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052144506X - Lord Salisbury's World: Conservative Environments in Late-Victorian Britain

Michael Bentley

Frontmatter

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Lord Salisbury (1830–1903) is now a subject of intense historical attention. This important new study moves away from conventional biography and presents an original portrait of the mental world inhabited by late-Victorian Conservatives at the time when their world-view was coming under severe strain.

At the centre of the picture is the third Marquis of Salisbury, but *Lord Salisbury's World* does not simply tell the story of his life and politics. Instead, it asks sensitive questions about how the political, intellectual and religious environments of the late-Victorian period seemed to one of its sharpest intellects, and it situates Salisbury and his immediate entourage in a wide landscape of relationships, perceptions and problems.

Its starting points are two: that politics is a situational activity, and that situations reside in the minds of the beholders. For that reason Professor Bentley draws the reader into Conservative assumptions about time and space, property and society, religion and the state, the past and the future – the very language in which they expressed themselves. His book will therefore be required reading for all those interested in British political ideas.

MICHAEL BENTLEY is Professor of Modern History at the University of St Andrews. His many publications include *Politics without Democracy, 1815–1914* (second edn, 1996) in the Fontana History of England. He was also editor of *Public and Private Doctrine: Essays in British History presented to Maurice Cowling* (Cambridge, 1993).

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worst proof-reader. Dr Andrew Jones long ago gave up hopes of improving the author but supplied reassurance that Conservative environments still exist.

*St Andrews
March 2001*

NOTE ON THE TEXT

Capital letters have been reduced to the minimum and stripped from political offices (prime minister, foreign secretary) and general references to institutions (parliament, the church); they have been retained for titles (Church of England, Foreign Office). I have ignored this rule when the result looked odd (archbishop of Canterbury, chancellor of the Exchequer). I have also retained 'Marquis' as opposed to the more usual 'Marquess' because it was the usage preferred by the Salisbury family.

M. B.

Abbreviations

Cecil	Lady Gwendolen Cecil, <i>Life of Robert, Marquis of Salisbury</i> (4 vols., 1921–32)
<i>Complete Peerage</i>	Hon. Vicary Gibbs <i>et al.</i> (eds.), <i>The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom</i> (12 vols., 1910–59)
Derby, <i>Diaries</i>	John Vincent (ed.), <i>Disraeli, Derby and the Conservative Party: Journals and Memoirs of Edward Henry, Lord Stanley 1848–1869</i> (Hassocks, 1978); <i>The Diaries of Edward Henry Stanley, 15th Earl of Derby: Between September 1869 and March 1878</i> (Royal Historical Society: Camden Series, 1994); <i>The Later Derby Diaries: Home Rule, Liberal Unionism and Aristocratic Life in Late-Victorian England</i> (Bristol, 1981)
<i>Hansard</i>	<i>Hansard's Parliamentary Debates</i> (third series before 1892, fourth series from 9 February 1892)
RA	Royal Archives – papers and journals of Queen Victoria, Windsor Castle
<i>Salisbury–Balfour Correspondence</i>	Robin Harcourt Williams (ed.), <i>Salisbury–Balfour Correspondence: Letters Exchanged between the Third Marquis of Salisbury and his Nephew Arthur James Balfour 1869–1892</i> (Ware, 1988)