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L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

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**GOVERNMENT
IN GREAT BRITAIN,
THE EMPIRE, AND THE
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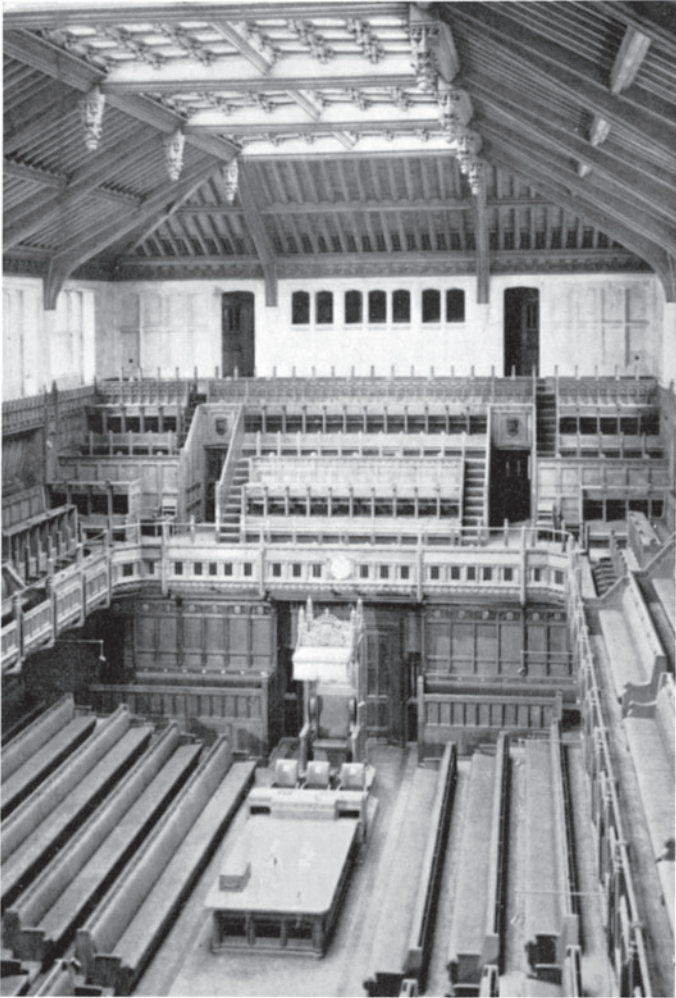
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THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

(The new House retains the form of that destroyed
by enemy action on 10 May 1941)

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GOVERNMENT
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 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> 14
<i>Preface</i>	15

PART I. GREAT BRITAIN

CHAPTER I. THE NATURE OF THE BRITISH CONSTITUTION (*page* 17)

The meaning of the term 'Constitution'	17
The functions of government and the separation of powers	17
Constitutional landmarks	18
Custom and convention	19
Sources of the Constitution	19
Features of the Constitution	20
Constitutions in the Commonwealth and Empire	21
The British and American Constitutions contrasted	21

CHAPTER II. THE SOVEREIGN (*page* 22)

The Crown and the Sovereign	22
The title to the Crown	23
The Queen and the executive	24
The Queen and the legislature	25
The Queen, the judges and the administration of justice	26
The Queen and the Church	27
The Queen and the bestowal of honours	27
The personal position and influence of the Sovereign	23
The Civil List	29
The royal household	29
The Regency Acts of 1937 and 1953	30
The Queen and the Commonwealth and Empire	30

CHAPTER III. PARLIAMENT—ITS ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT (*page* 31)

The supremacy of Parliament	31
The origins of Parliament	32
Parliament under the Tudors and Stuarts	33
Parliament after the Revolution of 1688	34

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
The Commonwealth

L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Transition to the nineteenth century	<i>page</i> 35
Parliamentary reform, 1832-85	36
Changes in the twentieth century	37
The composition of the House of Commons	38
The House of Commons and the House of Lords	39

CHAPTER IV. THE PARTIES, THE ELECTORS
AND THE ELECTED (*page* 39)

The party system	39
The development of the parties	40
Recent party fortunes	41
Other electoral systems	42
The policies of the parties	43
The organisation of the parties	44
Party discipline in the Commons	45
The Opposition in party government	46
The parliamentary register of electors	46
The issue of writs on a dissolution	47
Qualifications for a member of Parliament	48
Nomination day	48
The election campaign	48
Polling day	49
By-elections	50
Corrupt and illegal practices in elections	50
Duties of a member of Parliament	52

CHAPTER V. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ITS CUSTOMS
AND ITS PRIVILEGES (*page* 53)

The Parliament House of the Commons	53
The Speaker	57
The Chairman of Committees, and the officers of the House	60
The member and the customs of the House	61
The privileges of the House	63
Records and reports of proceedings in the House	64

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
 The Commonwealth
 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VI. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—TIMETABLE,
 THE PASSING OF A LAW AND THE ELEMENTS
 OF PROCEDURE (*page 66*)

A parliamentary session, week and day	66
The making of the laws	70
Public bills	71
Private bills	73
Delegated legislation	74
The Order Paper	75
Precedent and Standing Orders	75
Debates and committees	76
The Closure, the Guillotine and the Kangaroo	78
Divisions	79
The Quorum	80
The Adjournment	81
The Whips	82

CHAPTER VII. THE HOUSE OF LORDS (*page 85*)

Membership	85
Judicial functions	86
Legislative functions	87
Limitation of powers	88
The Parliament Acts of 1911 and 1949	89
The future of the House of Lords	91

CHAPTER VIII. THE PRIME MINISTER
 AND THE CABINET (*page 92*)

Historical development	92
The office of Prime Minister	94
The Prime Minister and his cabinet	96
Membership of the cabinet	97
Cabinet business and procedure	99
Cabinet committees	100
Collective responsibility	101
Secrecy of cabinet proceedings	101
The Cabinet Secretariat	102
The Privy Council	102
Appendix. The Conservative Ministry, May 1955	103

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
 The Commonwealth
 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IX. THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE
 AND THE CIVIL SERVICE (*page 104*)

The minister	104
The departments of state	105
The Treasury	107
The Home Office	108
The Civil Service	110
The evolution of the Civil Service	111
The work of the grades	112
The code of conduct	113
Pay and conditions	114

CHAPTER X. FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT (*page 116*)

The scope of public finance	116
General principles	117
Expenditure	117
The estimates	118
The Committee of Supply	119
The Committee of Ways and Means	119
The Budget	121
Collection of revenue	122
Payments from the Consolidated Fund	122
Control of public expenditure	123

CHAPTER XI. THE COURTS OF LAW, THE JUDGES
 AND THE MAGISTRATES (*page 125*)

The origins of English law	125
The early courts of law	126
The judges	128
Barristers and solicitors	129
Juries	130
Criminal and civil cases	132
The courts of law to-day	133
Justices of the peace, magistrates and magistrates' courts	135
Petty Sessions	135
County Courts and Coroners' Courts	137
The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council	138
Rivals of the law courts	138
Scottish courts of law	139

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
 The Commonwealth
 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XII. THE POLICE AND THE
 ARMED FORCES (*page 140*)

The English police tradition	140
Historical development	141
Police organisation in England and Wales	142
County and county borough police forces	142
The City of London Police Force	143
The Metropolitan Police	143
Constitutional importance of the British police tradition	143
The armed forces	144
Command of the armed forces	145
Parliamentary control	145
The discipline of the armed forces	146
The Mutiny Acts, 1689 and 1878	146
The Articles of War	147
The Army Act, 1881	147
Duties in aid of the civil power	148

CHAPTER XIII. LOCAL GOVERNMENT I. ITS DEVELOPMENT
 AND PRESENT-DAY ORGANISATION (*page 148*)

The development of local government before the nineteenth century	148
The beginning of reform	150
The Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894	151
Twentieth-century developments	151
Local authorities to-day	153
Qualifications for local government electors and candidates	153
The parish	154
Rural and urban districts	155
The municipal borough	156
The county councils	156
County boroughs	157
London	158
The Corporation of the City of London	158
The London County Council	158
The metropolitan boroughs	159
'Ad hoc' authorities	159
Scottish local government	160
Ancient offices surviving in local government	160

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
 The Commonwealth
 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS

Composition and functions of the full council	<i>page</i> 161
Committees	162
Local government officers	164

CHAPTER XIV. LOCAL GOVERNMENT II. ITS SCOPE,
 FINANCE, AND RELATIONS WITH THE
 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (*page* 166)

The scope of local government	166
Sanitation and public health	168
Housing and open spaces	169
Education	170
Highways	172
The poor	173
Fire services and civil defence	173
Public utilities	173
Finance	174
Rates	175
The distribution of functions between local authorities	176
The central government and local authorities	178
Judicial control	180
Summary	180

CHAPTER XV. THE GOVERNMENT AND
 THE CITIZEN (*page* 181)

Important documents in the history of individual rights	181
The freedom of the individual citizen	183
Freedom of the person	184
Freedom of expression	185
Freedom of assembly	186
Freedom of association	187
Free elections	188
Freedom of property	188
Freedom with regard to religion	188
Equality before the law and the right to trial by jury	189
Emergency powers	189
The duties of the citizen	190

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
The Commonwealth

L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

PART II. THE EMPIRE AND THE COMMONWEALTH

INTRODUCTION (*page 193*)CHAPTER XVI. THE CONSTITUTIONAL DOCTRINE OF THE
FIRST BRITISH EMPIRE (*page 194*)

Formative influences	<i>page 196</i>
Early representative institutions	197
Settled colonies	197
Conquered colonies	200
<i>Campbell v. Hall</i> (1774)	203
The reception of English common law and statute law	204

CHAPTER XVII. THE OLD REPRESENTATIVE
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT (*page 205*)

The Governor: his appointment and powers	206
The Council: its composition and functions	207
The Assembly	208
Privileges and legislative powers	209
Conflict with the executive	210
Imperial organisation of the first Empire	211
The colonial agents	212
Later history of the 'old representative' system	212

CHAPTER XVIII. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (*page 214*)

The American colonies, 1700-63	214
The beginnings of constitutional conflict, 1764-5	214
The Declaratory Act and after, 1766-70	215
The 'Coercive Acts', 1774	216
Attempts at conciliation	217
The Declaration of Independence, 1776	218
The establishment of state and federal government	219

CHAPTER XIX. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS,
1763-1815 (*page 221*)

The rise of the second British Empire, 1783-1815	221
The lesson of 1783	222
The Quebec Act, 1774	223
The Canada Constitutional Act, 1791	224
The doctrine of trusteeship	225

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
The Commonwealth

L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XX. CROWN COLONY GOVERNMENT (*page 226*)

The problem of government, 1763-1815	<i>page 226</i>
Nature of Crown Colony government	227
Conquered and ceded colonies	227
The British West Indies	228
Tropical settlements of chartered companies	228
British settled colonies of the nineteenth century	229
Protectorates	229
Trustee territories	230
The dependent Empire	230
The Governor	231
The Oversea Civil Service	232
The Executive Council	232
The Legislative Council	233
The electorate	235
Corporate and communal representation	236
The advance to representative and responsible government	237

CHAPTER XXI. FEDERATION (*page 239*)

The idea of federation	239
The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland	240
The British Caribbean Federation	241
The Federal Constitution of Nigeria (1954)	243

CHAPTER XXII. THE SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES (*page 245*)

Colonial self-government	245
The basis of the old representative system	245
Colonial demands for self-government	246
The attitude of Great Britain	247
Upper and Lower Canada, 1791-1837	247
The Durham Report, 1839	248
Canada Act, 1840	249
Responsible government, 1847	249
The British North America Act, 1867	250
The Australian colonies	251
The Commonwealth of Australia (1901)	254
New Zealand	256
South Africa	256
The Union of South Africa Act, 1909	258
Southern Rhodesia	259

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
The Commonwealth

L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

CHAPTER XXIII. THE DOMINIONS IN THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY (*page 261*)

Constitutional limitations	261
Reservation and disallowance	261
The Colonial Laws Validity Act, 1865	262
Extra-territorial legislation and foreign relations	262
Appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council	263
Imperial Conferences	263
The Imperial War Cabinet	264
International status of the Dominions, 1919-26	265
Equality of status	266
The Imperial Conferences of 1926 and 1930	266
The Statute of Westminster, 1931	268
World War II, 1939-45	270
The British Commonwealth of Nations since 1945	271
<i>Postscript</i>	272
<i>Appendix</i> : The advance to representative and responsible government	274
<i>Glossary</i>	276
<i>Book List</i>	283
<i>Index of Acts of Parliament</i>	286
<i>General Index</i>	287

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
 The Commonwealth
 L. W. White and W. D. Hussey
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND DIAGRAMS

The interior of the House of Commons (<i>Central Press Photos Ltd.</i>)	<i>frontispiece</i>
<i>Fig. 1</i> Plan of the House of Commons and the adjoining rooms (<i>The Times</i>)	<i>page 54</i>
2 Plan of the Galleries of the House of Commons (<i>The Times</i>)	55
3 *The organisation of the Home Office	
4 National Income	120
5 The system of courts and channels of appeal	136
6 The present organisation of Local Government	152

*This map is available for download from www.cambridge.org/9781107587052

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-58705-2 - Government in Great Britain, The Empire, and
The Commonwealth

L. W. White and W. D. Hussey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to describe the main features of government in Great Britain, the Empire and the Commonwealth, to show the influence of tradition, precedent and proper procedure, and to illustrate the fluidity of the constitution. It is hoped that the book will make clear the duties and responsibilities of democracy as well as its privileges.

In part I, which is the work of L. W. White, the emphasis throughout has been on present-day practice. It has been possible in this part to include only such references to the historical development of institutions as are essential to an understanding of the position to-day. In part II, which has been written by W. D. Hussey, the approach has necessarily been different, and the constitutional development of the British Empire from its beginnings in the seventeenth century down to the present day is described. This part relates how English representative institutions were carried overseas and adapted to the needs of government of the colonies. The institution of Crown Colony government is also described and its development is traced from non-representative forms to those leading finally to self-government. Because of the limitations of space, emphasis throughout part II has been on general principles rather than on detailed descriptions of constitutions; constitutional change to-day is so frequent that accounts of constitutions quickly become out-of-date.

The authors, who have collaborated closely in the planning and writing of this book, acknowledge with gratitude the assistance they have received from many friends, especially on special points and technicalities regarding the courts of law, local government and parliamentary procedure. They are particularly indebted to Mrs Marjorie McIntosh of the Department of Social Studies at Bedford College, University of London, who read the manuscript of part I and made many valuable suggestions, to Mr N. H. Brasher who read the proofs and gave much help, to Mr E. W. Woodhead, County Education Officer of Kent, and to the Borough Treasurers of Croydon and

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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

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Bromley. Thanks are also due to H.M. Stationery Office, the Home Office, the Central Office of Information and *The Times* for permission to quote from official documents and to use diagrams. The authors have, as is inevitable, made much use of many of the works mentioned in the book list.

Finally, the authors wish to thank the publishers for their patience and forbearance during the long period this book has been in preparation, and for their helpfulness at all times.

L.W.W.
W.D.H.

September 1957