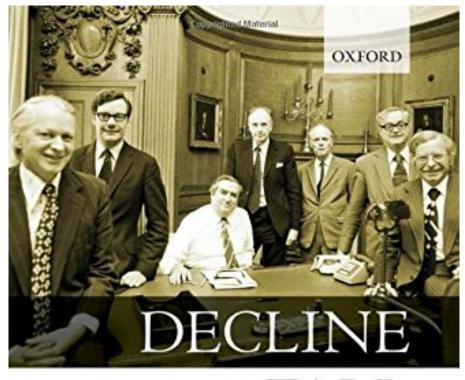
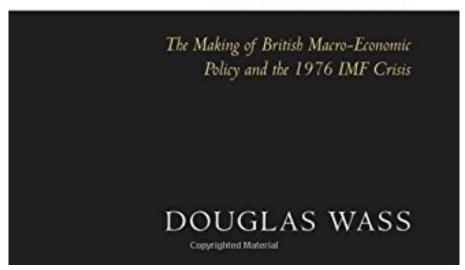


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Review

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"This is a collectors item. We have ministerial memoirs aplenty from the 1970s but no official who sat in the eye of any of the great economic storms of the postwar years has produced anything that matches Douglas Wass on 1976. There is Sturm und Drang on every page and Sir Douglas is as critical of himself and his own in the Treasury as he is of the other players whether they be in the Cabinet Room, the Bank of England, or the International Monetary Fund."-- Peter Hennessy, FBA, Attlee Professor of Contemporary British History, University of London

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This book provides the first comprehensive and authoritative account of the events leading up to the UK seeking a massive loan from the IMF in 1976 which almost precipitated a financial crisis on a par with those of the 1930's and early post War period. Sir Douglas Wass, who was permanent Secretary to the Treasury at the time, provides a unique first hand account of the events that took place as the crisis unfolded and the decision-making process. Bringing unrivalled experience and knowledge of Whitehall to the narrative, he draws on recently released documents such as official Treasury minutes, memoranda, official statements and reports, IMF documents and blends them with his own assessment of this key period of policy making to provide a fascinating, blow-by-blow account of how the Treasury reacted when faced with a series of interlocking crises. Decline to Fall will be a must read for anyone interested in the formulation of policy and the workings of government.

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