

Antitrust and the Formation of the Postwar World

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Antitrust and the Formation of the Postwar World

Wyatt Wells

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS
Publishers Since 1893
New York Chichester, West Sussex
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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Wells, Wyatt C.

Antitrust and the formation of the postwar world /
Wyatt Wells.

p. cm.—(Columbia studies in contemporary
American history series)

Includes bibliographical references (p.) and index.
ISBN 0-231-12398-1 (acid-free paper)

1. Antitrust law—United States—History. 2. Conflict
of laws—Antitrust law—History. 3. Competition,
Unfair—History. 4. Cartels—History. I. Title.
II. Columbia studies in contemporary American
history.

KF1652 .W45 2001
343.73'0721—dc21

2001032520



Columbia University Press books are printed
on permanent and durable acid-free paper.
Printed in the United States of America

c 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

*For my parents, Charles and Ann,
and for my wife, Barbara*

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Preface

The inspiration for this book came from W. J. Reader's *Imperial Chemical Industries: A History*, which I first read in graduate school. Among other matters, these volumes chronicle the U.S. government's antitrust suit against Imperial Chemical Industries and DuPont in 1944, at the height of World War II. The strangeness of the case struck me. DuPont and ICI were two of the Allies' chief munitions suppliers; ICI did no business in the United States; and the arrangements in question involved not war production but contracts about which Washington had known for years. Several years later, while teaching a course on World War II, I took up the matter again. I thought to produce an article on this intriguing episode, but it soon became clear that the issues went well beyond one antitrust case and, indeed, involved the basic shape of the world economy after 1945. Seven years of work and countless revisions and reappraisals later, the result is *Antitrust and the Formation of the Postwar World*.

Many people and institutions contributed to this book. At different times I have received valuable advice from Paul Conkin, Otis Graham, Dewey Grantham, David Hoth, William Leuchtenburg, Thomas McCraw, David Moss, Huw Pill, Bruce Scott, Debora Spar, Richard Vietor, Ann Wells, Harwell Wells, and Louis Wells. The staff of Columbia University Press and its readers also made many wise suggestions. Liza and Nathaniel Chapman and Ellen and Swift Martin were sources of bottomless hospitality while I conducted research. The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, the Hagley Museum and Library, the American Heri-

tage Center at the University of Wyoming, and Auburn University Montgomery's Grant-in-Aid program all helped finance my research. I wrote much of this book while the Newcomen Fellow at the Harvard Business School in 1996 and 1997. The staffs of the Hagley Library, the American Heritage Center, and the Truman and Roosevelt Libraries, as well as of the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the Public Records Office, all skillfully guided me through their collections. Finally, I would like to thank my family, friends, and colleagues who have tolerated my obsession with cartels, antitrust, and related matters over the past seven years.

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