

A
Social
History
of
England
1851–1975

François Bédarida

TRANSLATED BY
A. S. Forster

METHUEN
LONDON AND NEW YORK

Contents

List of plates x
Acknowledgements xi
Preface xiii

Part I The Power and the Glory: 1851–80 1

- 1 INDUSTRIALISM TRIUMPHANT 3
 - The festival of work and industry 3
 - Unlimited growth 8
 - Malthus forgotten 12
 - On the urban front 16
 - London 20
 - Green England: the unchanging countryside 25
 - Material civilization: the dividends of progress 31
- 2 THE MERITS OF HIERARCHY 36
 - Classes and structure: Marx or Palmerston? 36
 - An aristocratic country 41
 - The irresistible ascent of bourgeois England 48
 - The popular classes 56
 - Unionism and social integration 66
- 3 POWER AND CONSENSUS 73
 - The social dynamic 73
 - Was England revolution-proof? 75
 - The individual and the State: liberalism triumphant 81
 - A Christian land 85
 - England *über alles* 92

Part II The Old World Resists: 1880–1914 97

- 4 THE CRISIS OF VICTORIAN VALUES 99
 - The great climacteric: appearance and reality 99
 - Laissez-faire* challenged 103
 - Traditional beliefs and new modes of behaviour 109
 - Women make themselves heard 116

viii A Social History of England 1851–1975

5 FROM OLIGARCHY TO DEMOCRACY? 125

The aristocracy on the defensive 125

The awakening of Caliban 132

The slow march of democracy 139

6 THE SPLENDOUR AND SQUALOR OF A GOLDEN AGE 144

Angliae est imperare . . . 144

Inequality: opulence and deprivation 148

Education and class 153

Sex and death 158

The end of *Pax Britannica* 162

Part III Through Storms and Crises to Recovery: 1914–55 165

7 THE SEARCH FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY 167

Twentieth-century blues 167

For King and Country: from Flanders' mud to the disillusion
of peace 170

Economic vicissitudes 174

The battles of Labour 182

'Their finest hour': from Armageddon to the New
Jerusalem 186

The Welfare State 191

8 THE IMMUTABLE CLASS SYSTEM 200

The Establishment 200

Bourgeois and petit-bourgeois 205

The working class 209

Rich and poor: an island of lords or a country of Mr Smiths? 213

9 THE SLOWLY CHANGING SOCIAL LANDSCAPE 226

Neo-Malthusian fluctuations 226

Urbanization, suburbanization and town-planning 231

The schools: democratization or élitism 235

Secular encroachment on religion 241

Part IV A Disrupted Society: 1955–75 247

The end of old England? 249

10 THE FRUITS OF AFFLUENCE 253

The cornucopia of neo-capitalism 253

Winds of revolt and spiritual quests 257

Youth, family life, religion 262

The emancipation of women: progress or stagnation? 269

11	DECADENCE OR WISDOM?	274
	<i>Sic transit gloria Britanniae</i> . . .	274
	The threat of stagnation and disruption	276
	Class, State and power	281
	An art of living?	287
	<i>Conclusion</i>	290
	<i>Postscript 1975–9</i>	296
	<i>Notes to the text</i>	299
	<i>Notes to the plates</i>	313
	<i>Chronological table</i>	317
	<i>Bibliography</i>	333
	<i>Index</i>	344