CONVERGENCE OR DIVERGENCE?

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Britain and the Continent

Jeremy Black
Reader in History
University of Durham

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For Dan and Stella Hollis

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Preface

The relations between Britain and the Continent have been central to my work, linking publications on such diverse topics as international relations, tourism and the press perception of foreign countries. My teaching of and writing on British history have constantly been illuminated by a European perspective. Most of my work has been devoted to the period 1688–1793 and this book represents an attempt to provide a longer perspective to the question of relations which I believe to be crucial to an understanding of British history.

In the course of this study I have accumulated a number of debts. I would like to thank the British Academy and the Staff Travel and Research Fund of Durham University for supporting my research. I have benefited from the comments of Simon Adams, Walter Arnstein, Benjamin Arnold, Stuart Ball, Ross Balzaretti, Eugenio Biagini, John Blair, George Boyce, P. J. Casey, Jonathan Clark, John Derry, Bill Dohar, Susan Doran, David Eastwood, Barbara English, Alan Ford, Gerald Harriss, Margaret Harvey, Paul Harvey, Colin Haydon, Nicholas Henshall, David Hey, Ralph Houlbrooke, Norman Housley, Daniel Johnson, Ken Lawson, Simon Lloyd, David Loades, Victoria Ortenberg, Jon Parry, Bernard Porter, Michael Prestwich, Nigel Ramsay, David Rollason, Jim Sack, Nigel Saul, Geoffrey Searle, Henry Summerson, Roger Virgoe, Bruce Webster, Ann Williams, Philip Williamson, John Young, and Patrick Zutshi on earlier drafts of sections of this study. I would like to thank David Sturdy for advice on particular points. A section was delivered as a paper at Adelaide, Auburn, Auckland, Birmingham, Brown, Canterbury, East Anglia, Leeds and Massey Universities, at Downing, Peterhouse and Stillman Colleges, to the Stubbs Society, and to the annual conference of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and I am most grateful for all the suggestions that were made. I owe a great debt to Wendy Duery for her efficient assistance. I am necessarily aware of the tentative nature of many of my conclusions and the possibility of suggesting different interpretations. I am also aware that treating a subject of this magnitude, not least in a relatively short work, is a difficult task and that much of importance has been omitted. Rather,

however, than seeking the safer pastures of detailed archival research (difficult as that course itself can be), I have preferred to offer what I hope is a reasoned account of the background to one of the major issues facing Britain today.

Newcastle

JEREMY BLACK

List of Abbreviations

<i>BIHR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
<i>EcHR</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
<i>HJ</i>	<i>Historical Journal</i>
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>