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**Changes of  
Government,  
Cabinet  
Reconstructions  
and Political  
Crises, 1837-1901**



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**CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT, CABINET RECONSTRUCTIONS AND POLITICAL  
CRISES, 1837 - 1901**

This microfilm edition first published by Harvester Press Microform Ltd in 1980. A reproduction of a series of manuscript letters and extracts from the Queen's Journal, preserved at Windsor Castle and published by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen.

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## **PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

This new microfilm programme consists of a collection of files in the Royal Archives which cover changes of government, major cabinet reconstructions and political crises during the reign of Queen Victoria.

It starts with the first political crisis of the Queen's reign in May 1839 (the Bedchamber crisis) and ends with the reconstruction of Lord Salisbury's cabinet in October 1900.

The files include correspondence between the Queen and her Ministers, and extracts from the Queen's Journal and other relevant letters. The Papers were first put together by the Prince Consort and, after his death in 1861, the work was continued by the Queen and her Private Secretaries. As the original files are not fully comprehensive, material has been added from elsewhere in the Royal Archives, for example, from Queen Victoria's correspondence with her uncle, Leopold, King of the Belgians and with her daughter, the Princess Royal, later Empress of Germany. Some of the extracts from Queen Victoria's Journal are contemporary, others are taken from a copy made later by her daughter, Princess Beatrice, who, on instructions from her mother, then destroyed the original.

The material is crucial for political historians interested in the making and defeating of nineteenth-century governments and the procedures by which Palmerston, Disraeli, Gladstone and others became Prime Minister. The 3,100 documents include files on the defeat of Peel in 1846, the difficulties of cabinet-making in the 1850s and Derby's 'Who's? Who?' Ministry of 1852. There is material on Palmerston's Cabinets, on the period of the Second Reform Bill, on Gladstone's resignation in 1873 and Disraeli's refusal to form a minority government, on the constitutional crises of 1884 and 1886 and on Gladstone's last Ministry of 1892-94.

This major new research source has been arranged and compiled in the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle.

References to the Papers should be given as:

RA(M) file number/letter number, e.g. RA(M) C30/14.

References to the Journal should be given as:

RA(M) Queen Victoria's Journal followed by the date.

**CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT, CABINET RECONSTRUCTION  
AND POLITICAL CRISES 1837 - 1901.**

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