

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	xi
Preface	xiii
Prologue: Dr Arnold of Rugby	i

PART ONE

THE CONDITION OF ENGLAND

1. The Angry Forties: Poverty, Agitation and Riot	33
2. Noblesse Oblige: Politics and the Aristocracy	50
3. The Ascent of the Bourgeoisie: Radicalism and the End of the Corn Laws	81
4. Chartism: The Rise of Working-class Politics	112

PART TWO

THE VICTORIAN MIND

5. The Godly Mind: National Apostasy and the Victorian Church	135
6. The Doubting Mind: Struggles in the Sea of Faith	152
7. The Rational Mind: Intellectuals and the Growth of Secularism	197
8. The Political Mind: High Principle and Low Ambition	252
9. The Progressive Mind: The Great Exhibition and Its Legacy	285

10. The Heroic Mind: Albert and
the Cult of the Great Man 340

PART THREE

THE TRANSFORMATION OF BRITAIN

11. The Leap in the Dark: Reform and
the Coming of Democracy 377
12. Broadening Minds: The Battle for
Education 412
13. The End of Privilege: Inventing the
Meritocracy 469
14. The Rights of Women: Divorce,
the Vote and Education 506

PART FOUR

THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN

15. The Pursuit of Perfection: Victorian
Intellectuals and the New Britain 577
16. Doing Good: Philanthropists and
the Humane Impulse 632
17. The Way We Live Now: The Creation
of the Victorian City 691
18. A Glimpse of the Gothic: Founding a
National Style 728
19. The Reforming Mind: Parliament and
the Advance of Civilisation 765

Epilogue 815

Bibliography 819

Notes 831

Index 857