Contents

List of maps and tables xi

Preface xvii

1 **The changing environment** 1

The countryside 1

the age of enclosure and improvement, 1750–1830 1

the Victorian countryside, 1830–1914 3

the twentieth-century countryside 5

Transportation 8

turnpikes and canals, 1750–1830 9

the railway age, 1830–1914 10

urban transport 13

passenger transport by road in the twentieth century 15

goods transport by road in the twentieth century 16

private road transport 17

rail transport in modern Britain 18

sea and air 19

Towns 20

the growth of an urban society 21

the urban environment, 1750–1830 23

urban development in the age of the railway 26

the built environment 29

the motor car and the modern city 33

The location of industry 34

the first industrial revolution 34

the workshop of the world 36
decay and renewal 37

2 People 41
The population question 41
population size and growth, 1750–1830 43
population trends, 1841–1911 44
population trends since 1911 47
population structure 49
Households and families 52
household size and composition 52
illegitimacy 54
marriage and divorce 56
Migration 58
migration within Britain before 1830 59
migration, 1830–1914 60
migration in the twentieth century 61
emigration before the mid-nineteenth century 64
emigration from the mid-nineteenth century 64
migrants and their motives 65
Immigration 69
Irish immigrants 70
Jewish immigrants 74
coloured immigrants 76

3 Class 82
Social and occupational structures 82
the old order 82
the language of class 84
the Census and social structure 88
the structure of employment 91
The making of a class society 95
the breakdown of the old order 95
class and social theory 97
economic change and the origins of class society 100
the making of the working class 101
the middle classes 105
a viable class society, 1850–1900 108

class in modern Britain 111
The governing class 113
the aristocracy 113
urban government 115
Church and State 116
the survival of the élite, 1832–1886 116
class and party, 1886–1951 118
The challenge of radicalism 119
the beginnings of radicalism, 1760–1800 119
radicalism and class conflict, 1800–1850 122
consensus and compromise, 1850–1900 126
The organisation of labour 128
trade societies in the eighteenth century 128
trade unions in the early nineteenth century 130
labour, radicalism and class in the mid-nineteenth century 133
acceptance and consolidation 135
labour representation 140
trade unions in the twentieth century 143
Towards a classless society? 148
social change and social mobility 149
the *embourgeoisement* thesis 152
class, party and the governing élite since 1951 154

4 Poverty and welfare 162
Poverty 162
the rural poor 163
urban poverty 167
the standard of living debate 170
poverty in the twentieth century 175
Responses to poverty 178
the old poor law 178
the new poor law 182
poor relief in Scotland after 1845 185
private charity 185
health care 189
self-help 191

Welfare and the State 194
the growth of the administrative state 195
factory reform 197
public health 200
changing attitudes, 1880–1914 203
the origins of the Welfare State 208
the Welfare State 210
Law, order and restraint 212
crime and criminals 213
the police 220
institutions of restraint 224
prisons 225
reform schools 227
asylums 229

5 **Life and leisure** 233
Traditional manners, customs and amusements 233
landed society 233
provincial life 236
horse racing 237
'traditional' customs and amusements 238
artisan life 240
The attack upon popular recreations 241
enclosure and urban growth 241
factory discipline 242
moral reform 244
social control 248
Reformed customs and rational recreations 250
reformed customs 250
rational pleasures 252
useful knowledge 252
access to the arts 256
the theatre 257
music 259
fresh air and fun 261
a 'bleak age'? 264
Leisure and the consumer revolution 264
holidays 265

commercialised pleasures 270
football 271
betting and gambling 272
newspapers and magazines 274
music hall, theatre, cinema and radio 278
the consumer society 282
the way we lived, then and now 286

6 **Religion** 291
Religion in the age of reason 291
the crisis of the established churches 291
the weakness of Dissent 294
popular religion 296
The evangelical revival 298
the origins of the revival 298
Methodism 300
the impact of Methodism 303
evangelicals, politics and reform 305
Church and State 307
reform of the Church of England 308
the education question in England and Wales 311
the Disruption in the Church of Scotland 313
Dissent 316
evangelical missions and the rise of denominationalism 316
Protestant Dissent in England and Wales 317
Scottish Dissent 326
Roman Catholicism 328
Church and people 330
the midwife of class 330
the Churches and the working classes 332
working-class religion 337
Decline and de-Christianisation 339
institutional patterns in the twentieth century 339
de-Christianisation and secularisation 343

7 **Education** 349
Literacy 349

the measurement of literacy 349
levels of literacy and illiteracy 351
the demand for literacy 354
Elementary schooling 355
private and informal schooling 356
the provision of public elementary education before 1870 357
elementary education under the School Boards 359
schooling and social class 361
Secondary schools 362
the eighteenth-century grammar school 362
the public schools 363
middle-class education 366
public examinations 368
secondary education in the first half of the twentieth century 369
secondary education in the second half of the twentieth century 372
Universities 375
the decline and revival of Oxford and Cambridge 375
the Scottish universities in the age of the Enlightenment 379
alternative institutions 380
liberal, scientific or useful education? 382
higher education for women 385
higher education in the twentieth century 387
Education and society 390
popular education and social change, 1750–1870 390
education and the preservation of the élite 394
education and the decline of Britain 396

Conclusion 404

Further reading 407

Index 445