



**The art of the possible: Politics and governance in
modern British history, 1885-1997: Essays in
memory of Duncan Tanner**

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This volume explores some of the major transitions, opportunities and false dawns of modern British political history. It engages with the scholarly legacy of Professor Duncan Tanner (1958-2010), whose work was focused on the political process and on politics in government.

Chronologically, the book's span runs from the first general election to be conducted under the terms of the Third Reform Act through to the 1997 referenda in favour of devolved assemblies in Scotland and Wales. This was the period in which British politicians most obviously addressed a mass electorate, seeking national approval for policies and programmes to be enacted on a UK-wide basis. The book contains essays from leading British historians including Peter Clarke, Pat Thane, David Howell, Steven Fielding, Andrew Thorpe, Jon Lawrence, Matthew Cragoe and John Davis, as well as from younger scholars such as Mari Elin Wiliam. Topics covered include the intellectual context for economic thought and for the synergy between the state and civil society, the rise of Labour in Edwardian Britain, the imagining of politics through fiction in inter-war Britain, British politics during the Second World War, devolution in Scotland and Wales, ideas of class in post-war Britain and the rise and varying fortunes of the left in London.

While it will appeal primarily to scholars and students of modern British history, this volume will also interest the general reader who wishes to get to grips with some of the latest thinking about British politics.

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