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0521810000 - National Character and Public Spirit in Britain and France, 1750-1914

Roberto Romani

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National Character and Public Spirit in Britain and France, 1750–1914

In this detailed comparative study, Roberto Romani considers the concept of ‘national character’ in the intellectual histories of Britain and France. Perceptions of collective mentalities influenced a variety of political and economic debates, ranging from anti-absolutist polemic in eighteenth-century France to appraisals of socialism in Edwardian Britain. Romani argues that the eighteenth-century notion of ‘national character’, with its stress on climate and government, evolved into a concern with the virtues of ‘public spirit’ irrespective of national traits, in parallel with the establishment of representative institutions on the Continent. His discussion of contemporary thinkers includes Montesquieu, Voltaire, Hume, Millar, Burke, Constant, Staël, and Tocqueville. After the middle of the nineteenth century, the advent of social scientific approaches, including Spencer, Hobson, and Durkheim, shifted the focus from the qualities required by political liberty to those needed to operate complex social systems, and to bear their psychological pressures.

ROBERTO ROMANI is Research Associate at the Centre for History and Economics, King’s College, Cambridge. His publications include *L’economia politica del Risorgimento italiano* (1994).

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Abbreviations

Periodical publications

<i>AS</i>	<i>L'année sociologique</i>
<i>BM</i>	<i>Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine</i>
<i>CE</i>	<i>Le censeur européen</i>
<i>ER</i>	<i>Edinburgh Review</i>
<i>LG</i>	<i>Le globe</i>
<i>MF</i>	<i>La Minerve française</i>
<i>MR</i>	<i>Monthly Review</i>
<i>QR</i>	<i>Quarterly Review</i>
<i>RE</i>	<i>Revue encyclopédique</i>

Montesquieu

<i>EDL</i>	<i>De l'esprit des lois</i> , ed. V. Goldschmidt (1748; 1757 edn, 2 vols, Paris, 1979)
<i>LP</i> , followed by letter number	<i>Lettres persanes</i> , ed. J. Starobinski (1721; 1758 edn, Paris, 1973)
<i>OC</i>	<i>Œuvres complètes</i> , ed. R. Caillois (2 vols., Paris, 1949–51)
<i>OCL</i>	<i>Œuvres complètes</i> , ed. E. Laboulaye (7 vols., Paris, 1875–9)

Adam Smith

<i>TMS</i>	<i>The Theory of Moral Sentiments</i> (1759), ed. D. D. Raphael and A. L. Macfie
<i>WN</i>	<i>An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations</i> (1776), ed. R. H. Campbell, A. S. Skinner, and W. B. Todd

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References to these works, which are to be found in *The Glasgow Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Adam Smith* (6 vols., Oxford, 1976–87), follow the paragraph system.

Tocqueville

- TOPC* *Œuvres, papiers et correspondances*, ed. J.-P. Mayer et al. (16 vols., Paris, 1951–)
- DA* *De la démocratie en Amérique* (1835–40), ed. J.-P. Mayer, *TOPC*, I, in two books

Collected works

- BCW* *The Collected Works of Walter Bagehot*, ed. N. St John-Stevas (15 vols., London, 1965–86).
- BOC* L. de Bonald, *Œuvres complètes* (3 vols., Paris, 1864)
- BWS* *The Writings and Speeches of Edmund Burke*, ed. P. Langford et al. (7 vols., Oxford, 1981–)
- CO* Condorcet, *Œuvres*, ed. A. Condorcet O'Connor and F. Arago (12 vols., Paris, 1847–9)
- COC* F.-R. de Chateaubriand, *Œuvres complètes* (5 vols., Paris, 1836)
- DOC* D. Diderot, *Œuvres complètes*, ed. R. Lewinter (15 vols., Paris, 1969–73)
- GOM* M. Gioja, *Opere minori* (17 vols., Lugano, 1832–7)
- HCW* W. Hazlitt, *Complete Works*, ed. P. P. Howe, A. R. Waller, and A. Glover (21 vols., London and Toronto, 1930–4)
- MCC* Mably, *Collection complète des œuvres*, ed. G. Arnoux and P. Friedemann (1794–5; 15 vols., Darmstadt, 1977)
- MOC* J. Michelet, *Œuvres complètes*, ed. P. Viallaneix (21 vols., Paris, 1971–)
- MCW* *The Collected Works of John Stuart Mill*, ed. J. M. Robson et al. (33 vols., Toronto and London, 1963–91)
- SOC* Mme de Staël, *Œuvres complètes* (18 vols., Paris-Bruxelles, 1820–1)
- SSO* C. H. de Saint-Simon, *Œuvres* (6 vols., Paris, 1966)
- TO* *Œuvres de Turgot et documents le concernant*, ed. G. Schelle (5 vols., Paris, 1913–23)
- VOC* Voltaire, *Œuvres complètes*, ed. L. Moland (52 vols., Paris, 1877–85)