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0521892848 - The Vision of Anglo-America: The US-UK Alliance and the Emerging Cold War, 1943-1946

Henry Butterfield Ryan

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THE VISION OF ANGLO-AMERICA THE US-UK ALLIANCE AND THE EMERGING COLD WAR, 1943-1946

Dr Ryan's innovative study demonstrates with great clarity the importance of the decline of British power in the creation of the Cold War. The author subjects to detailed analysis the concerted attempts made by the British wartime coalition to forge a perpetual merger with the USA in international affairs to arrest this global decline. He reveals for the first time the origins of this policy, the great efforts made towards its realisation, and the ultimate impossibility of its aims.

The vision of a permanent Anglo-American combination is shown as central to British diplomatic activity during the latter stages of World War II, superordinate even to the concerted British attempt to engineer a shift in American-Soviet relations, from accommodation to confrontation. Checking Soviet expansion was to be simply the first, albeit vital item on the agenda of this new Anglo-American entity, and despite the ultimate failure of the overall policy, the British effort to alter American-Soviet affairs must be counted among the causes of the Cold War. An even more important factor, however, was Great Britain's decline in strength, which eliminated the possibility of triangularity in big power relations, leading to the polarity that prevails today.

Dr Ryan uses the Polish and Greek crises of the mid-1940s as case histories to demonstrate his thesis that both the Churchill and Attlee governments recognised the need for the American connection and to provide examples of how they set about obtaining it.

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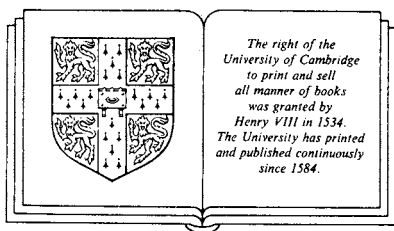
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