BRITISH POLITICS SINCE THE WAR

Also by Bill Coxall and Lynton Robins

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POLITICS

British Politics since the War

Bill Coxall

and

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First published in Great Britain 1998 by

MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and London
Companies and representatives throughout the world

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-0-333-54532-4

ISBN 978-1-349-26013-3 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-26013-3

First published in the United States of America 1998 by

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,

Scholarly and Reference Division,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-21108-0

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Coxall, W. N.

British politics since the war / Bill Coxall & Lynton Robins.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.

ISBN 978-0-312-21108-0

1. Great Britain—Politics and government—1945– 2. World War,
1939–1945—Influence. I. Robins, L. J. (Lynton J.) II. Title.

DA589.7.C69 1997

941.085—dc21

97-35661

CIP

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07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99 98

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Preface

Recent history – the period covering their own and their parents’ lives – is often the period about which students know least, and the authors have long been aware that, despite the existence of some excellent works of contemporary history of a more advanced kind, no satisfactory introduction to the subject has been available. This book is an attempt to fill that gap.

After a scene-setting survey of prewar and wartime Britain, the book opens with a straightforward account of post-Second World War British governments from Attlee to Major, focusing on the main electoral and national developments and events. For the most part it then proceeds thematically, combining discussions of developments in political ideas, institutions and behaviour (Chapters 4–8) with the treatment of specific policy areas (Chapters 9–11). The remaining chapters offer broad overviews. Thus Chapter 2 examines postwar British politics from the perspective of consensus, its breakdown and possible reemergence, Chapter 3 considers some important political consequences of social change, and Chapter 12 looks at the history of Britain since 1945 from the viewpoint of the main political ideologies.

As with *Contemporary British Politics*, for which it provides, if we may use the term, a ‘prequel’, the authors hope that the book will prove useful not only to A level and first-year university students but also to everyone with an interest in recent British political history.

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to our publisher Steven Kennedy for his encouragement and advice and to Hourii Alavi (also of Macmillan) for her editorial assistance.

BILL COXALL
LYNTON ROBINS

Acknowledgements

The authors and publishers wish to thank the following for permission to use copyright material:

Guardian News Service Ltd for **Table 9.3** from *The Guardian*, 26.4.89;

Oxford University Press for **Table 3.9** from M. Burch and M. Moran, 'The Changing British Political Elite, 1945–83: MPs and Cabinet Ministers', *Parliamentary Affairs*, 38 (1985);

Talking Politics, Journal of The Politics Association, for an extract from Ian Holliday, 'The Welfare State 1979–93: Safe in Conservative Hands?' *Talking Politics*, 6: 2 (1994) pp. 82–94;

Central Office of Information, London, for photographs on pages 24, 34, 38, 43 and 47.

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Oxford University Press for maps on pages 264–5 from *The Oxford History of Britain: The Modern Age*, 1992, ed. by H. C. G. Matthew and K. O. Morgan.

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This book is dedicated to Stephen, Matthew, Edward,
Jonathan, Anne and Stephen