M.

. . . we should like to have good rulers, but historical experience shows us that we are not likely to get them. This is why it is of such importance to design institutions which prevent even bad rulers from causing too much damage.

Classes, however, never rule, any more than nations. The rulers are always certain persons. And, whatever class they may have once belonged to, once they are rulers they belong to the ruling class.

SIR KARL POPPER
Conjectures and Refutations, 1976

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	x
1 The Nature of Politics and Government	1
2 Constitutions	11
3 The Electoral System	20
4 The Party System	43
5 Parliament: The House of Commons – I	53
6 Parliament: The House of Commons – II	67
7 The Monarchy and the House of Lords	77
8 The Cabinet and the Prime Minister	85
9 Pressure Groups	96
10 The Civil Service and Government Departments	105
11 The English Legal System	119
12 The Public Corporations	143
13 Local Government I – Structure and Functions	154
14 Local Government II – Management	171
15 Local Government III – Finance	188
16 Britain and the European Economic Community	204
17 Devolution	212
18 <i>Postscript: Some Reflections on the Prospects for British Government</i>	221
<i>Notes and References</i>	228
<i>Index</i>	235

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Preface

This book is intended as an introduction to the intricacies of the British system of government. It is directed mainly at those who are preparing for the Ordinary National Certificate in Public Administration and for its successor qualification administered by the Business Education Council; but it will also be suitable for the Government and Public Administration papers of the Rating and Valuation Association, the Institute of Housing, the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, various other professional bodies and for the Advanced-Level GCE papers in British Government and Political System.

The general reader may well find the book of interest.

Local government has been dealt with in somewhat greater detail than in comparable books.

I would like to record my thanks to Professor Hugh Ber-
rington, Head of the Department of Politics at the University of
Newcastle upon Tyne, for his generous help and encouragement.
The shortcomings of the book are entirely mine.

At the end of each chapter is given a list of books which deal in
greater detail with the particular subject matter of the chapter.
The following books give a comprehensive treatment of British
government:

R. M. Punnett, *British Government and Politics* (Heinemann, 3rd
edn, 1976).

P. J. Madgwick, *Introduction to British Politics* (Hutchinson, 2nd
edn, 1976).

I. Gilmour, *The Body Politic* (Hutchinson, 1971).

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S. G. R.

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