Preface

This book's purpose is to discover what role the Conservative Party played in the extreme-right's failure after the Second World War. Readers will make moral judgements about individuals and groups mentioned, but I do not. This is partly because views that society now rejects were once commonplace and accepted. Moreover, individuals who once held these views may now repudiate them, and I see no point in criticising them now. The historian's task is to explain. Judgement is a matter for society.

Many institutions have helped me. Cardiff University was very accommodating in allowing me to study for a Ph.D., particularly so long after graduating. I found a very warm welcome at Cardiff University and am saddened that my active association with it seems to be ending. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) provided a full doctoral award. This was a life-changing event, without which I doubt that I would have completed my research. The AHRC also granted a scholarship for a substantial period of study at the John W. Kluge Centre in the Library of Congress, Washington DC. I am grateful for the financial and cultural opportunities afforded by the AHRC's generosity. Other institutions also contributed financially. An Institute of Historical Research bursary allowed me to rummage thoroughly through archives in London. The Royal Historical Society and Cardiff University provided funds so that I could attend overseas conferences.

I am indebted to many individuals, and apologise if I have omitted someone from my thanks. The archival staff at the universities of Hull, Sheffield, Birmingham, and at the LSE were very helpful. So, too, were the employees of the British Library in London, and the staff at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford. The people at the Colindale newspaper library were remarkable in meeting my requests. I am especially grateful to Colin Harris, Jeremy McIlwhaine, and their colleagues at the Bodleian Library, who provided exemplary service and a warm welcome. I also want to thank Mary Lou Reker at the Kluge Center for her kindness, and the staff at the Library of Congress for their help and perseverance. Former members of the Monday Club were also generous in giving their time and thoughts, and in allowing me to include their comments. I also wish to thank all at MUP, particularly Tony Mason, and my copy-editor Frances Hackeson, for getting this book into print.

I am grateful to the medical profession for their care over more than two decades, particularly Dr J. S. Broxton, Mr Geoffrey Ingram, Professor Sir Miles Irving, Mr Iain Anderson and Dr H. Sutherland. My friends Peter Hully, John Kerr and Mark Rathburn have kept me sane over many years, mainly by being as rubbish on the golf course as I am. Peter also frequently offered financial

assistance, which I will never forget. Thanks, too, to Sarah Lloyd for her encouragement and friendship. Dr Garthine Walker was incredibly tolerant in accommodating me when necessary, which I appreciate very much. All research students are indebted to their supervisors: I am particularly so. Dr Keir Waddington acted as my second supervisor and provided cogent comments that assisted in focusing my efforts. My connection with Dr Kevin Passmore goes back to the early 1990s when I was one of his undergraduates. He was exemplary then, and as a Ph.D. supervisor, and I consider him a friend. His only flaw is a deluded belief that Cardiff Blues will win the Heineken Cup some day.

I wish to end with comments about my family. I appreciate the encouragement of my parents-in-law, John and Mary Rabbitt, whose help and assistance, and care for their grandchildren, has been excellent. John was my year master at De La Salle Grammar, and I am sure that he is as amused by how events have transpired as me. During the course of writing this book, my brother, Michael Pitchford, confirmed what I have long thought about him. On a number of occasions, he made substantial journeys to bring me home when I was having problems. He is the best of brothers. As for our parents, Neville and Mary Pitchford, I will never be able to repay their love and kindness. Without their practical assistance and moral support, I would not have completed this book. They are excellent role models, both as parents and grandparents. As in so much of my life, however, four people have made what I do worthwhile, my wife Joanne, and our children Christopher, Edward and Amy. They have lived with the consequences of my medical condition with love and without complaint. It is to them that I dedicate this work.