

Contents

Avant-propos	7
Introduction	9
1. History	11
1. Early invasions and Anglo-Saxon England.....	11
2. The Norman Conquest and medieval England	12
3. Tudor England	13
4. England under the Stuarts.....	14
5. The 18 th century.....	16
6. From Victoria to Elizabeth II.....	17
Documents	19
2. The Monarchy, the Church and the Establishment	21
1. The Monarchy.....	21
2. The Church of England	24
3. The Establishment.....	26
Documents	28
3. The Constitution and Parliament	31
1. The Constitution.....	31
2. Parliament.....	33
The House of Commons	33
The House of Lords	34
Documents	36
4. The Law and Law Enforcement	39
1. The legal framework.....	39
Types of law and courts	39
Appeals	40
The legal professions	41
2. Law enforcement and the police.....	41
3. Criminal trends.....	43
Reality and perception	43
Terrorism	44
Documents	46

5.	Government and Politics	49
<hr/>		
1.	Government	49
	Prime Minister and government	49
	The Civil Service	50
2.	The Political system	51
	The parties	51
	Elections and voting patterns	53
3.	Politics 1945-2007: an overview	55
	The post-war years	55
	The Thatcher revolution	55
	The Blair years	57
	Documents	60
6.	The economy and the labour market	61
<hr/>		
1.	Economic history	61
2.	The British economy today	62
	Broad trends	62
	Energy resources and economic activity	63
	Britain and the euro	67
3.	The British at work	67
	The job market	67
	The trade Unions	69
	Documents	70
7.	The Welfare State	73
<hr/>		
1.	Social security	74
	From consensus to dissensus	74
	Social Security today	76
2.	The National Health Service	78
	1945-1997	78
	The NHS under New Labour	80
	Documents	82
8.	Education	85
<hr/>		
1.	Education history	85
2.	Primary and secondary education today	88
	Main policies since 1997	88
	New Labour's mixed balance-sheet	89
	The independent sector	90
	School qualifications	91
3.	Higher education	93
	Universities and higher education colleges	93
	Qualifications	94
	Current problems	94
	Documents	96

9. The Media	99
1. The press.....	99
2. The radio and television	102
3. The Internet.....	105
Documents	106
10. Social Classes	109
1. Class measured	109
2. Perception of class.....	111
3. Social mobility	114
Documents	115
11. Ethnic Minorities	117
1. Immigration	117
2. Ethnic groups	118
Family patterns	119
Education	119
Economic conditions	120
3. Racism vs. tolerance	121
Documents	124
12. Private Life	127
1. The family.....	127
2. Leisure	129
Documents	132
13. Religion	135
1. The Christian churches.....	135
2. Non-Christian denominations	137
Documents	139
14. The Home Nations and Devolution	141
1. Wales.....	141
2. Scotland	142
3. Northern Ireland	144
A historical overview	144
Northern Ireland today: is peace at hand?	146
4. England and the 'West Lothian question'	147
Documents	149

15. Britain and the World	151
<hr/>	
1. The Commonwealth	151
From Empire to Commonwealth	151
The Commonwealth today	152
2. Britain and Europe	153
Historical overview	153
The situation today	154
3. Britain and the USA	155
Documents	157
Further Reading	159
<hr/>	
Index	161
<hr/>	