GENERAL EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Imperialism was more than a set of economic, political, and military phenomena. It was a habit of mind, a dominant idea in the era of European world supremacy which had widespread intellectual, cultural, and technical expressions. The 'Studies in Imperialism' series is designed to explore, primarily but not exclusively, these relatively neglected areas. Volumes are planned on the scientific aspects of imperialism, on education, disease, the theatre, literature, art, design, and many more. But in redressing the balance in favour of these multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural studies, it is not intended that the economic, political, and military dimensions should be ignored. The series will also contain books in these fields and will seek to examine colonial and imperial developments in a variety of periods and in diverse geographical contexts. It is hoped that individually and collectively these works will illumine one of the more potent characteristics of modern world history.

There were few more effective vehicles for the conveyance of the ideological complex made up of nationalism and imperialism than nineteenth-century art. In an age when engraving and photography were making artistic images available to a much wider public, a period in which art was seen as an inseparable element in commerce, civic pride, and national aspirations, artists were able to influence public attitudes more powerfully than ever before. It is no accident that a growing proportion of artists' income came from royalties on reproductions. As their public expanded they were concerned less to flatter patrons and customers who might hang their paintings than to mirror an entire national culture. In doing so they received, adapted, and mediated a growing corpus of dominant ideas. Nowhere was this more true than in nineteenth-century battle painting and images of the army. Dr Hichberger examines this extensive genre in its wider cultural setting, in its many variations as the British experience of and attitudes towards the army developed during the century.

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