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978-0-521-46684-4 - British Foreign Policy in an Age of Revolutions, 1783-1793
Jeremy Black
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This is a study of British foreign policy in a crucial period of international political development. It provides a comprehensive account of the subject, and acts as a guide to the nature of the British state in the period and to international relations.

In 1783 Britain had lost America and was unstable domestically. By 1793 she had regained her position as the leading global maritime, colonial and commercial power. During the intervening years Britain went several times to the brink of war, in 1787 with France over control of the Dutch and their empire, in 1790 with Spain over the British claim to settle on the Pacific coast of modern Canada, and in 1791 with Russia over the fate of the Turkish Empire. In 1793 Britain and revolutionary France went beyond the brink, a struggle which was to be crucial for both countries. Each of these crises is examined in an effort to throw light on the British state in an 'age of revolutions'.

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Jeremy Black
Reader in History, University of Durham

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For Sarah again

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… in this age of Revolutions it is not easy to be over-vigilant

Lord Auckland, Ambassador at The Hague,
to the Duke of Leeds, Foreign Secretary, March 1790

A new system is now opening to the view of the world; the European courts are plotting to counteract it. Alliances, contrary to all former systems, are agitating, and a common interest of courts is forming … This combination draws a line that runs throughout Europe and presents a cause so entirely new, as to exclude all calculations from former circumstances.

Public Advertiser, 10 March 1792

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Frontmatter
More information

Contents

List of maps		*page* x
Acknowledgements		xi
List of abbreviations		xiii
	Introduction	1
1	The aftermath of war	11
2	Years of isolation, 1783–1786	21
3	Trade, France and the Dutch, 1786–1787	99
4	To the banks of the Danube, 1787–1790	156
5	To the shores of the Pacific	225
6	The failure of Britain's continental policy, 1790–1791	257
7	Anglo-French relations from the Dutch crisis to the Declaration of Pillnitz, 1787–1791	329
8	Neutrality, 1791–1792	377
9	The coming of war, 1792–1793	406
10	The domestic context of foreign policy	472
11	The international system	519
Index		546

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978-0-521-46684-4 - British Foreign Policy in an Age of Revolutions, 1783-1793
Jeremy Black
Frontmatter
More information

Maps

1 The world in 1783 *page* 31
2 The route to India 47
3 India 53
4 Europe in 1783 60
5 Central Europe in 1783 66–7
6 The Dutch crisis of 1787 143
7 The Nootka Sound crisis 232
8 Ochakov and the Black Sea 284
9 The opening stages of the French revolutionary war 402

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Frontmatter
More information

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Frontmatter
More information

to thank the Earl of Elgin for his hospitality at Broomhall and Sir Hector Monro for his at Williamwood. The Earl of Malmesbury, the Earl of Shelburne, Lady Lucas and Richard Head kindly gave permission to consult and quote from the papers of the first Earl of Malmesbury, the first Marquess of Lansdowne, the second Lord Grantham and James Bland Burges respectively. I am most grateful to Wendy Duery for all her help.

I initially planned to do my thesis on this subject, but had to abandon my early work because another scholar, who never completed, had a 'prior claim' to part of the field. I continued to work on the subject, however, publishing three articles on it in 1984 and 1987. If I have been somewhat distracted by other topics, I nevertheless hope that my other research and writing has contributed to this larger study. My *British Foreign Policy in the Age of Walpole* (1985) and *A System of Ambition? British Foreign Policy 1660–1793* (1991) can be seen as preludes to this book, dealing as they do with the 'structural' aspects of foreign policy in the Hanoverian period. Regrettably, it has proved necessary to omit the bibliography of this work for reasons of space.

The dedication is one that I could offer for all my books but it is especially appropriate for this one, which has been the longest in its genesis. If thankfully I am a more content person than I was in the mid-1970s, it is thanks to Sarah.

Newcastle
January 1993

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Abbreviations

Add.	Additional Manuscripts
AE	Paris, Quai d'Orsay, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères
AN AM	Paris, Archives Nationales, Archives de la Marine
Ang.	Angleterre
AP	*Archives parlementaires de 1787 à 1860 : Recueil complet des débats législatifs et politiques des chambres françaises* (127 vols., Paris, 1879–1913)
Aspinall, *George III*	A. Aspinall (ed.), *The Later Correspondence of George III* I (Cambridge, 1962)
AST	Turin, Archivio di Stato
Aut.	Autriche
Beinecke	New Haven, Beinecke Library
BL	London, British Library, Department of Manuscripts
Bod.	Oxford, Bodleian Library, Department of Western Manuscripts
Bowood	Bowood, Earl of Shelburne, papers of 2nd Earl of Shelburne (1st Marquess of Lansdowne)
Broomhall	Broomhall, Fife, Earl of Elgin, Elgin papers
Cobbett	W. Cobbett (ed.), *Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England ... 1066 to ... 1803* (36 vols., London, 1806–20)
Court and Cabinets	Richard, 2nd Duke of Buckingham (ed.), *Memoirs of the Court and Cabinets of George the Third* (4 vols., London, 1853–5)
CP	Correspondance Politique
CRO	Country Record Office
CUL	Cambridge, University Library, Department of Manuscripts
Eg.	Egerton Manuscripts

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EK	Englische Korrespondenz
Esp.	Espagne
FO	Foreign Office
HHStA	Vienna, Haus-, Hof-, und Staatsarchiv, Staatskanzlei
HL	San Marino, California, Huntington Library
HMC *Dropmore*	Historical Manuscripts Commission, *The Manuscripts of J. B. Fortescue, Esq., Preserved at Dropmore* (10 vols., London, 1892–1927)
Ing.	Inghilterra
Ipswich	Ipswich, Suffolk Record Office
KAO	Maidstone, Kent Archives Office, Sackville papers (U 269)
LM	Lettere Ministri
Malmesbury	Winchester, Hampshire Record Office, Malmesbury papers
Marburg	Marburg, Staatsarchiv
MD	Mémoires et Documents
Munich	Munich, Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Gesandtschaften
NLS	Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland, Department of Manuscripts
Polit. Corresp.	*Politische Correspondenz Friedrichs des Grossen* (46 vols., Berlin, 1879–1939)
PRO	London, Public Record Office
RA	Windsor, Royal Archives
Recueil	*Recueil des Instructions aux Ambassadeurs et Ministres de France depuis les Traités de Westphalie jusqu'à la Révolution Française*
SP	State Papers
STG	Stowe papers
Williamwood	Williamwood, Sir Hector Monro, Ewart papers

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