Continental Drift

Britain and Europe from the End of Empire to the Rise of Euroscepticism

In the aftermath of the Second World War, Churchill sought to lead Europe into an integrated union, but a little more than seventy years later Britain is poised to vote on leaving the European Union (EU). Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon here recounts the fascinating history of Britain’s uneasy relationship with the European continent since the end of the war. He shows how British views of the United Kingdom’s place within Europe cannot be understood outside the context of decolonisation, the Cold War and the Anglo–American relationship. At the end of the Second World War, Britons viewed themselves both as the leaders of a great empire and as the natural centre of Europe. With the decline of the British Empire and the formation of the European Economic Community, however, Britons developed a Euroscepticism that was inseparable from a post-imperial nostalgia. Britain had evolved from an island of imperial Europeans to one of post-imperial Eurosceptics.

Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon currently works as a Foreign Service Officer (Diplomat) for the United States Department of State. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he held the Cleveland C. Burton Professorship at the University of Arkansas, where he was also director of the Program in International Relations. He has held a Visiting Fellowship at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and has also taught at Duke University and North Carolina State University. His previously published works include The Irish Experience during the Second World War: An Oral History (2004); Turning Points of the Irish Revolution: The British Government, Intelligence, and the Cost of Indifference, 1912–1921 (2007); and Imperial Endgame: Britain’s Dirty Wars and the End of Empire (2011).
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Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon

United States Department of State
For my family,

Amanda, Sophia, Isabel and Kieran
Contents

Acknowledgements  ix
List of abbreviations xii
Introduction 1

Part 1: Imperial Europeans 11
1 A world undone 13
2 Mr Churchill’s Europe 34
3 Mr Bevin’s response 60
4 The German problem 79
5 A disunited Europe? 99
6 The continental surprise and the fall of the Labour government 123
7 The realities of government 153
8 Perfidious Gaul 178
9 The decline and fall of the imperial Europeans 202
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 2: Post-imperial Eurosceptics</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 At sixes and sevens</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Towards the Common Market</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 The rise of the anti-Marketeers</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Empire eclipsed, Europe embraced, Britain rejected</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Entering the promised land? Britain joins ‘Europe’</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Seasons of discontent</td>
<td>367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Half-hearted Europeans</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Mrs Thatcher, John Major and the road to European Union</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusion: Post-imperial Britain and the rise of Euroscepticism 461

Notes 471
Bibliography 561
Index 582
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xi / Acknowledgements

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and I would not have had it any other way. I look forward to having
them by my side in all of our adventures to come.

Postscript: Since completing this book, I have left my position as
a faculty member at the University of Arkansas to instead work for
the US Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer (diplomat).
It goes without saying that this work was completed in its entirety in
my capacity as a university professor. The views expressed in this book
are those of the author and not necessarily those of the US Government.
Abbreviations

ABMS  Mark Abrams Papers
AELAdd  Anthony Eden Additional Papers
AMEJ  Julian Amery Papers
AMEL  Leopold Amery Papers
AP  Avon Papers
BDOEE  *British Documents on the End of Empire*
BDPO  *Documents on British Policy Overseas*
Bodleian  Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
BT  Board of Trade
BW  British Council
CAB  Cabinet Office
CAC  Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge
CHAR  Chartwell Papers
CHUR  Churchill Papers
CO  Colonial Office
CRL  Special Collections Department, Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham
DO  Dominions Office
DSND  Duncan Sandys Papers
DUFC  Duff Cooper Papers
ENZG  Paul Einzig Papers
GLAD  Gladwyn Papers
FCO  Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FO  Foreign Office
HSC  Head of State Correspondence
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>KNNK</td>
<td>Neil Kinnock Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LBJ</td>
<td>Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Castle</td>
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<td>Sir Neil Martin Papers</td>
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<td>NSF</td>
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