Contents

List of Tables	page x
Preface to the First Edition	xii
Preface to the Fourth Edition	xiii
Acknowledgements	xiv

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. The Social Context of British Politics

Geography and Insularity. The Economy. Mass Media. Nationalism, Regionalism and Religion. Homogeneity and Social Class—Family Background and Education —Occupation and Wealth. Consensus and Cleavage. 3

70

PART TWO: PARTIES, PRESSURE GROUPS AND THE ELECTORATE

- 2. Case Study of the British Electoral System: The May 1979 General Election. 33 The Dissolution. The Voters. The Constituencies. The Candidates. The Campaign. The Results. Proportional Representation.
- 3. The Social Structure of the Parties The Electors. Floating Voters and Non-Voters. Party Members and Activists. Parliamentary Candidates and MPs. Ministers. Party and Society.
- 4. The Political Parties 102 The Two-Party System. Mass Parties. The Parties in Parliament—Conservative Party—Labour Party. The Parties Outside Parliament—Conservative Party— Labour Party—Liberal Party. Conclusion.

vü

5. Pressure Groups

136

Pressure Group Politics. Classification of Pressure Groups. Pressure Group Activity. Pressure Groups in Action. Pressure Group Politics: an Assessment.

PART THREE: GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT

6. The Constitution

The Unwritten Constitution. Unitary Government. The Evolution of Parliament and the Cabinet. Government and Parliament Today. Ministerial Responsibility. Constitutional Authority and Political Power.

7. The Structure of Government

Government Structure. Ministerial Recruitment. Cabinet Structure. Government Co-ordination. Cabinet Supports and Services. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

- 8. Parliament: I. The House of Commons Functions and Timetable of the Commons. Parliamentary Procedure. The Legislative Process. Questions and Debates. The Committee System. Parliamentary Reform. The MP and his Constituents.
- 9. Parliament: II. The Monarchy and the House of Lords

The Monarchy: Value of the Monarchy. Constitutional Role of the Monarch. The House of Lords: Composition of the House of Lords. Power of the House of Lords. Future of the Second Chamber.

PART FOUR: THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT

10. The Treasury and National Finance

The Principles of National Finance. The Role of the Treasury. Treasury and Parliamentary Control of Finance: I. The Estimates—II. The Accounts— III. National Revenue. The Co-ordination of Economic Policy. 194

163

268

295

CONTENTS

11. The Central Administration

Development of the Civil Service. Modern Structure of the Civil Service. The Continuing Problems of Reform. Management of the Service. The Balance of Influence. The Problem of Delegated Legislation. The Control of Delegated Powers. The Problem of Administrative Adjudication. The Parliamentary Commissioner.

12. The Public Corporations

State Participation in Industry. The Public Enterprise Debate. Forms of Public Enterprise. Problems of the Public Corporations: I. Administrative Structure—II. Ministerial Control—III. Parliamentary Supervision IV. Financial Structure. Public Ownership in Britain: an Assessment.

13. Local Government

Local and Central Government. The History and Structure of Local Government. The Personnel of Local Government—The Council—The Officials. Local Government in Operation. Local Government Income— Loans—Rates—Grants. Party Politics and Public Attitudes. Regionalism and Devolution.

PART FIVE: CONCLUSION

14. The Nature of the British Political System 425 Democracy in Britain. Government of the People: An Alternative Government. Governments and Public Opinion. The Art of the Possible.

Bibliography

	General Books		445
Section 2:	Specialized Texts and	Articles (arranged by	
	chapters)		448
Section 3:	Political Biographies,	Autobiographies and	
	Memoirs		527

Index

359

388

535

List of Tables

I	Population Density	page 4
II	Population Growth	5
III	Distribution of Civil Employment	7
IV	Newspaper Circulations 1965-77	10
\mathbf{V} .	Nominal Religious Affiliation	14
VI	Census 1971: Šocio-Economic Groups (Great	
	Britain)	19
VII	Post-War Trends in Income Distribution	20
VIII	Aspects of National Pride	23
IX	Gallup Poll, 1974–9 Parliament	35
Х	General Elections 1900–79	39
XI	Stages in the Extension of the Franchise	
	1832-1969	42
XII	Main Opinion Polls Published During the	5
	1979 General Election Campaign: Size of	•
	Conservative Lead	56
XIII	May 1979 General Election Result	59
XIV	May 1979 General Election: Distribution of	•
	the Vote by Region	61
XV	Voting Intention, 1979 General Election: by	
	Social Class	73
XVI	Voting Intention, 1979 General Election: by	
	Sex and Age Group	78
XVII	Educational and Occupational Profile o	f
	Parliamentary Candidates, October 1974	
	Election	89
XVIII	The House of Commons, 1974-9 Parliament	90
XIX	Changing Social Structure of the Parties in	
	Parliament in the Post-War Period	94
XX	Social Structure of the Callaghan and	
	Thatcher Cabinets, May 1979	98
XXI	Legislative, Executive and Administrative	
	Devolution within the United Kingdom	167
XXII	Governments and Prime Ministers this	
	Century	179

LIST OF TABLES

•

XXIII	Structure of the Thatcher Government, May	
	1979	page 197
XXIV	Cabinet Appointments Made by New Prim	e
	Ministers, January 1957–May 1979	206
XXV	Sessional Timetable 1976-7	237
XXVI	Analysis of Legislation 1975-6 and 1976-7	244
XXVII	UK Revenue and Expenditure, 1965-6 and	d
	1977-8	313
XXVIII	Some Civil Service Pay Scales, 1979	336
XXIX	Gallup Poll: Size of Government Party Lea	d
	over Main Opposition Party	433