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978-1-107-07126-1 - Continental Drift: Britain and Europe from the End of Empire to the Rise of Euroscepticism

Benjamin Grob-Fitzgibbon

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## 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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*United States Department of State*



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*For my family,*

*Amanda, Sophia, Isabel and Kieran*

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*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.

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## Abbreviations

ABMS	Mark Abrams Papers
AELAdd	Anthony Eden Additional Papers
AMEJ	Julian Amery Papers
AMEL	Leopold Amery Papers
AP	Avon Papers
BDOEE	<i>British Documents on the End of Empire</i>
BDPO	<i>Documents on British Policy Overseas</i>
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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KNNK	Neil Kinnock Papers
LBJ	Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas
MS	Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh Papers
MS Castle	Barbara Castle Papers
MS Eng. Hist. c.	Sir Neil Martin Papers
MS Howe	Geoffrey Howe Papers
MS Macmillan	Harold Macmillan Papers
MS Wilson	Harold Wilson Papers
NSF	National Security File
PLDN	Plowden Papers
POLL	Enoch Powell Papers
PREM	Prime Minister's Office
SPRG	Nigel Spearing Papers
T	Treasury
Thatcher MSS/THCR	Margaret Thatcher Papers
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
WLFF	Michael Wolff Papers