

# **Part I**

## **The British Model of Organising for Twentieth- Century Coalition Warfare**

‘This long and curious history has left its trace on almost every part of our present political condition; its effects lie at the root of many of our most important controversies; and because these effects are not rightly perceived, many of these controversies are misconceived.’—Walter Bagehot

The machinery of government by which strategic decisions are made puts its own indelible stamp on the nature of the decisions which are reached through it. In this case, the British model of organising for twentieth-century coalition warfare has its roots in the British cabinet system of government, as developed through the experience of the Committee of Imperial Defence. This same approach was taken as the model for use in the major, international command and organisational structures developed in the twentieth century, including the League of Nations, the wartime Combined Chiefs of Staff, NATO and the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.