Britain Since 1945

PROBLEMS IN FOCUS SERIES

Each volume in the 'Problems in Focus' series is designed to make available to students important new work on key historical problems and periods that they encounter in their courses. Each volume is devoted to a central topic or theme, and the most important aspects of this are dealt with by specially commissioned essays from scholars in the relevant field. The editorial Introduction reviews the problem or period as a whole, and each essay provides an assessment of the particular aspect, pointing out the areas of development and controversy, and indicating where conclusions can be drawn or where further work is necessary. An annotated bibliography serves as a guide for further reading.

TITLES IN PRINT

Church and Society in England: Henry VIII to James I

edited by Felicity Heal and Rosemary O'Day

The Reign of James VI and I

edited by Alan G. R. Smith

The Origins of the English Civil War

edited by Conrad Russell

The Interregnum: The Quest for Settlement 1646–1660

edited by G. E. Aylmer

The Restored Monarchy 1660–1688

edited by J. R. Jones

Britain after the Glorious Revolution 1689–1714

edited by Geoffrey Holmes

Popular Movements, c. 1830–1850

edited by J. T. Ward

Europe's Balance of Power 1815–1848

edited by Alan Sked

The Edwardian Age: Conflict and Stability 1900–1914

edited by Alan O'Day

The Mid-Tudor Polity c. 1540–1560

edited by Jennifer Loach and Robert Tittler

Slavery and British Society 1776–1846

edited by James Walvin

Reactions to the English Civil War 1642–1649

edited by John Morrill

Britain in the Age of Walpole

edited by Jeremy Black

The Reign of Elizabeth I

edited by Christopher Haigh

British Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century

edited by C. C. Eldridge

The Revolution in Ireland, 1879–1923

edited by D. G. Boyce

Later Victorian Britain, 1867–1900

edited by T. R. Gourvish and Alan O'Day

Enlightened Absolutism: Reform and Reformers in Later Eighteenth-Century Europe

edited by H. M. Scott

Britain since 1945

edited by T. R. Gourvish and Alan O'Day

FURTHER TITLES ARE IN PREPARATION

Series Standing Order

If you would like to receive future titles in this series as they are published, you can make use of our standing order facility. To place a standing order please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address and the name of the series. Please state with which title you wish to begin your standing order. (If you live outside the United Kingdom we may not have the rights for your area, in which case we will forward your order to the publisher concerned.)

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd,
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 2XS, England.

Britain Since 1945

EDITED BY
TERRY GOURVISH
and
ALAN O'DAY

M
MACMILLAN

Editorial matter and Chapter 1 © Terry Gourvish and Alan O'Day;
Chapter 2 © M. W. Kirby; Chapter 3 © Jose Harris; Chapter 4 © Chris
Wrigley; Chapter 5 © John Stevenson; Chapter 6 © Terry Gourvish;
Chapter 7 © Michael Dockrill; Chapter 8 © Michael Sanderson;
Chapter 9 © Pat Thane; Chapter 10 © Colin Holmes; Chapter 11 ©
Anthony Seldon; Chapter 12 © Martin Ceadel; Chapter 13 © Alan
O'Day; Chapter 14 © John Street 1991

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission
of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied
or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance
with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988
or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying
issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 33–4 Alfred Place,
London WC1E 7DP

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to
this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and
civil claims for damages.

First published 1991

Published by
MACMILLAN EDUCATION LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

Typeset by Footnote Graphics
Warminster, Wiltshire

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Britain since 1945. — (Problems in focus series).

I. Great Britain, 1945–

I. Gourvish, Terry II. O'Day, Alan III. Series

941.085

ISBN 978-0-333-49158-4 ISBN 978-1-349-21603-1 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-21603-1

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	vii
1 Decline or Resurgence? Post-War Britain TERRY GOURVISH and ALAN O'DAY	1
2 The Economic Record since 1945 M. W. KIRBY	11
3 Enterprise and the Welfare State: A Comparative Perspective JOSE HARRIS	39
4 Trade Unions, the Government and the Economy CHRIS WRIGLEY	59
5 The Jerusalem that Failed? The Rebuilding of Post-War Britain JOHN STEVENSON	89
6 The Rise (and Fall?) of State-Owned Enterprise TERRY GOURVISH	111
7 The Defence of the Realm: Britain in the Nuclear Age MICHAEL DOCKRILL	135
8 Social Equity and Industrial Need: A Dilemma of English Education since 1945 MICHAEL SANDERSON	159
9 Towards Equal Opportunities? Women in Britain since 1945 PAT THANE	183

10	Immigration COLIN HOLMES	209
11	The Conservative Party since 1945 ANTHONY SELDON	233
12	Labour as a Governing Party: Balancing Right and Left MARTIN CEADEL	263
13	Britain and the Two Irelands since 1945 ALAN O'DAY	283
14	Youth Culture and the Emergence of Popular Music JOHN STREET	305
	<i>Bibliography</i>	325
	<i>Notes and References</i>	339
	<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	377
	<i>Index</i>	381

Preface

Britain Since 1945 is similar to companion volumes in the 'Problems in Focus' series in assessing a limited number of important themes. The book does not pretend to treat all the issues of the period or to offer a unified view of the time. Each contributor has stressed essential aspects of the age but the articles are the product of individual perspectives and do not attempt to present an identical or even consistent outlook.

The editors are grateful to the contributors who accepted our nagging, particularly about length, with grace and responded in a helpful way to criticism. Several generously offered constructive comment on other articles in the collection. We are pleased to acknowledge the totality of what is a joint effort to produce a book useful to students, teachers and scholars. We benefited from the support of Vanessa Graham who encouraged us to develop the book and as our editor at Macmillan showed a tolerant attitude to occasional difficulties.

T. R. G.
A. O'D.