

Contents

List of Illustrations and Features

Preface and Acknowledgements

List of Abbreviations

Notes

Introduction

1 History

The emergence of Britain

Industrialization and empire

World War II and its consequences

Change and discontent

From Thatcher to Blair

The Four Crises and beyond

2 Land and People

Geography and climate

Natural resources

The environment

The people of Britain

Nationalism and regionalism

Immigration and race

3 Social System

Social class

The changing family

Social services and healthcare

Education

Law and order

4 Government

Understanding British government

The constitution

The monarchy

Prime Minister and Cabinet

Parliament

The judiciary

The bureaucracy

Regional and local government

5 Politics and Civil Society

Political culture

Elections and referendums

Political parties

Interest groups

The media

6 The Economy

Understanding the British economy

From hands-off to hands-on, and back again

The changing economic landscape

Trade and foreign investment

The economic implications of Brexit

7 Culture and Lifestyle

Understanding British culture

The changing national identity of Britain

The arts

Sports and leisure

Religion

8 Britain in the World

The changing British global role

The Commonwealth

The Atlantic Alliance

Britain and Europe

The changing role of the British military

Timeline

Britain Online

Bibliography

Index