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This new and revisionary 'brief life' of Benjamin Disraeli (1804–81) focuses on the substantial reassessment of Disraeli's life and personality which is currently taking place. Particular reference is made to the role played in Disraeli's conception of life and politics by his Jewishness and his romanticism. The book also tries to understand Disraeli in a European as well as a British frame of thought.

These new elements are set alongside all the principal biographical elements of Disraeli's life and career. The book can therefore be read both as a standard, up-to-date biography of one of the greatest statesmen of the later Victorian age and as a reinterpretation of key aspects of Disraeli's life and times.

Disraeli

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A BRIEF LIFE

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PREFACE

This book is designed to provide in a single volume a new interpretation of Disraeli which takes fully into account recent thinking about his personality and ideas.

Among those who have helped to guide my thoughts on various aspects of Disraeli's life, by allowing me to see unpublished material and in other ways, I must particularly mention Benjamin Braude, Bryan Cheyette, P. J. Chilcott, Todd Endelman, David Feldman and Charles Richmond. They bear, of course, no responsibility for what I have made of their promptings. I am most grateful to those individuals and bodies who have allowed me to consult and quote from material of which they hold the copyright.

No attempt has been made to supply a comprehensive bibliography. For Disraeli bibliography up to about 1970, the reader is referred to R. W. Stewart, *Benjamin Disraeli, a List of Writings by Him and Writings About Him with Notes* (Metuchen, N.J., 1972), and *Disraeli's Novels Reviewed, 1826–1968* (Metuchen, N.J., 1975).

For Disraeli's letters, and such other documents as it includes, the edition in course of publication by the Disraeli Project at Queen's University, Kingston, is cited as the standard text, up to 1851, the date which it had reached at the time of writing. For the letters to Lady Bradford and Lady Chesterfield, Monypenny and Buckle's text is preferred to that of the Marquis of Zetland's edition, where the letters appear in both. Disraeli's novels are cited by chapter, so that any edition of them may be used (but a few quotations from the first editions of *Vivian Grey* and *The Young Duke* will not be found in the later editions which Disraeli expurgated).

ABBREVIATIONS

DISRAELI'S WRITINGS

<i>CF</i>	<i>Contarini Fleming</i>
<i>HT</i>	<i>Henrietta Temple</i>
<i>Letters</i>	<i>Benjamin Disraeli Letters</i> vols. I–II (1815–1834; 1835–1837), ed. J. A. W. Gunn, J. Matthews, D. M. Schurman and M. G. Wiebe (Toronto, 1982) vols. III–V (1838–1841; 1842–1847; 1848–1851), ed. M. G. Wiebe, J. B. Conacher, J. Matthews and M. S. Millar (Toronto, 1987; 1989; 1993) (Letters are cited by their serial number in the edition; other documents included in the edition by page number.)
<i>VG</i>	<i>Vivian Grey</i>
<i>Vindication</i>	<i>Vindication of the English Constitution in a Letter to a Noble and Learned Lord</i>
<i>YD</i>	<i>The Young Duke</i>

OTHER WORKS

Blake	R. Blake, <i>Disraeli</i> (London, 1966)
M & B	W. F. Monypenny and G. E. Buckle, <i>The Life of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield</i> , 6 vols. (London, 1910–20)
<i>Reminiscences</i>	H. M. and M. Swartz (eds.), <i>Disraeli's Reminiscences</i> (London, 1975)
Stanley	J. Vincent (ed.), <i>Disraeli, Derby and the Conservative Party. Journals and Memoirs of Edward Henry, Lord Stanley 1849–1869</i> (Hassocks, 1978)