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978-1-108-00514-2 - Parliament and the Army 1642-1904

John Stuart Omond

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J. S. Omond's study of 1933 documents the historically problematic relationship between Parliament and the Army. Providing an overview of the 260 years which elapsed from the outbreak of the English Civil War in 1642 until the establishment of the Army Council in 1904, the book describes the phases through which the problem of political control of the army has passed. Omond draws upon a wide variety of historical material including biographies, memoirs, letters, parliamentary debates and newspaper articles in addressing how and why this relationship has remained of principal concern since the reign of Charles I. An Epilogue takes account of events from 1904 to the book's publication in 1933, and a chronological table summarises the key historical and political events.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge New York Melbourne Madrid Cape Town Singapore São Paulo Delhi

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108005142](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108005142)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1933

This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00514-2

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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LONDON

Cambridge University Press

FETTER LANE

NEW YORK • TORONTO

BOMBAY • CALCUTTA • MADRAS

Macmillan

TOKYO

Maruzen Company Ltd

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# PARLIAMENT AND THE ARMY

1642—1904

by

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. S. OMOND

M.B.E., M.C.

*Royal Army Ordnance Corps*

“It is no easy matter to reconcile the institution of a standing army with the genius of parliamentary and popular government, and the work was not done in a day.”

Trevelyan, *England under Queen Anne*, 1, chap. x.

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Frontmatter

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*To*

W. E. C. O.

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978-1-108-00514-2 - Parliament and the Army 1642-1904

John Stuart Omond

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## CONTENTS

*Preface* *page* ix

**Chapter I** *page* I

Armed forces; the problem in England; Charles I and the army; Petition of Right; control of the militia; coercion of Parliament; Monk and the Restoration; impeachment of Clarendon; unpopularity of the army; James II; camp at Hounslow

**Chapter II** *page* 25

The army and the Revolution of 1689; Declaration of Right; Mutiny Act; growth of Parliamentary control; opposition to an army; misuse of influence; Militia Act of 1756; continuous neglect of the army; the police

**Chapter III** *page* 60

Administration of the army; Secretary-at-War; Burke's Act; Secretary of State for War; Commander-in-Chief; Duke of York; relations of Commander-in-Chief and Secretary-at-War; Commissions of 1833 and 1837; failure to improve the army; choice of a successor to the Duke of Wellington; Crimean War; Lord Panmure; consolidated War Office; Committee of 1860; Secretary of State and Commander-in-Chief

**Chapter IV** *page* 100

Duke of Cambridge as Commander-in-Chief; the Queen and the army; age of reform; rise of Prussia; Cardwell regime; Northbrook Committee; War Office and Horse Guards; reorganisation; opposition of the Commander-in-Chief; supremacy of Secretary of State; Surveyor-General of Ordnance; office of Military Secretary; short service; abolition of purchase

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00514-2 - Parliament and the Army 1642-1904

John Stuart Omond

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

## CONTENTS

Chapter V	<i>page</i> 125
“Six years of peace”; localisation scheme; the Commander-in-Chief and Childers; Commissariat, Ordnance and Pay under the Commander-in-Chief; Orders-in-Council of 1887 and 1888; Hartington Commission; Liberal Cabinet’s proposals; resignation of the Commander-in-Chief; Wolseley appointed; Order-in-Council of November, 1895; Clinton-Dawkins Committee; Esher Committee; the Army Council	
<i>Epilogue</i>	<i>page</i> 159
<i>Table of Principal Events</i>	171
<i>Notes on Authorities</i>	176
<i>Index</i>	179

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00514-2 - Parliament and the Army 1642-1904

John Stuart Omond

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE

**I**N the winter of 1927-8, the late Professor Graham Wallas delivered a series of lectures on "Army Control" to the members of the Army Class then attending the London School of Economics. He remarked that this subject was of considerable interest but, as far as he knew, no one had published a study of it. He added that possibly someone in the Class might feel inspired to write such a book. This small volume is an attempt to carry out his suggestion, and the author hopes that it may be useful to students and others who are interested in the subject of the relations between Parliament and the Army.

Apart from Professor Graham Wallas' lectures, the materials from which the following pages have been compiled are to be found scattered in histories, biographies, memoirs, letters, debates in Parliament, newspaper articles, etc., covering the whole two hundred and sixty years which elapsed from the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642 until the establishment of the Army Council in 1904. My authorities are fully indicated in the footnotes.

Without Professor Graham Wallas' encouragement and advice, which only ceased a few months before his death, the book would never have been written.

My thanks are due to W. Y. Baldry, Esq., O.B.E., the Librarian of the War Office, for valuable criticism and advice.

J. S. O.

*December 25th, 1932*

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[More information](#)

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## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN REFERENCES

*Cardwell at the War Office*: Biddulph, *Lord Cardwell at the War Office*.

Clode: Clode, *Military Forces of the Crown*.

*Disraeli's Life*: Monypenny and Buckle, *Life of Lord Beaconsfield*.

Fortescue: Fortescue, *History of the British Army*.

Lecky: *History of England in the Eighteenth Century*.

Verner: Verner, *Military Life of the Duke of Cambridge*.

*Wolseley's Life*: Maurice and Arthur, *Life of Lord Wolseley*.