British Society and the French Wars 1793–1815

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CLIVE EMSLEY

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Contents

PREFACE vii

- Introduction 1
- 1 Britain in 1792 5
 - I Society and Government 5
 - II The Road to War 13
- 2 The Initial Impact: 1793–94 19
 - I Policies and Attitudes 19
 - II Industry and Labour 28
 - III Manpower and Administration 33
- 3 Crisis upon Crisis: 1795–97 41
 - I ‘Bread! No War! No King!’: 1795–96 41
 - II Invasion and Mutiny: 1797 56
- 4 From Rebellion to Respite: 1798–1801 65
 - I Anti-Jacobins and Croppies: 1798 65
 - II Peace Becomes a Necessity: 1799–1801 77
- 5 The Amiens Interlude 93
- 6 Wooden Walls and Volunteers: 1803–5 99
 - I The Sinews of War 99
 - II Attitudes and Propaganda 112
- 7 Blockade: 1806–9 124
 - I Ministers and Measures 124
 - II Reactions 134
- 8 Victories Abroad, Crises at Home: 1810–15 147
 - I ‘Welcome Ned Ludd, Thy Case Is Good’: 1810–12 147
 - II The End in Sight: 1813–14 161
 - III Postscript: Peace and the Waterloo War: 1814–15 167
- 9 Aftermath 169

ABBREVIATIONS	183
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	183
REFERENCES	186
INDEX	207

This book is dedicated to my wife Jennifer; and to my children, Mark and Kathryn, hoping that their generation escapes the war experience of their grandfathers and great-grandfathers.

Preface

The idea for this book emerged from a course on War and Society which I helped to prepare for the Open University. Much has been written in recent years on the social effects of the World Wars of the twentieth century; it seemed logical to look in the same sort of way at the twenty-years struggle between Britain and Revolutionary and Napoleonic France – the conflict between the Whale and the Elephant, as my old tutor and friend Gwyn Williams once characterised it.

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