This major new addition to Cambridge Studies in Modern Economic History analyses the economic policies of the Attlee government, both international and domestic, in the light of Labour's ideas and doctrines about the economy.

Jim Tomlinson highlights the concern of the government with issues of industrial efficiency, and how this concern pervaded all areas of economic policy. He focuses on the economic aspects of the creation of the welfare state, and how efficiency concerns led to a great deal of austerity in the design of welfare provision. In addition, Tomlinson offers detailed discussion of the labour market in this period, both the attempts to 'plan' that market and the tensions in the policies created by attempts to attract more women into paid work.

Students, professional historians and even politicians will greatly benefit from this broad-based reappraisal of a crucial era.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460

Cambridge Studies in Modern Economic History 3

Democratic socialism and economic policy
The Attlee years, 1945–1951

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460

Cambridge Studies in Modern Economic History

Series editors

Charles Feinstein
All Souls College, Oxford

Patrick O'Brien
The Institute of Historical Research, London

Barry Supple
The Leverhulme Trust

Peter Temin
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Gianni Toniolo
Universita degli Studi di Venezia

Cambridge Studies in Modern Economic History is a major new initiative in economic history publishing, and a flagship series for Cambridge University Press in an area of scholarly activity in which it has long been active. Books in this series will primarily be concerned with the history of economic performance, output and productivity, assessing the characteristics, causes and consequences of economic growth (and stagnation) in the western world. This range of enquiry, rather than any one methodological or analytic approach, will be the defining characteristic of volumes in the series.

The first titles in the series are:

1 *Central and Eastern Europe 1944–1993: detour from the periphery to the periphery*
Ivan Berend
ISBN 0 521 55066 1

2 *Spanish agriculture: the long Siesta 1765–1965*
James Simpson
ISBN 0 521 49630 6

3 *Democratic socialism and economic policy: the Attlee years, 1945–1951*
Jim Tomlinson
ISBN 0 521 55095 5

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460

Democratic socialism and economic policy

The Attlee years, 1945–1951

Jim Tomlinson

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521550956

© Cambridge University Press 1997

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9780511599460 under a Creative Commons Open Access licence CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works without permission. To view a copy of this licence, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9780511599460

First published 1997

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Tomlinson, Jim.
Democratic socialism and economic policy: the Attlee years, 1945–51 / Jim Tomlinson.
p. cm. – (Cambridge Studies in Modern Economic History; 3)
Includes bibliographical references and index.
ISBN 0 521 55095 5 (hbk)
1. Great Britain – Economic policy – 1945– 2. Great Britain – Economic conditions – 1945–1993. 3. Labour Party (Great Britain) – History – 20th century. 4. Socialism – Great Britain – History – 20th century. I. Title. II. Series.
HC256.5.T66 1997
338.941 – dc20 96–14040 CIP

ISBN 978-0-521-55095-6 Hardback
ISBN 978-0-521-89259-9 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core. UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA METROPOLITANA, on 18 Nov 2026 at 17:52:14, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511599460