Altered PASTS

COUNTERFACTUALS IN HISTORY

RICHARD J. EVANS

THE MENAHEM STERN JERUSALEM LECTURES



BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS Waltham, Massachusetts

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESS / HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISRAEL

An imprint of University Press of New England

www.upne.com

© 2013 Richard J. Evans

All rights reserved

Manufactured in the United States of America

Designed by Richard Hendel

Typeset in Garamond Premier Pro by Tseng Information Systems, Inc.

University Press of New England is a member of the Green Press Initiative. The paper used in this book meets their minimum requirement for recycled

paper.

For permission to reproduce any of the material in this book, contact Permissions, University Press of New England, One Court Street, Suite 250, Lebanon NH 03766; or visit www.upne.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Evans, Richard I.

Altered pasts: counterfactuals in history / Richard J. Evans.

pages cm. — (The Menahem Stern Jerusalem lectures)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-61168-537-4 (cloth: alk. paper) — ISBN 978-1-61168-538-1 (pbk.: alk.

paper) – ISBN 978-1-61168-539-8 (ebook)

1. Imaginary histories. 2. History—Philosophy. 3. Historiography—Political aspects—Great Britain. 4. Great Britain—History—20th century. 5. Right and left (Political science)—Great Britain. I. Title.

D21.3.E87 2013

901 - dc23

2013029719

CONTENTS

Foreword xi

Preface xv

- 1 Wishful THINKING 1
- 2 Virtual HISTORY 31
- 3 Future FICTIONS 64
- 4 Possible WORLDS 92

Notes 127

Index 141