



Ideology of Obsession: A.K. Chesterton and British Fascism (International Library of Historical Studies)

By David Baker

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Arthur Kenneth Chesterton, cousin of G.K. Chesterton, grew up in South Africa where he developed his ""colonial outsider"" view of England and of the First World War. By the age of 21, Chesterton was an archetypal ""angry young man"" - ex-colonial, ex-officer with literary interests and accomplishments. As an increasingly disillusioned literary critic and newspaper editor, he created a world based on his reading of English literature - an idealized version of British society. The result was a cultural despair which sealed his acceptance of fascism in 1933.

In this biography, David Baker examines the socio-psychological profile of A.K. Chesterton to help explain the nature of fascism. The author questions previous academic interpretations, suggesting that a definition of fascist ideology must be broadened to take account of its fatal attraction to those who might have remained self-assured members of a democratic society.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

David Baker is a senior lecturer in politics at Nottingham Trent University. He is a leading expert on ideologies of the right and has published widely on the subject and on British party politics. He is also the co-editor of *Britain For and Against Europe*.

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