Building Cosmopolis
The Political Thought of H.G. Wells
John S. Partington, University of Reading, UK

Alongside his reputation as an author, H.G. Wells is also remembered as a leading political commentator of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Building Cosmopolis presents the worldview Wells developed between his student days at the Normal School of Science (1884-1887) and his death in 1946. During this time, Wells developed a unique political philosophy, grounded on the one hand in the theory of “Ethical Evolution” as propounded by his professor, T.H. Huxley, and on the other in late Victorian socialism. From this basis Wells developed a worldview which rejected class struggle and nationalism and embraced global co-operation for the maintenance of peace and the advancement of the human species in a world society.

Although committed to the idea of a world state Wells became more antagonistic to the nation state as a political unit during the carnage of the First World War. He began moving away from the position of an internationalist to one of a cosmopolitan in 1916, and throughout the inter-war period he advanced the notion of regional and, ultimately, functional world government to a greater extent. Wells first demonstrated a functionalist society in Men Like Gods (1923) and further elaborated this system of government in most of his works, both fictional and non-fictional, throughout the rest of his life. Following an examination of the development of his political thought from inception to fruition, this study argues that Wells’s political thoughts rank him alongside David Mitrany as one of the two founders of the functionalist school of international relations, an acknowledgement hitherto denied to Wells by scholars of world-government theory.

Contents: Introduction; Liberal internationalism, ‘ethical evolution’ and cosmopolitan socialism; The death of the static: H.G. Wells and the kinetic Utopia; From ‘the larger synthesis’ to the League of Free Nations; Educational reform from The Outline of History to the ‘permanent world encyclopaedia’; From the League of Nations to the functional world state; Human rights and public accountability in the functional world state; The forgotten cosmopolitan: H.G. Wells and postwar transnationalism; Postscript: Mind at the end of its tether?; Bibliography; Index.

December 2003 c. 208 pages
Hardback 0 7546 3383 7 c. £39.99

ON-LINE DISCOUNT
Order Building Cosmopolis: The Political Thought of H.G. Wells at www.ashgate.com and receive 15% off!
Order form

Please return this form to: Ashgate Publishing Direct Sales, Bookpoint Limited, 130 Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4SB, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1235 827730 Fax: +44 (0)1235 400454 e-mail: orders@bookpoint.co.uk

Please send me:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

subtotal _______
postage _______
total _______

Our standard postage and packing charge is £3.50 per order
Please do not send payment for books with approximate prices; your order will be recorded and an invoice sent on publication

Payment options:

☐ I enclose a cheque for £ ________ made payable to Bookpoint Ltd
☐ Please invoice me/my company/institution (please delete as appropriate)
☐ Please charge my VISA/Mastercard/American Express (please delete as appropriate)

Account number: _______________________________________________ Expiry date __________
Signature _______________________________ please supply your registered credit card address if it differs from the delivery address below

Your details:

Name __________________________________________________________________________________________
Institution ______________________________________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________________

Postcode ______________________ Date ____________________ Telephone _______________________________

VAT/IVA number*

*Orders from companies/institutions within the EC (UK excepted) must be accompanied by a VAT/IVA number, without which we will be unable to process your order.

We endeavour to despatch all orders within 5 working days.
In the event a book is not available, your order will be recorded and the book despatched as quickly as possible.
Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive offers of goods or services from Ashgate or any other organisation ☐