

The Foreign Office Mind



THE Foreign Office Mind

The Making of British Foreign Policy, 1865–1914

T. G. OTTE

CAMBRIDGE

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With this pioneering approach to the study of international history, T. G. Otte reconstructs the underlying principles, elite perceptions and 'unspoken assumptions' that shaped British foreign policy between the death of Palmerston and the outbreak of the First World War. Grounded in a wide range of public and private archival sources, and drawing on sociological insights, *The Foreign Office Mind* presents a comprehensive analysis of the foreign service as a 'knowledge-based-organisation', rooted in the social and educational background of the diplomatic elite and the broader political, social and cultural fabric of Victorian and Edwardian Britain. The book charts how the collective mindset of successive generations of professional diplomats evolved, and reacted to and shaped changes in international relations during the second half of the nineteenth century, including the balance of power and arms races, the origins of appeasement and the origins of the First World War.

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