



The Forging of the Modern State: Early Industrial Britain, 1783-1870

By *Eric J. Evans*

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- Rank: #3102621 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-06-06
- Released on: 2014-06-06
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

'Evans's elegant and fluent treatment of the topics within his chosen period is often quite superb.' *Times Educational Supplement*, "This text continues to serve undergraduate students well and compares favourably with any survey of this kind. Working in a period dense with complexity and contradiction, Evans has conveyed a coherent and lucid account of the times. To this he has added a blend of interpretation leavened by recent scholarship that he treats both fairly and yet critically. All of this is couched in a prose that sparkles with deft turns of phrase and provocative insights. This is a welcome addition to bookshelves." "Albion"

From the Back Cover

'Evans's elegant and fluent treatment is quite superb.' *Times Educational Supplement* In this hugely ambitious and wide-ranging history of Britain, Eric Evans surveys a period in which Britain was transformed into the world's first industrial, while the foundations of the largest empire the world had seen were also being securely laid. This was an era of unprecedented political crisis, economic opportunity and social upheaval unparalleled in Britain, yet one during which transformation was achieved without revolution. The unique and potent combination of transition and transformation is a major theme in this book. The book ranges across key political, diplomatic, social, cultural, economic and religious themes in a series of short, lively chapters whose purpose is to convey the overall drama of hectic change which stopped well short of political revolution. Britain was still ruled by wealthy landowners in 1870 as it had been in 1783. The world over which they presided, however, had been transformed utterly. It had become an urban, industrial and commercial society, a change achieved without revolution. [Evans examines whether their success in doing so was due more to good management than good fortune.] This new edition includes a new and revisionist introductory chapter and a thoroughly updated bibliography. The book appears with illustrations for the first time. Eric J. Evans is Professor of History at Lancaster University and the author of a number of seminal books on the political and social history of eighteenth and nineteenth century Britain.

About the Author

Eric J. Evans is Professor of History at Lancaster University and the author of a number of seminal books on eighteenth and nineteenth century history.

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