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978-0-521-84227-3 - Cultures of Power in Europe during the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

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Cultures of Power in Europe during the Long Eighteenth Century

This original volume seeks to get behind the surface of political events and to identify the forces which shaped politics and culture from 1680 to 1840 in Germany, France and Great Britain. The contributors, all leading specialists in the field, explore critically how ‘culture’, defined in the widest sense, was exploited during the ‘long eighteenth century’ to buttress authority in all its forms and how politics infused culture. Individual essays explore topics ranging from the military culture of central Europe through the political culture of Germany, France and Great Britain, music, court intrigue and diplomatic practice, religious conflict and political ideas, the role of the Enlightenment, to the very new dispensations which prevailed during and after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic watershed. The book will be essential reading for all scholars of eighteenth-century European history.

HAMISH SCOTT is Wardlaw Professor of International History at the University of St Andrews. His recent publications include *The Emergence of the Eastern Powers, 1756–1775* (2001) and *The Birth of a Great Power System, 1740–1815* (2006).

BRENDAN SIMMS is Reader in the History of International Relations at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Peterhouse. His previous publications include *The Impact of Napoleon: Prussian High Politics, Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Executive, 1797–1806* (1997) and as an editor with Torsten Rott, *The Hanoverian Dimension in British History, 1714–1837* (2007).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521842273

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-84227-3 hardback

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For Tim Blanning

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Preface

In April 2007, Professor T. C. W. Blanning – Tim to all his friends and now to the scholarly community as well – will celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday, improbable as this will seem. In order to mark this occasion, to celebrate his enormous contribution to the study of modern European history, and to convey a sense of the immense regard in which he is universally held, it was decided to publish a volume of essays dedicated to him and written by some of his many friends and admirers. It takes its cue and also its starting point from Tim's celebrated *The Culture of Power and the Power of Culture: Old Regime Europe, 1660–1789* (Oxford University Press, 2002). Contributors were asked to extend the perspectives of that seminal book, and to explore critically how 'culture' (defined in the widest sense) was exploited during the 'long eighteenth century' to buttress authority in all its forms and how politics infused culture. Coherence was also sought by a decision to concentrate on the period – the long eighteenth century – which has been the principal focus of Tim's own scholarship and on the areas which his work has particularly illuminated: the German-speaking lands, France and Britain. While this, together with the period selected for consideration, had the unfortunate effect of excluding some friends and colleagues who would have been obvious contributors, it was inevitable given the realities of present-day publishing. Tim's renowned openness to all subjects and all approaches encouraged us to produce a volume which fully reflected the various uses to which the concept of 'culture' has been put.

The essays published in this volume were first given as papers at a highly enjoyable conference held in Cambridge in September 2005, and were revised for publication in the light of discussions and comments at this gathering. We are grateful to the contributors for their willingness to revise their essays in the interests of the volume's overall coherence and for their remarkable ability to deliver their essays by the due date: a tribute, in many case, to the good habits inculcated by Tim's doctoral supervision. The conference was funded by the German Historical Institute, London, and we are deeply indebted to its Director, Professor Hagen Schulze, for

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this extraordinary generosity, which is only the latest example of the Institute's remarkable support of scholarship in the British academic world. Its Deputy, Dr Benedikt Stuchtey, very kindly attended the Cambridge conference. The Trevelyan Fund of the University of Cambridge also made a generous grant to cover the travel expenses of the participants. At the Press we are indebted to Bill Davies who did much to get the project off the ground and to his successor Michael Watson who smoothed the passage to publication. Nancy Bailey has applied her electronic wizardry to the production of a finished manuscript, while Christopher Riches made the Index: we are grateful to them both. In the planning stages, Derek Beales provided important advice, while Nicky Blanning furnished decisive, if for a time covert, assistance, and Tom, Lucy and Molly kept us all enchanted. We owe most to Tim, however, both for providing the excuse for this academic stock-taking on Blanning's eighteenth century, and for his scholarship and celebrated generosity, both professional and personal, from which all the contributors have frequently benefited. Celebration of his birthday is accompanied with our best wishes for many more years of personal happiness and scholarly productivity.

HAMISH SCOTT
BRENDAN SIMMS
April 2006

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MARK BERRY is a Fellow of Peterhouse, and British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow. He has written on various aspects of cultural, intellectual and musical history from the eighteenth century to the present day, and is the author of *Treacherous Bonds and Laughing Fire: Politics and Religion in Wagner's 'Ring'* (Aldershot and Burlington, 2006). For his work on Wagner he was awarded the Prince Consort Prize and the Seeley Medal. His present research concerns the relationship between aesthetics, politics and music drama after Wagner, focusing especially upon the writings of Adorno and the operas of Schoenberg, Berg and the post-war avant-garde.

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Historical Journal 41 (1998) and ‘Novel Narratives, New Research: The French Revolution after the Bicentennial’, *Historical Journal* 40 (1997). He is currently preparing his Cambridge Ph.D. thesis (2005) on ‘The French Revolution and the *secret du roi*: Diplomatic Tradition, Foreign Policy and Political Culture in Later Eighteenth-Century France (1756–1792)’ for publication as a monograph.

HAMISH SCOTT is Wardlaw Professor of International History at the University of St Andrews. A Fellow of the British Academy, he is the author of *The Rise of the Great Powers, 1648–1815* (with Derek McKay; Harlow, 1983), *British Foreign Policy in the Age of the American Revolution* (Oxford, 1990), *The Emergence of the Eastern Powers, 1756–1775* (Cambridge, 2001) and *The Birth of a Great Power System, 1740–1815* (Harlow, 2006). He is currently writing a study of aristocracy in Europe c. 1400–1750.

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Painting and the New Houses of Parliament at Westminster, 1834–51’, *Historical Journal* 47 (2004) and ‘Prince Albert, Fresco Painting, and the New Houses of Parliament’, in J. Davis and F. Bosbach, eds., *Prinz Albert – ein Wettiner in Großbritannien/Prince Albert – a Wettin in Britain* (Munich, 2004). She is currently preparing her Cambridge doctoral thesis (2005), on the relationship between art and taste, state and nation in Germany and England between 1789–1858, for publication.