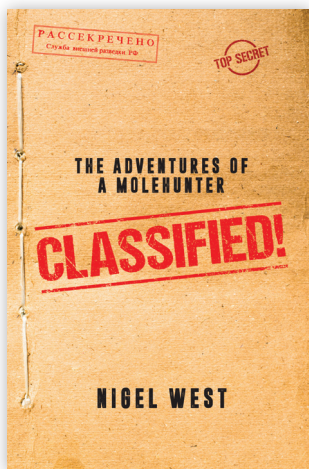


BITEBACK PUBLISHING



CATALOGUE

SPRING / SUMMER 2024



NIGEL WEST is a military historian specializing in security and intelligence issues. He was voted 'the experts' expert' by a panel of other spy writers in *The Observer* in November 1989, and the *Sunday Times* has commented: 'His information is so precise that many people believe he is the unofficial historian of the secret services.' In 2003, he was awarded the US Association of Former Intelligence Officers' first Lifetime Literature Achievement Award.

- £25
- 384pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908538
- February 2024
- RIGHTS: World

CLASSIFIED!

The Adventures of a Molehunter

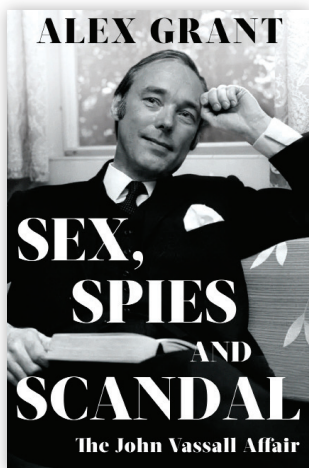
NIGEL WEST

Nigel West is perhaps our most authoritative writer on espionage and the secret services. His first encounter with the intelligence community was a lecture given at his school by John le Carré, the guest of a Benedictine monk. The monk inspired many of his pupils to join the intelligence community.

West's most recent investigation involved the identification of a Soviet mole inside the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation in 2023. In between, he worked as a researcher for a wartime SOE agent, Ronnie Seth, who was sentenced to death by the Nazis after being captured during Operation Blunderhead; exposed two of the Cambridge spies recruited by Anthony Blunt; and participated in an MI5 operation to obtain a deathbed confession from a suspected Soviet spy who had joined MI5 in 1937 and risen to be deputy director-general by 1963.

In 1984, in time for the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings, West traced the MI5 double agent codenamed GARBO – perhaps the most influential spy of the Second World War – to Venezuela and brought him to London so he could be decorated at Buckingham Palace.

As action-packed as the lives of the spies he has written about, *Classified!* is the surprising life story of one of our most celebrated writers.



ALEX GRANT is a writer, researcher and lecturer with extensive experience of politics, biography and modern history. After reading English at Oxford, he worked as a journalist in the United States and Britain. He was a Labour councillor in the London borough of Greenwich for sixteen years and worked in Parliament. He has lectured at City Lit, the Bartlett, UCL, and at the University of Sheffield and has written for *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

- £25
- 452pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785907883
- January 2024
- RIGHTS: World

SEX, SPIES AND SCANDAL

The John Vassall Affair

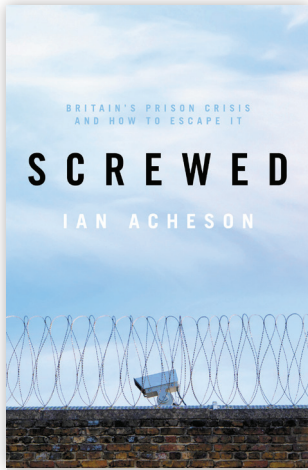
ALEX GRANT

Sex, Spies and Scandal is the story of John Vassall, a civil servant who was unmasked as a Soviet spy in 1962. After being photographed in compromising positions while working at the British embassy in Moscow in 1954, Vassall was blackmailed into handing over secrets from the British Admiralty to his Soviet handlers, both in Moscow and in London, for more than seven years.

There has been a rash of successful recent books and film adaptations on the Profumo, Thorpe and Duchess of Argyll affairs. The story of John Vassall, who was responsible for a far more serious intelligence breach than Profumo, is ripe for retelling. It has got the lot – a honeytrap, spying on an industrial scale, journalists jailed for not revealing their sources, and the first modern tabloid witch-hunt, which resulted in a ministerial resignation and almost brought down Harold Macmillan's government.

With access to newly released MI5 files and interviews with people who knew Vassall from the 1950s until his death in 1996, this book sheds new light on the neglected spy scandal of the early 1960s.

Including atmospheric detail on Dolphin Square in the 1950s and '60s – a hotbed of political intrigue but also a safe haven for members of the LGBT community – this is an explosive tale of sexual violence, betrayal, cover-up, homophobia and hypocrisy that blows open some of the British establishment's darkest secrets.



IAN ACHESON has served as both an officer and a prison governor. In 2015, the then Secretary of State for Justice, Michael Gove, asked him to lead an independent review into prison extremism, which laid bare a corporate culture of ineptitude, secrecy and arrogance that threatened national security. He now works nationally and internationally advising governments on prison reform and countering violent extremism.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785904714
- February 2024
- RIGHTS: World

SCREWED

Britain's Prison Crisis and How to Escape It

IAN ACHESON

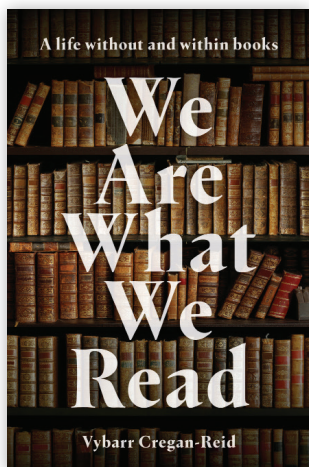
When Daniel Khalife escaped from Wandsworth in September 2023, the nation got a glimpse into the chaos at the heart of its prison system. This came as no surprise to Ian Acheson, who had once governed Wandsworth.

Screwed is the inside story of the collapse of His Majesty's Prison Service, told from the front line. Ian Acheson served as both officer and governor in a twenty-year career that saw him move from the landings to the boardroom.

During that time, he witnessed His Majesty's Prison Service, the uniformed organisation he was proud to serve, collapse into a hopeless and helpless bureaucracy presiding over feral penal dustbins warehousing the worst of human failure.

This hard-hitting account looks at the politics and the operational decision-making that have driven our prisons to rock bottom, where extreme violence, indolence and victimisation are normalised.

Concluding that the situation is not beyond repair, however, Acheson outlines how a new corporate culture and mission can achieve a much-needed revolution in the way the service is run.



VYBARR CREGAN-REID

is Professor of English & Environmental Humanities at the University of Kent. He is the author of *Footnotes: How Running Makes us Human* (Ebury, 2016) and *Primate Change: How the World We Made is Remaking Us* (Cassell, 2018). He has written widely about literature, nature and the environment for the BBC, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Big Issue*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Daily Mail*, *Washington Post*, *Literary Review* and many others.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908187
- July 2024
- RIGHTS: World

WE ARE WHAT WE READ

A life without and within books

VYBARR CREGAN-REID

In this passionate, intelligent and disarming account of the power of books and how they can change a life, Professor of English Vybarr Cregan-Reid tells the story of his own remarkable journey into books, while also investigating what is happening on a political level to the study of literature and the arts more broadly.

Join him as he takes us from life as a professor all the way back to his beginnings as a person more committed to petty crime than poetry, felonies than Forster, truancy than Thomas Hardy. Part memoir, part manifesto, part history, *We Are What We Read* is a poignant and crucial look at why books matter, at a time when their study and what they have to offer is under attack from governments around the world.

This is a book about the joys and the transformational power of reading and how our brains are rewired by books. As such, it is also an informal introduction to many of literature's greatest works and its finest writers. But it is also about work and family, and how misfortune can give you the drive to want something else, to become someone else and then give that to others.

Written by someone who knows what it's like to be written off, *We Are What We Read* will convince you, as much as any number of facts and figures, of the true impact of reading.



Nadeine Asbali

NADEINE ASBALI is a British-Libyan writer and secondary school English teacher in London. In her writing, she explores themes of identity, belonging and policy as well as navigating life as a visibly Muslim woman in Britain. She has written for a range of national newspapers and online platforms, including *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *New Statesman*, *Refinery29* and *Al Jazeera*. She also writes a fortnightly column for *Metro UK*.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908194
- January 2024
- RIGHTS: World

VEILED THREAT

On being a visibly Muslim woman

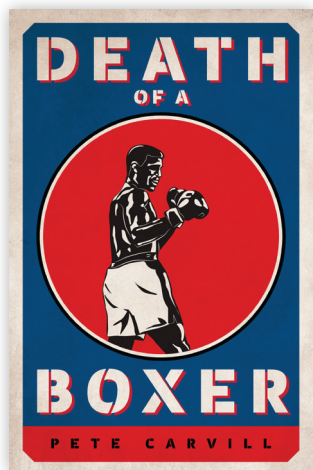
NADEINE ASBALI

Nadeine Asbali would be the first to say that a scarf on a woman's head doesn't define her, but in her case, that's a lie.

For Nadeine, her life changed overnight. As a mixed-race teenager, she had unknowingly been passing as white her entire life. Until she decided to wear the hijab. Then, in an instant, she went from being an unassuming white(ish) child to something sinister and threatening, perverse and foreign.

Written in a sharp and illuminating voice, *Veiled Threat* is a necessary exploration of what it is to be a visibly Muslim woman in modern Britain, a nation intent on forced assimilation and integration that views covered bodies as primitive and dangerous. From being constantly bombarded by racist stereotypes to being subjected to structural inequalities at every level, Nadeine asks why Muslim women are forced to grapple the twin oppressions of state-sanctioned Islamophobia and patriarchal norms within their own community, all while being told by white feminists that they need saving.

Full of passionate and personal argument, *Veiled Threat* is an indictment on a divided Britain that dominates and systematically oppresses Muslim women at every level.



PETE CARVILL is a reporter, writer and editor for the UK's trade press. He first put on boxing gloves twenty years ago and has only recently taken them off. When not writing, he can be found in a forest, at a hockey game or watching two people punch lumps out of each other.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908200
- February 2024
- RIGHTS: World

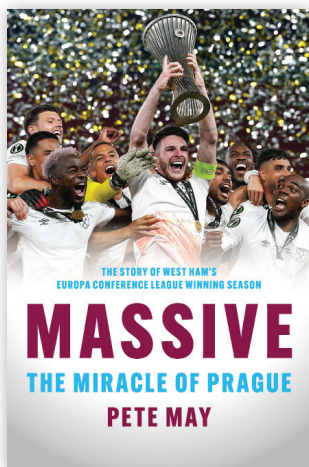
DEATH OF A BOXER

PETE CARVILL

Since 1995, there have been four deaths following fights in Britain and forty around the world. In *Death of a Boxer*, Pete Carvill sets out to explore the psychology of those who choose to fight and what draws them towards this most dangerous of pursuits.

But to write about only the death of fighters would be half the story. Carvill, who has written extensively on boxing and combat sports for fifteen years, will take off his own gloves and pick up a pen to explore the lives of fighters, from the early days in amateur clubs to established professionals, those down on their luck to the retired still hankering to do what once came so easily to them.

A deep and powerful meditation on the nature of boxing that asks why people do it, what it does for them – and ultimately to them. This may be the most important book on the sport for decades.



PETE MAY is the author of *The Joy of Essex*, *Hammers in the Heart*, *West Ham: Irons in the Soul* and *There's a Hippo in My Cistern*. His blog hammersintheheart.blogspot.co.uk has had more than a million views. As a journalist, Pete has written for *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *The Independent*, *Time Out*, *Loaded*, *the New Statesman* and numerous other publications.

- £12.99
- 304pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908521
- January 2024
- RIGHTS: World

MASSIVE

The Miracle of Prague

PETE MAY

Massive charts West Ham's tumultuous 2022–23 season and epic triumph in the Europa Conference League Final in Prague, their first trophy in forty-three years and first European trophy in fifty-eight years. There were plenty of ups and downs during the season, with misfiring signings, three occasions when manager David Moyes was nearly sacked in 'must-win' games and dissent among the fans.

However, West Ham eventually found survival in the Premier League and redemption in the Europa Conference League. The Irons played fifteen games in Europe and were unbeaten. At the age of sixty, Moyes won his first major trophy and presented his medal to his 87-year-old father. Captain Declan Rice ended his Hammers career by holding up a trophy, just like Bobby Moore and Billy Bonds before him.

The outpouring of joy at the final whistle in Prague will never be forgotten by West Ham fans – many of whom were too young to have seen their side win its last trophy in 1980.



JO PHILLIPS is a writer, broadcaster and political commentator, regularly appearing on TV and radio. She's the co-author of *Why Vote* and *Why Join a Trade Union*, was press secretary to the late Lib Dem leader Paddy Ashdown and is a judge for the national schools Debating Matters competition.

DAVID SEYMOUR began working as a journalist on *The John O'Groat Journal* but most of his career was spent on the *Daily Mirror* and other Fleet Street newspapers.

- £14.99
- 320pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908613
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: World

WHY VOTE

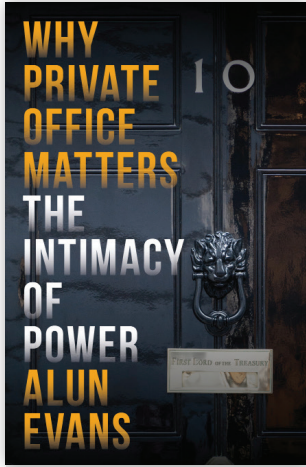
JO PHILLIPS AND DAVID SEYMOUR

Swamped beneath the tide of fake news, wars on woke and social media storms lies democracy. Jo Phillips and David Seymour guide the reader through the workings of government and Parliament and make a passionate case for the power of democracy. Their argument is that young people should take back control of the future, hold politicians to account and get involved.

In the last decade we've had a Brexit referendum, the Covid pandemic, war in Ukraine, increasing fears over the climate emergency, a new monarch and six Prime Ministers.

Britain's influence in the world has been diminished, freedom to protest peacefully has been curtailed, the cost of further education is a concern, the health service is in crisis and the likelihood of owning your own home or even finding somewhere to rent is becoming less and less.

If younger people turned out to vote in the same numbers that older people do, this country would be a very different place. Apathy is the enemy, not the answer.



ALUN EVANS is a political historian who was previously, for some thirty-five years, a UK civil servant. He spent over four years working in the private office and over two years at No. 10 Downing Street. In his career, he has worked with Prime Ministers as well as with senior politicians from all three major political parties.

- £25
- 432pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908323
- May 2024
- RIGHTS: World

THE INTIMACY OF POWER

Why Private Office Matters

ALUN EVANS

The United Kingdom, famously, does not have a written constitution. Rather, our political system has been shaped not by revolution, foreign invasion or dictatorship but by a series of principles and conventions that have emerged and been tested, then accepted.

But one part of that system has never received any detailed scrutiny: the private office – the small group made up mainly of civil servants who support and advise every minister of the Crown, from the Prime Minister down to the most junior of ministers. Private secretaries inevitably have, by dint of their access to ministers and the Prime Minister, massive influence.

However, in recent years, ministerial pressures for a politicised private office have inevitably brought the civil service into conflict with the government.

With exceptional access to former Prime Ministers and decision-makers, Alun Evans describes what the private office is and why it matters and – following the egregious constitutional breaches of the Johnson premiership – argues for a reversion to the previous arrangements whereby the private office truly can be, once again, the independent junction box of government and a vital part of the British constitution.

RED QUEEN?

THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY
OF ANGELA RAYNER



MICHAEL ASHCROFT

LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC

is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. He is a former treasurer and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. He is founder and chairman of the board of trustees of Crimestoppers, vice-patron of the Intelligence Corps Museum, chairman of the trustees of Ashcroft Technology Academy, a senior fellow of the International Strategic Studies Association and a former trustee of Imperial War Museums.

- £20
- 368pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908569
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: World

RED QUEEN?

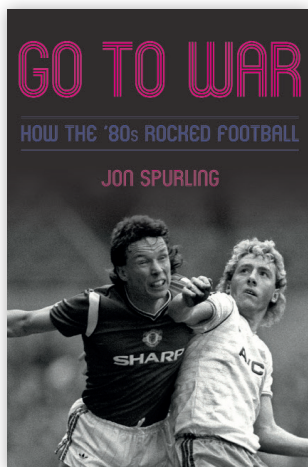
The unauthorised biography of Angela Rayner

MICHAEL ASHCROFT

Angela Rayner is one of the most arresting figures in British politics today. A self-declared socialist, she pursued an unorthodox route into politics, leaving school aged sixteen while pregnant having gained no formal qualifications. After becoming a care worker, she was a trade union representative before entering the House of Commons in 2015 as the Labour MP for Ashton-under-Lyne. She served as the shadow Secretary of State for Education for four years from 2016 and was elected deputy leader of the Labour Party in April 2020.

Rayner's life story has earned her a reputation as an authentic working-class voice, and, thanks to her own power base and combative performances in the Commons chamber, she is widely considered to be a standout figure among Sir Keir Starmer's shadow Cabinet.

But who is the real Angela Rayner? What does she actually believe in? What is she like behind the scenes? Can she unite the factions of her party to endorse the Starmer project? And does she harbour ambitions for the top job? This careful examination of her background and career seeks to answer these questions and many more. Michael Ashcroft's new book follows the journey of a politician who has quickly become an outspoken and charismatic presence in British public life and who promises to be a lively addition to the government should Labour win the next general election.



A history and politics teacher by day, **JON SPURLING** has written articles and interviewed footballers for numerous publications at home and abroad, including *FourFourTwo*, *When Saturday Comes*, *The Blizzard*, *Nutmeg*, *11FREUNDE* and the official Arsenal programme. He has authored six previous books, including the bestselling *Highbury: The Story of Arsenal in N.5* and *Death or Glory: The Dark History of the World Cup*.

- £20
- 384pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785907494
- September 2024
- RIGHTS: World

GO TO WAR

How the '80s rocked football

JON SPURLING

In the 1980s politicians declared war on football; football supporters declared war on each other inside crumbling stadia that resembled bomb sites, and the '82 and '86 World Cups were played against the backdrop of the Falklands conflict. It was the decade when some fans died watching the sport they loved and at times, football seemed set to die too.

The decade also saw the emergence of West Ham's blonde bombshell Frank McAvennie, the very 1980s rivalry between Luton Town and Watford, the birth of the long-ball game, early sponsorship deals, the inflatable craze of the late 1980s, *Saint & Greavsie*, the arrival of plastic pitches and fanzines, mullets and back perms, travelling behind the Iron Curtain for matches and short-lived competitions like the Full Members' Cup.

Like its prequel, the bestselling *Get It On*, this book draws heavily on the recollections of the footballers and managers who set the tone for the decade, providing a unique insight into the contemporary game and blending football stories with historical, political and cultural insights.

BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

1830 - 2019



The 50 General Election
Campaigns That Shaped Our
Modern Politics

IAIN DALE

IAIN DALE is an award-winning broadcaster and presenter of the evening show on LBC Radio. He is the co-host of the For the Many podcast and the Iain Dale's Book Club podcast. He was named Radio Presenter of the Year for 2013 and 2016 and is the author and editor of more than fifty books, including the bestsellers *The Prime Ministers*; *The Presidents and Why Can't We All Just Get Along*; *Shout Less, Listen More*.

- £30
- 560pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908118
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: World

BRITISH GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS 1830–2019

The 50 General Election Campaigns
That Shaped Our Modern Politics

IAIN DALE

This remarkable book, edited by one of the UK's leading political commentators, takes us on a deep dive through nearly 200 years of British political history in its most dramatic expression: the general election.

The British general election is the linchpin of our liberal democracy, and its results are often fundamental to how we live.

From the general election of 1830, at which electoral reform was the centrepiece issue, to the so-called Brexit election of 2019, Iain Dale delivers a showcase of all fifty general elections, with an essay for each written by key political writers including John Curtice, Julia Langdon, Simon Heffer, Peter Snow, Sue Cameron, Vernon Bogdanor, Adam Boulton and many others.

Praise for *The Prime Ministers*:

"An entertaining, thorough and informative canter through the characters and stories of prime ministers past." *New Statesman*

"A wealth of enjoyable insights into three centuries of Westminster politics." *The Scotsman*

"A superb guide to the times we have lived through and are living in." *Scottish Review*



CHRISTOPHER ANDREW

is Emeritus Professor of Modern and Contemporary History and former Chair of the Faculty of History at Cambridge University. Founder of the renowned Cambridge Intelligence Seminar, he is also Chair of the British Intelligence Study Group and Founding Co-Editor of *Intelligence and National Security*. His sixteen books include *The Defence of the Realm: The Authorized History of MI5*, which was an international bestseller. He lives in Cambridge.

- £25
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908127
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: World

THE SPY WHO CAME IN FROM THE CIRCUS

The Secret Life of Cyril Bertram Mills

CHRISTOPHER ANDREW AND
TIMOTHY J. SMALZ

For almost half a century, Bertram Mills Circus was a household name throughout Britain among both children and adults and its Director, Cyril Bertram Mills, was one of the best-known and most influential names in the country's entertainment business.

But for forty years, Cyril Mills had also enjoyed a top-secret and wide-ranging career in British intelligence: obtaining the best aerial intelligence on Nazi rearmament for MI6 before the Second World War; becoming the first case officer to monitor the best double agent (Garbo) of the war after joining MI5; and working part-time during the Cold War 'for MI5 or 6 or both without being paid a penny'.

Remarkably, no word of Mills's secret career appeared in public until he was over eighty. Nobody suspected that the glamorous world of pre-war circus entertainment had been an extraordinarily fitting rehearsal for the lethal arena of deception and surveillance. In this remarkable true story, Christopher Andrew, best-selling official biographer of MI5, brings to life one of the most surprising and fascinating tales of espionage ever told.



LIZ TRUSS continuously held ministerial office for more than ten years between 2012 and 2022. After an initial spell as a junior education minister, she sat at the Cabinet table in six different roles, prior to becoming Prime Minister: Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice; Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Secretary of State for International Trade; and Foreign Secretary – as well as Minister for Women and Equalities.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908576
- April 2024
- RIGHTS: World

TEN YEARS TO SAVE THE WEST

Lessons from the Only Conservative in the Room

LIZ TRUSS

In *Ten Years to Save the West*, Truss, who as Prime Minister sought to champion limited government and individual freedom, will argue that the rise of authoritarianism and the adoption of fashionable ideas propagated by the global left give us barely a decade to preserve the economic and cultural freedom and institutions that the west holds so dear.

Peppered with newsworthy anecdotes from Truss's time in public life – such as her memorable last meeting with Queen Elizabeth II, her confrontations with Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping as Foreign Secretary, her encounters with the Trump administration as Trade Secretary and her dismay at the political class's attempt to betray Brexit – *Ten Years to Save the West* will also offer a timely warning about the perils facing conservatism in the years ahead. In it, Truss warns that too many of her fellow conservatives have allowed themselves to be captured by the left-wing influences that set the agenda and frame the debate in so many institutions, from the media to academia to the corporate world.

She will also call for a return to the alliances built by leaders such as Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in another era when Western values were under siege. Truss argues that we can only guarantee voters a free and meaningful choice in their destiny if the west recommits to building strong societies and strong economies, unhampered by big government and regulation.



DR. ELIZA FILBY is a historian of contemporary and generational values. Her writing has been published in *The Times*, *The Spectator*, *The Guardian* and the *Financial Times*. She writes regularly for UnHerd as well as a weekly Substack newsletter and a monthly column for *City AM*. She is the creator and presenter of the acclaimed *It's All Relative* podcast.

- £20
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908583
- April 2024
- RIGHTS: World

INHERITOCRACY

How the inheritance economy is keeping families together and pulling society apart

ELIZA FILBY

Anyone under forty is caught in the 'inheritance economy', where opportunity is defined not by what you learn or earn but by what you inherit. Family wealth is keeping families together but widening social equality in the process, and this is only going to intensify. Today's millennials are at the epicentre of a great wealth transfer. Over the next three decades, roughly £5.5 trillion of family money and assets will be passed down the generations, altering the financial and social dynamics of the country. Forget the generation gap; the real fault line within generations is now between those who can rely on family financial support and those who can't.

How is this extraordinary movement of familial wealth shaping the lives of those who give and those who hope to receive? How will this slow-motion financial revolution shape the lives of those who won't benefit from it? The inheritance economy is a story of winners and losers, but it's also a story of huge social change, economic realignment and political controversy.

Centred on families' stories that illustrate the economic dilemma in Britain, taking in interviews with leading historians, economists, sociologists and politicians along the way, *Inheritoracy* is a fresh and compelling exploration of our recent past and a future that will be shaped – for better or worse – by the largest transference of wealth in human history.



GEOFFREY ROBERTSON KC has had a distinguished career as a trial and appellate counsel in Britain and in international courts. He has also served as a UN appeal judge and the first president of its war crimes court in Sierra Leone. He is founder and joint head of Doughty Street Chambers, Europe's largest human rights practice, a master of the Middle Temple and a former trustee of the Institute of Contemporary Arts.

- £14.99
- 210pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908675
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: UK Comm exc ANZ

THE TRIAL OF VLADIMIR PUTIN

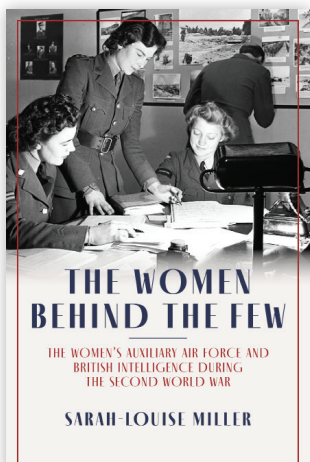
GEOFFREY ROBERTSON KC

There have been dozens of books about the Russian President Vladimir Putin since he launched his illegal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Some have examined the historical aspects of the conflict, others have analysed its military and geopolitical importance. However, none so far have looked purely at the legal consequences of that disastrous action.

This remarkable survey by one of our most celebrated human rights lawyers examines how the war in effect destroys the purpose of the United Nations by exposing the fatal flaw in its 1945 Charter: all five permanent UN members have a veto on any Security Council action. Russia cannot be expelled from the General Assembly for breaching the Charter without a Security Council recommendation, which Russia itself can veto!

Geoffrey Robertson looks at the difficulties of bringing Putin to trial and why the popular campaign for a court to try him *in absentia* would not work; gives an explanation of the International Criminal Court charges he already faces; and surmises that any future peace agreement would include an amnesty for Putin (though, that amnesty would not be valid in international law).

This brilliant deep-dive into international law offers a unique perspective on an unjust war that has cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and threatens to overturn the accepted world order, through the lens of its key protagonist.



SARAH-LOUISE MILLER is an experienced historian, researcher, author, educator and media consultant, specialising in Second World War history. She gained her PhD at the Department of War Studies, King's College London, and is currently based at the University of Oxford's Faculty of History. Sarah has appeared in numerous historical television documentaries with the BBC, Channel 4 and Sky History and speaks and lectures regularly on Second World War history.

- £9.99
- 304pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908705
- March 2024
- RIGHTS: World

THE WOMEN BEHIND THE FEW

The Women's Auxiliary Air Force and British Intelligence during the Second World War

SARAH-LOUISE MILLER

The courageous pilots of the Royal Air Force who faced the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain, affectionately known as 'the Few', are rightly hailed as heroes. Recently, efforts have been made to recognise the thousands who supported RAF operations behind the scenes. And yet one group remains missing from the narrative: the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

The Women Behind the Few explores the Second World War from the perspective of the WAAFs working behind the scenes to collect and disseminate vital intelligence – intelligence that resulted in Allied victory.

WAAFs worked within the Dowding System, the world's most sophisticated air defence network, as well as in the Y Service, intercepting German communications. Throughout the Blitz, they used radar to aid Fighter and Bomber Commands in protecting Britain's civilians.

WAAFs also assisted with the Allied offensive bombing campaign and were behind the discovery of the terrifying German V-weapons. Their work was critical ahead of the Normandy landings and they were present in their hundreds at Bletchley Park.

In this thrilling book, Sarah-Louise Miller brings the women of the force back to life, celebrating their wartime contribution to British military intelligence. Hidden behind the Few but vital to their success, WAAFs supplied the RAF with life-saving information. Here, for the first time, is their story.



DR. LIAM FOX practised as an NHS doctor for ten years before becoming the Member of Parliament for North Somerset. A former Secretary of State for Defence, he is the author of *Rising Tides: Facing the Challenges of a New Era*.

- £20
- 352pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908590
- April 2024
- RIGHTS: World

THE COMING STORM

The impending crisis on water – and how to avoid it

LIAM FOX

Following Russia's aggressive war in Ukraine, the world is suddenly gripped by concerns over energy security. And yet, there is an even greater threat ahead – one that is even more likely to shape the events of the twenty-first century than the competition for oil or gas.

The combination of an ever-increasing global population, climate change, industrialisation, urbanisation and limited natural resources, means that one challenge, above all, will shape the political, economic and security environment in the years ahead. That challenge is water.

If people and nations will fight for fossil fuels, it is nothing compared to what they will do for the most vital natural resource of all.

As a doctor, a politician who has dealt with both security and economic issues and a concerned citizen who has worked with WaterAid, Liam Fox tells the story of water and the challenges it presents in a more complete way than ever before.

The Coming Storm links together a range of issues that are often written about separately, but seldom together, and issues a comprehensible and compelling call for urgent action.

Edited by Tom Clark

Broke

Fixing Britain's
poverty crisis



TOM CLARK is a fellow at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a visiting fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, and a contributing editor at Prospect, the leading monthly magazine he edited from 2016 to 2021. He previously spent a decade at The Guardian, rising to be the paper's chief leader writer.

- £9.99
- 304pp
- Paperback
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- June 2024
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BROKE

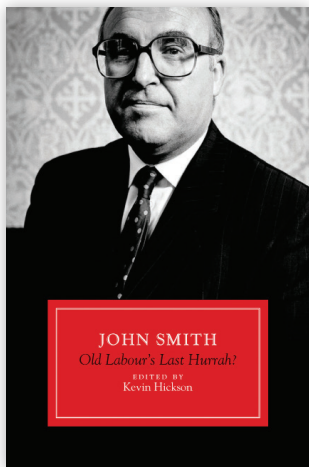
Fixing Britain's poverty crisis

TOM CLARK

A dozen years into austerity, statistical warning lights are flashing to suggest a return to types of deprivation we once imagined we had consigned to history. In the decade up to the pandemic, the official count of rough sleepers and recorded malnutrition in hospital patients both doubled, while recourse to food banks rocketed by an order of magnitude.

And yet it has never been statistics but rather individual human stories – from the fictionalised accounts of Dickens to the faithful reporting of Orwell and Priestley – that have seared the reality of hard times into the public imagination. In *Broke*, Tom Clark assembles today's masters of social reportage to go deep into the communities so often ignored by politicians, introducing us to those at the hardest end of the poverty crisis. Contributions from Jem Bartholomew, Cal Flynn, Dani Garavelli, Frances Ryan, Samira Shackle, Daniel Trilling and Jennifer Williams, and a foreword by Kerry Hudson, unflinchingly reveal the contemporary experience of cold, hunger, homelessness, disease, debt, disability, punishing work and an immigration system that makes people destitute by design.

With Joel Goodman's photography bringing the characters to life, and some of the writers having had first-hand experience of the issues raised, *Broke* blends powerful human stories with analysis of the policies that have led us to this point – and the reforms we urgently need.



DR. KEVIN HICKSON

is Senior Lecturer in British Politics at the University of Liverpool, where he has worked since 2003. He has published extensively on British politics, especially in the areas of political leadership, ideologies and political economy.

- £25
- 356pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908231
- May 2024
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JOHN SMITH

Old Labour's Last Hurrah?

KEVIN HICKSON

John Smith's leadership of the Labour Party was tragically short. This book, which is published to mark the thirtieth anniversary of his death, offers a comprehensive assessment of that leadership, with chapters written by academic experts on their chosen fields and by those who knew him as advisors, MPs and journalists.

There are two themes running through the book. The first seeks to examine the extent to which there was a clear John Smith 'effect' in terms of politics and policy and whether he succeeded in establishing his own agenda or simply followed that of his predecessor. The second, related, theme seeks to assess the extent to which Smith was a representative of 'Old' Labour or 'New' Labour.



SEBASTIAN WHALE is a freelance journalist and author of *Call to Order*, the acclaimed biography of John Bercow. He was formerly political editor for *The House* magazine and a reporter for *POLITICO*.

- £20
- 480pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908545
- September 2024
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THE UNUSUAL CHANNELS

Inside the mysterious world of political whips

SEBASTIAN WHALE

"It's like the Society of Jesus in the eighteenth century," said one former party whip. "You show them the Bible but also the instruments of torture."

Shrouded in mystery, political whips play a pivotal role in the functioning of the UK's democracy. But rumours abound about the tactics used behind the scenes to urge MPs to vote in the desired division lobbies. As politicians find refuge on social media and parliamentary black arts come under the spotlight, do whips still hold the upper hand?

The Unusual Channels pulls back the curtain on one of Westminster's most notorious and curious elements: the inner workings of the whips' office. It shows us the mechanics of the whips' office; how it operates; who's in it; the different forms of whipping, both positive and negative; the history and importance of whips; and some of the notorious characters who have held the position.



YES MA'AM

Upstairs Downstairs in the British Royal Family

TOM QUINN

TOM QUINN is the author of *Scandals of the Royal Palaces: An Intimate Memoir of Royals Behaving Badly*; *Kensington Palace: An Intimate Memoir from Queen Mary to Meghan Markle*; *The Reluctant Billionaire: The Tragic Life of Gerald Grosvenor, Sixth Duke of Westminster*; *Mrs Keppel: Mistress to the King*; *Backstairs Billy: The Life of William Tallon, the Queen Mother's Most Devoted Servant* and many more titles.

- £20
- 304pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908460
- August 2024
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What really makes the British royal family tick? It's a question that royal watchers have pondered for as long as there has been a royal family. And the answer?

Well, surprisingly, it's not the royal family's devotion to duty, it's not their wealth or their status, it's not even their popularity (or notoriety!). No, what really makes the royal family tick is the huge body of servants and staff past and present who feed and clothe the royals, organise their days, polish their shoes, carry the deer and pheasants they shoot, and even put the toothpaste on their toothbrushes.

If you want to find out who these servants are, what they do and why, in so many cases, they devote their whole lives to royal service, then this book is for you.

Some servants became utterly indispensable to the royals for whom they worked – Elizabeth II's childhood nanny Bobo MacDonald, for example, was closer to the late Queen than anyone in her family, not excepting even her husband Prince Philip and her sister Princess Margaret.

At the other end of the spectrum, some members of staff found their royal employers arrogant, overbearing, snobbish and even infantile.

As one recent member of the Kensington Palace team put it: 'What you get with one or two members of the royal family is a public angel and a private devil! And only the staff see the private devil!'



GYLES BRANDRETH

worked in theatre, television and publishing before becoming the Member of Parliament for the City of Chester and a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury in John Major's government.

- £14.99
- 560pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 978178590
- May 2024
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BREAKING THE CODE

Westminster Diaries

GYLES BRANDRETH

'By far the best political diary of recent years; far more perceptive and revealing than Alan Clark's.'

The Times

Gyles Brandreth's gloriously indiscreet political diaries revealed for the first time the secret world of the Government Whips' Office and its struggles to control a party riven by factionalism and in-fighting. Now, as history looks set to repeat itself, comes the definitive edition of this widely acclaimed classic, featuring a revealing new foreword from the author.

With candid descriptions of the key figures of the era, from the leading players to the ministers who fell from grace *Breaking the Code* paints an extraordinary portrait of Whitehall and Westminster in our time – warts and all.



ANDY BELL has been *Channel 5 News's* political editor for over a decade, during which, he has reported on elections, resignations and scandals. He has also reported on famine in east Africa, war in Gaza, hurricanes in the US and Barack Obama's road to the White House. Andy previously worked for the BBC, as paris correspondent and foreign affairs correspondent for Radio 4's *Today Programme*.

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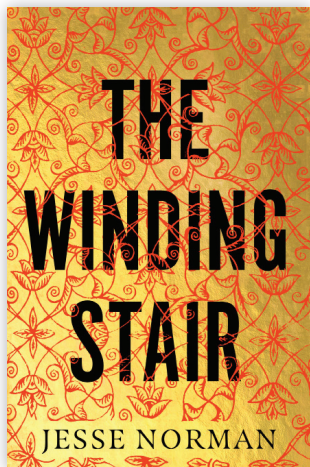
SOVEREIGN TERRITORY

ANDY BELL

This remarkable new novel opens on the night of the Brexit referendum. Four people at the centre of that world are about to have their lives dramatically shaken. They are Alan, a special advisor to a government minister; Mitra, a Labour MP; Davey, a UKIP campaigner, and Jenny, a TV news producer.

Each will struggle to keep control of their own lives as the politics becomes more aggressive and unpredictable. Alan faces a threat of blackmail as he tries to uncover a mole who is leaking sensitive material from the Brexit department. Mitra receives death threats and must confront allegations of bullying from her own staff. Davey is first disillusioned after the referendum and then alarmed by what he finds lurking in the shadows behind the Brexit campaign. Jenny fights to keep her job while her relationship collapses and she begins an affair.

The four lives intersect through plots, government defeats, resignations and riots before they are brought together for a debate in front of a live audience during the 2019 election. That night there is more at stake than just politics; at least one of them is in real danger. Will they all survive, and if they do, will they be able to start draining some of the poison from the political world they now inhabit ?



JESSE NORMAN is the MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire. As Financial Secretary to the Treasury from 2019 to 2021, he managed the UK furlough scheme and other pandemic support measures. He is the author of acclaimed biographies of Edmund Burke and Adam Smith. An enthusiastic cyclist, hillwalker, wild swimmer and amateur jazz trumpeter, he is married to Kate Bingham and they have three children. *The Winding Stair* is his first novel.

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- 480pp
- Paperback
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THE WINDING STAIR

JESSE NORMAN

"Masterly ... I loved every page. The perfect sequel to *Wolf Hall*." Andrew Roberts

Power is shifting. Queen Elizabeth I is dying, James waiting to become King. Everywhere, there is opportunity to ascend.

But who will thrive, and who will fail, under the new King? Will it be the scholar Francis Bacon, whose brilliant mind is the envy of the royal court? Or his hated rival the attorney Edward Coke, already acclaimed as the greatest lawyer of his generation?

The Winding Stair tells the gripping story of these two founders of our modern world and their battle for power, pre-eminence – and the hand of the most eligible woman in the realm. Combining humour, wit and imagination with deep research, this novel is a dazzling synthesis of history and fiction that takes the genre to new places.

It is an epic tale of jealousy and intrigue in Elizabethan and Jacobean England, which, in its lowest moments, holds a darkened mirror to our own contemporary politics.



JOHN LAZENBY has more than forty years' experience as a journalist, including more than 25 years as a writer and editor for national newspapers. He is the author of *Test of Time: Travels in Search of a Cricketing Legend*, *The Strangers Who Came Home: The First Australian Cricket Tour of England and Edging Towards Darkness: The Story of the Last Timeless Test*, which were shortlisted for a range of awards.

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- 320pp
- Hardback
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NHOJ

A Memoir That Started Backwards

JOHN LAZENBY

With an eye for peculiar detail and meticulous research, John Lazenby takes us on an evocative visit to the Britain of the 1960s, when, aged nine, he saw the Beatles play live in London before he could even hope to read, or write down, the lyrics from their iconic songbook.

Along the way, we meet the warm and eccentric family who never gave up on him – and the array of severe teachers and tutors who did. We are reminded that it takes only one person to change a life for the better and, having been sent away to boarding school at the age of seven, John's young life pivoted on the miracle discovery of that person, a teacher who finally understood the boy that no one else could teach.

NHOJ - A Memoir That Started Backwards is the story of his progress from seven-year-old who could write only one word – his own name, spelt backwards – to journalist and author who built a career around the very words that had initially been so elusive..



KEMI BADENOCH

MICHAEL ASHCROFT

LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC

is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. He is a former treasurer and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. He is founder and chairman of the board of trustees of Crimestoppers, vice-patron of the Intelligence Corps Museum, chairman of the trustees of Ashcroft Technology Academy, a senior fellow of the International Strategic Studies Association and a former trustee of Imperial War Museums.

During the Conservative Party leadership contest in the summer of 2022, Kemi Badenoch made an immediate impression on the public as a politician with robust views and a strong personality. Although only a junior minister at the time, she was marked out as a rising star and, having exited the race after the fourth ballot, even as a potential future leader. Since September 2022, she has served in the cabinets of Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, combining her post as the Secretary of State for Business and Trade with that of the Minister for Women and Equalities.

Badenoch's centre-right instincts and self-declared admiration for Margaret Thatcher have helped to guarantee that her popularity among the grassroots of her party remains high, yet her background is unusual by Westminster's standards. Having been born in London and raised in Nigeria, she describes herself as 'to all intents and purposes a first-generation immigrant'.

So what makes Badenoch tick? How has she achieved Cabinet rank so quickly? Could she succeed Rishi Sunak as Tory leader? And what would be the implications for the direction of the party, were this to happen?

In this meticulously researched biography, Michael Ashcroft charts Badenoch's fascinating course from relative obscurity to being hailed in some quarters as the saviour of conservatism in the UK.

- £20
- 368pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908620
- August 2024
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SARAH MCLELLAN is a work psychologist and leader who, over twenty years, has partnered with hundreds of organisations to nurture more human places to work. She has experienced the good, the bad and the ugly in workplace cultures. Her fundamental belief that we can build more fulfilling, happier, kinder workplaces propelled her to write this book. Sarah is a regular speaker, writer and thought leader on the world of work. She is a chartered occupational psychologist with the British Psychological Society.

- £14.99
- 320pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908750
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MAKE IT HUMAN

A vision for happier, healthier,
more human workplaces

SARAH MCLELLAN

People in workplaces are more unhappy than ever before. Company cultures are cracking, and many harbour the worst in human behaviour. Individuals are scared to share their true thoughts. They don't really know anyone; building friendships doesn't make the list of things to get done. Leaders frequently turn a blind eye to unethical, aggressive and discriminatory behaviour, especially when it helps the company achieve financial success. Feelings of loneliness, exclusion, fear and exhaustion are flooding organisations. People are choosing to leave in droves, searching for something more meaningful, somewhere they feel valued and able to flourish as a human.

Time is ticking. The model of work that got us here is over 200 years old. It helped us segment time, design efficient processes and produce more things. Artificial intelligence and robots will take over on that side now, but they can't make it human.

Make it Human outlines a vision for a human-led future of work. It includes practical models, new insights and real-life stories, illustrating how we can nurture workplace cultures to invigorate human growth both for us and for generations to come.

Work doesn't have to be a 9–5 meaningless, lonely grind. Together, let's make it human.



PAUL MOORCRAFT first started working in Israel in 1970. He has lived and worked in Sderot on the Gaza border and in Baram on the Lebanese border. He is one of the few westerners who has lived and worked alongside jihadists, often in daily combat, in Afghanistan in the 1980s, Bosnia in the 1990s and in Sudan in the twenty-first century. He is the author of over fifty books, as well as being a former Sandhurst senior instructor and a founder DS at the UK Joint Services and Command Staff College.

- £20
- 320pp
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ISRAEL'S FOREVER WAR

Finding Peace in the Middle East

PAUL MOORCRAFT

The surprise 2023 Hamas-Israel war has completely changed the central conflict in the Middle East. As the conflict has expanded to take in other regional players, the future of Israel as a regional superpower is now in doubt, as is the international system.

This important book looks at the immediate background to the 2023 war and asks whether the international system can contain two simultaneous wars in Europe and the Levant.

It covers the wars won and partly lost by Israel, in 1948 and 1973; the rise of Hamas and fall of the PLO; how Hamas took the Israelis by surprise; Hezbollah, the West Bank and Syria joined the fight; the role of the regional powers; the war's impact on Israel's society, economy and the IDF; and how the conflict impacts the whole region's relationships with the west.



PETER GILLMAN has written or co-authored numerous books including a biography of David Bowie, a history of internment in Britain during the Second World War, and the biography of the 1920s' Everest hero George Mallory. **EMANUELE MIDOLO** is an award-winning investigative reporter and features writer working as a staff journalist for *The Times* and *Sunday Times*.

- £20
- 352pp
- Hardback
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- November 2024
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MURDER IN CAIRO

The Killing of David Holden

PETER GILLMAN & EMANUELE MIDOLO

In December 1977 David Holden, chief foreign correspondent of the *Sunday Times*, arrived at Cairo Airport to report on the crucial peace talks between Egypt and Israel. A few hours later he was dead: killed by a single bullet through his heart. His body was stripped of all identification and dumped in a ditch by a busy road.

Who had killed Holden, and why? Those were the questions pursued by the newspaper's renowned Insight team, overseen by its legendary editor Harold Evans, for the best part of a year.

Now a member of the original Insight team has resumed the quest. Peter Gillman wrote the newspaper's private internal report into the murder, never published before. He has teamed up with a young investigative journalist from today's *Sunday Times*, Emanuele Midolo, to relate a story of intrigue, double-dealing, betrayal and revenge, set against the background of the Cold War and turmoil in global politics.



ADRIAN PHILLIPS is the author of *The King Who Had to Go: Edward VIII, Mrs Simpson and the Hidden Politics of the Abdication Crisis* and *Fighting Churchill, Appeasing Hitler How a British Civil Servant Helped Cause the Second World War*.

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- 400pp
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- October 2024
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WINSTON'S BANDITS

Churchill's Controversial Companions in Adversity and Triumph

ADRIAN PHILLIPS

Throughout his career Churchill was an outsider. He was a serial defector and, for most of the 1930s, a conspicuous internal opponent of his party's leaders. He accumulated a reputation for bad judgement and untrustworthiness. Only risk-takers and fellow outsiders would back him. He needed the company of like-minded individuals to create a social environment in which his personality could flourish. They were the acute and vigorous sparring-partners with whom he could hold the lively discussions which were life itself to him, in the convivial and epicurean surroundings he craved.

Lord Beaverbrook deployed the fortune he had amassed in his native Canada in obscure financial dealings to make a position for himself in Britain. F.E Smith – later Lord Birkenhead – a lifelong tory but worlds apart from the conventionally bland figures of the party. Brendan Bracken, the model for the shady and oafish parvenu politician Rex Mottram in Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. Bob Boothby, who would conduct a long and scandalous affair with the wife of Harold Macmillan, and Charles Lindemann – later Lord Cherwell – an ascetic, vegetarian and near-teetotal, who understood the vital importance of matching Nazi Germany's headlong expansion of its air force and understood far better than many that science would play a key part in the next war.

These were the men Churchill relied on before, during and after the war. This book tells the story of their friendship and of the part they played both in Churchill's triumphs and disasters.



DR MICHELLE CLEMENT is Researcher in Residence at No.10 Downing Street, and lecturer and researcher in reform and delivery in government at The Strand Group, King's College London. She leads the pioneering 'The Blair Years' postgraduate module alongside Prof Jon Davis and John Rentoul.

- £20
- 352pp
- Hardback
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THE ART OF DELIVERY

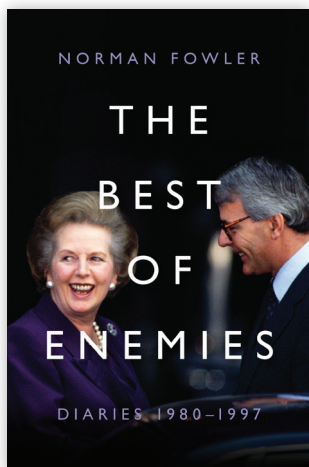
The Inside Story of How the Blair Government Transformed Britain's Public Services

MICHELLE CLEMENT

The Art of Delivery unearths the 'lost narrative' of how the Blair government transformed Britain's public services. On winning the 2001 General Election, Blair told the British people he had received 'a mandate for reform ... an instruction to deliver'.

To turn rhetoric into action he asked Sir Michael Barber to form the first ever Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. Though the Blair government had a huge mandate there remained fundamental challenges to success, namely the Blair-Brown rivalry which manifested itself in a proxy war over the direction of public service reform. Nevertheless, over four years Barber's Delivery Unit directed the implementation of New Labour's transformative public service reform agenda and achieved major improvements to the NHS and the education system, after decades of underinvestment and deteriorating services.

Dr Clement's *The Art of Delivery* is based on brand new research and analysis using 600,000 words of Sir Michael Barber's unpublished, handwritten, private diaries as well as interviews with central protagonists.



NORMAN FOWLER started his career as a journalist at The Times and was an elected MP for over thirty years, serving in Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet before becoming chairman of the Conservative Party under John Major. He joined the House of Lords in 2001. He is the second longest-serving British Health Secretary since the Second World War and has devoted much of his life to raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

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THE BEST OF ENEMIES

Diaries 1980–1997

NORMAN FOWLER

The Best of Enemies is the political diaries of Norman Fowler, one of the most significant politicians of the late twentieth century. Covering the entire Thatcher/Major era – from the former's election in 1979 to the latter's defeat in 1997 – during which time Fowler held prominent positions in the Cabinet. As Transport Secretary he was responsible for making seat belts compulsory and later, as Health Secretary, he worked to draw public attention to the dangers of Aids. He was Chairman of the party from 1992–94.

His diaries observe both Prime Ministers, and their Cabinet colleagues, at close quarters and Fowler brings his training as a journalist to bear on them. The diaries are full of insights and anecdotes and they resonate powerfully with the situation facing the Conservative Party today, including industrial strife, waning authority and a Labour Party looking like a government in waiting.

The entries raise other issues that remain unresolved. They range from the effect that a minister's private sexual conduct should have on their career to whether an entirely 'hands-off' approach to industrial strategy is in the national interest.

Fowler's diaries provide a ringside seat to the struggles of their time. These are not the diaries of an ex-minister seeking to justify their own record. They are the story of how two Prime Ministers rose and fell and caused their party to split apart, told by someone who was there.



DENIS MACSHANE is a former Labour MP who served in Tony Blair's government as Europe Minister from 2002 to 2005. During his time in Parliament, he was a member of the Privy Council and chaired the Commons inquiry into antisemitism. He was first elected as MP for Rotherham in 1994 and served until his resignation in 2012. He lives in Westminster, London.

- £25
- 448pp
- Hardback
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- December 2023
- RIGHTS: World

LABOUR TAKES POWER

The Denis MacShane Diaries
1997–2001

DENIS MACSHANE

With the strong possibility of Labour forming our next government in 2024, it is fascinating to consider the last time the party stood on the verge of power, back in 1997. At that time, future Europe Minister Denis MacShane had a ringside seat that he would occupy for the next decade or so, living through Cool Britannia, the Good Friday Agreement, Peter Mandelson's multiple resignations, Princess Diana's death and Tony Blair's seeming invincibility.

New Labour may be remembered as an unstoppable force, but what MacShane's diaries reveal is that while, outwardly, all seemed to be going well, the personal rivalries, slights and petty jealousies of the party's big beasts meant that it was never far from disaster.

MacShane was a regular in Downing Street from the moment of Labour's election victory, and his candid, intimate diaries show figures such as Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Peter Mandelson, Clare Short and Alastair Campbell in a light in which they've never been seen before, detailing the personalities as much as the politics of Labour's most successful stint in government.



LINDA MCDOUGALL is a New Zealand-born journalist, television producer and author. She is also known for being the wife of the late Austin Mitchell, who was a British journalist and the Labour Member of Parliament for Great Grimsby from a 1977 by-election until 2015. She is the author of *Cherie: The Perfect Life of Mrs Blair and Westminster Women*. She lives in West Yorkshire.

- £25
- 304pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785907524
- November 2023
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MARCIA WILLIAMS

The life and times of Baroness Falkender

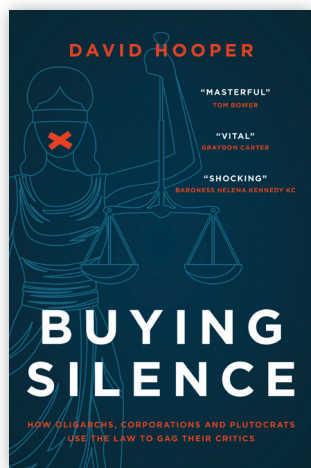
LINDA MCDOUGALL

Over a decade before Margaret Thatcher swept to power, another woman was running Britain from 10 Downing Street: Marcia Williams was the first ever female political adviser to a Prime Minister and was said to have a powerful grip on her boss.

Historians have described the relationship between Marcia and Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson as one of the most famous but mysterious partnerships in modern political history. A brilliant tactician, Marcia masterminded Wilson's multiple election victories. Indeed, he said that but for her ingenuity, he would never have become Prime Minister.

But misogyny, jealousy, a shocking private life and accusations of money-grubbing and bribery all contributed to her reputation as a public nuisance. Marcia's young and ambitious male colleagues said she humiliated and screamed at Wilson, single-handedly ruining his chances of being remembered as a 'great' Prime Minister.

In this passionate and fascinating biography, Linda McDougall seeks to rescue Marcia from previously dismissive verdicts, suggesting a more nuanced context in which to assess her actions and reactions and restoring this trailblazing pioneer to her rightful place in British political history.



DAVID HOOPER is a leading media lawyer, having worked with publishers and newspapers in the UK and the US. He has represented a President, a Prime Minister, MPs, authors, journalists, academics, sportsmen, actors, film directors, doctors and industrialists but always acts against rather than for oligarchs. His previous works include *Public Scandal*, *Odium and Contempt*, *Official Secrets: The Use and Abuse of the Act and Reputations Under Fire: Winners and Losers in the Libel Business*.

- £25
- 384pp
- Hardback
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BUYING SILENCE

How oligarchs, corporations and plutocrats use the law to gag their critics

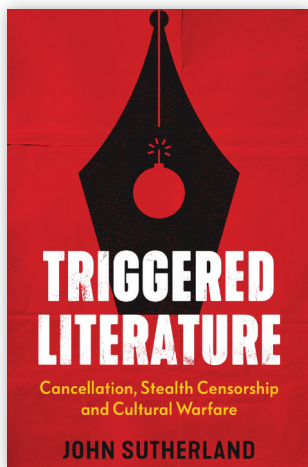
DAVID HOOPER

Book of the Year, *The Spectator*

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, or SLAPPs, are designed to censor, intimidate and silence critics of the powerful and wealthy by burdening them with aggressive opposing lawyers, heavy legal costs and deeply intrusive – and sometimes illegal – private investigations until they abandon the case.

The UK has the unenviable accolade of being the number one destination for such cases. Billionaire oligarchs, often ex-convicts and linked to organised crime, come here to launder their reputations through suing for libel – even when what’s been written about them is entirely true. Even worse, more often than not they either win their cases or scare their opponents into self-censorship, in a devastating blow to investigative journalism, media freedom and the public interest.

In this timely, insightful and often shocking book, David Hooper, veteran media lawyer, explores how the power of money enables the very wealthy – including Robert Maxwell, Nadhim Zahawi and McDonald’s – to crush their critics through SLAPP tactics. From billionaire oligarchs to powerful corporations, from corrupt politicians to super-rich businesspeople, Hooper describes how those with something to hide tried to stop you knowing about it, how their lawyers were willing to help them and – most importantly – what the government urgently needs to do to stop them.



JOHN SUTHERLAND

is Emeritus Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature at University College London and previously taught at the California Institute of Technology. He writes regularly for *The Guardian*, *The Times* and the *New York Times* and is the author of many books, including *Curiosities of Literature*; *Henry V*, *War Criminal?* (with Cedric Watts); biographies of Walter Scott, Stephen Spender and the Victorian elephant Jumbo; and *The Boy Who Loved Books*, a memoir.

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TRIGGERED LITERATURE

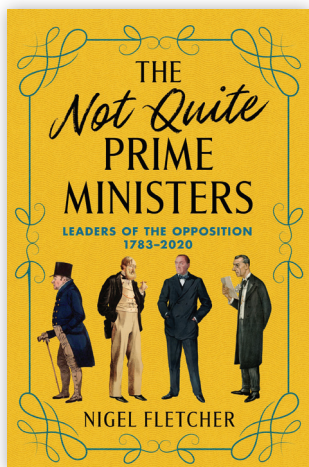
Cancellation, Stealth Censorship and Cultural Warfare

JOHN SUTHERLAND

Amid the flames of the culture wars, politicians have taken up arms over controls on literary culture, spurred on in part by universities 'triggering' canonical texts. Jonathan Swift's 'Battle of the Books' has flared up again. But is 'triggering' utter wokery or responsible pedagogic practice?

Through dozens of case studies of triggered works, from *Romeo and Juliet* to *Gender Queer*, John Sutherland explores the recent phenomenon of triggering and its consequences for university English departments and literature itself. He maintains that what is routinely overlooked in the heat of polemic is that triggering is categorically different from traditional institutional (religious, educational, dictatorial) controls on literature. Triggering is in essence an alert. Done responsibly it does not erase or meddle; it stimulates curiosity and thought. It honours the fact that great literature is great because it is, as Franz Kafka says, powerful.

In this characteristically nuanced and calmly objective study, the witty literary critic guides us through the increasingly rocky terrain of triggering. His advice rings clear: literature matters, to us and what we make of our world, and it must be handled with critical care.



NIGEL FLETCHER is a political historian and has taught at King's College London since 2017. He is the co-founder of the Centre for Opposition Studies, an independent research organisation that promotes the study of political opposition. He previously edited *How to Be In Opposition* (Biteback, 2011) and now regularly writes and broadcasts on a range of political, historical and constitutional issues.

- £25
- 368pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 99781785908101
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: World

THE NOT QUITE PRIME MINISTERS

Leaders of the Opposition 1783–2020

NIGEL FLETCHER

History is written by the winners, they say. And more often than not, it is written about them too. A library's worth of books have been published chronicling the UK's Prime Ministers – those individuals who somehow made it to the top of the greasy pole of politics, however short or undistinguished their tenure.

But what about those who failed to make it? Leaders of the Opposition present themselves as the alternative Prime Minister, waiting in the wings, ready to move centre stage. Many of them have indeed gone on to take power. But many more have not. Who were these potential PMs? Why did they never reach the top job? Do they all deserve to be remembered as losers?

In this often wildly entertaining anthology, Dr Nigel Fletcher of the Centre for Opposition Studies brings together profiles of the opposition leaders who didn't make it to No. 10, from Charles James Fox to Jeremy Corbyn. Packed to the brim with odd facts, amusing anecdotes and pub quiz trivia about each not quite Prime Minister, this compelling collection is a journey through British political history, bringing to life the figures from the other side of the political equation who had remained in the shadow of 10 Downing Street – until now.

NEWBON, BLOODY HELL



A Life in Sports Broadcasting
GARY NEWBON

GART NEWBON has been one of Britain's most high-profile sports broadcasters. He has covered seven World Cup finals, three Olympic Games, European football at both national and club level, many boxing world title fights and a host of other sporting events. He has presented thousands of television programmes, winning three coveted Royal Television Society awards. He lives in Solihull, West Midlands.

- £20
- 352pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908163
- November 2023
- RIGHTS: World

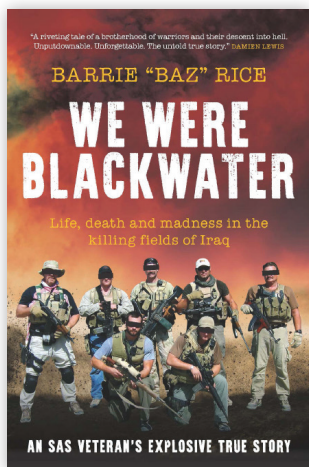
NEWBON, BLOODY HELL

A Life in Sports Broadcasting

GARY NEWBON

Over the past fifty years, Gary Newbon has established himself as an icon of sports broadcasting. He interviewed Sir Alex Ferguson after Manchester United clinched a historic treble in 1999. He was in the ring when Gerald McClellan collapsed after suffering life-changing injuries in his fight with Nigel Benn. Nigel Mansell was his neighbour. This is the tale of a man who has spent his life in close proximity to legends; he interviewed them, befriended them and shared their defining moments until he became part of the DNA of Britain's sporting history. Many of his interviews are still used in TV shows today.

In his highly anticipated memoir, Newbon tells all. Encompassing a plethora of anecdotes that reveal the depth and wit of figures such as Brian Clough, Muhammad Ali, Billie Jean King and many others, this book considers how these people felt and thought during the pivotal sporting moments of the past half-century. From the Hand of God goal to the Munich massacre, Gary Newbon was there for it all. This, for the first time, is his story.



BARRIE RICE served in the New Zealand Special Air Service (1 NZSAS). He left the SAS in 1995 and has since worked as a private security contractor, sole operator bodyguard, close protection instructor and team leader for international security companies, such as Blackwater, and with military units and law enforcement agencies. He has also provided military consultancy and weapons training for Oscar-winning movies such as the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *The Hurt Locker* and *Zero Dark Thirty* and for a host of TV shows.

- £20
- 496pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908149
- July 2023
- RIGHTS: World

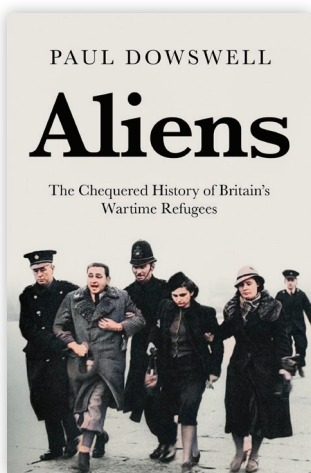
WE WERE BLACKWATER

Life, death and madness in the killing fields of Iraq – an SAS veteran's explosive true story

BARRIE "BAZ" RICE

The aftermath of the 2003 Iraq invasion is a story that has yet to be told by those who fought their own war against a brutal insurgency: the private security contractors. Risking life and limb, often side by side with the US military but far more exposed, they were never to receive a hero's homecoming. They remained in the shadows, often with good cause, but that would change for ever on 31 March 2004, when a security convoy was ambushed in Fallujah and the charred bodies of two American operators were strung from a road bridge. Those events would ensure notoriety for the company involved: Blackwater.

This is the untold story of the security industry and its private war, recounted by a man who witnessed it first hand: SAS veteran and New Zealand national Barrie Rice. His visceral, no-holds-barred account of his time with Blackwater is brought to life in scenes that lead to a reckoning with both the war and himself. This gripping account delivers a compelling slice of reality – the inside story of the private contractor's war.



PAUL DOWSWELL is a prize-winning author. His best-known work is *Ausländer*, which takes as its central theme the bizarre world of Nazi racial science. The *Financial Times* declared that it 'ranks among the very best of wartime historical fiction'. The novel won the Hamelin Associazione Culturale Book Prize and the Trinity Schools Book Award. He is a visiting professor at Manchester Metropolitan University and a frequent visitor to schools across the UK.

- £25
- 320pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785907937
- August 2023
- RIGHTS: World English

ALIENS

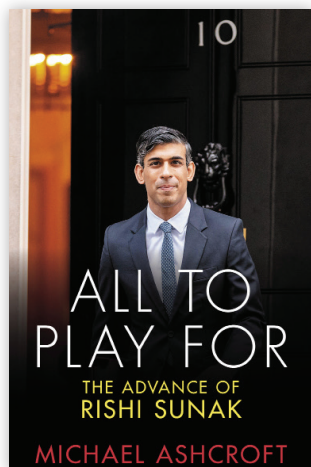
The Chequered History of Britain's Wartime Refugees

PAUL DOWSWELL

The welcome given to refugees from fascist Europe is part of our fond nostalgia for Britain's role in the Second World War, nestling in our imagination next to images of evacuees clutching teddy bears, and milkmen picking their way through bomb rubble during the Blitz. But there is a darker side to this story. Then, as now, there was great suspicion, resentment and fear towards new arrivals, much of it kindled by the tabloid press. Then, as now, politicians dealt with a reluctance to accommodate refugees by hiding behind bureaucratic hurdles and obfuscation.

Many of the 10,000 *Kindertransport* children who arrived here in the late 1930s have warm memories of the kindness they were shown, but half a million refugees were refused entry and most of them died as a result. And those who were accepted found their troubles far from over. While Britain fearfully awaited invasion in 1940, 30,000 Jews were interned as 'enemy aliens' and some were sent off to the colonies on dangerous and sometimes fatal voyages. Nor were Jews the only refugees clamouring for the thin gruel of public sympathy. Those fleeing fascism and civil war elsewhere in Europe found that whether they were met with kindness or hostility depended on the locals' political affiliations and newspapers of choice.

Interweaving personal testimonies with historical sources, Paul Dowswell casts a fresh eye on the wartime era, painting a vivid picture of what life was *really* like for Britain's refugees.



LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC

is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. He is a former treasurer and deputy chairman of the Conservative Party. He is founder and chairman of the board of trustees of Crimestoppers, vice-patron of the Intelligence Corps Museum, chairman of the trustees of Ashcroft Technology Academy, a senior fellow of the International Strategic Studies Association and a former trustee of Imperial War Museums.

- £16.99
- 528pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785907968
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: World

ALL TO PLAY FOR

The Advance of Rishi Sunak

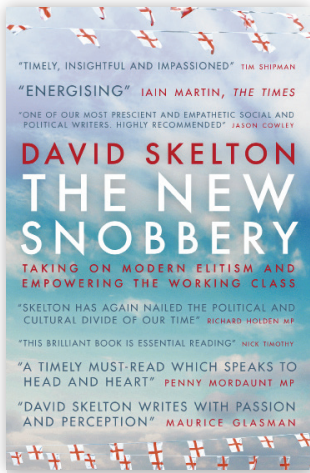
MICHAEL ASHCROFT

The speed of Rishi Sunak's advance to 10 Downing Street is without precedent in modern British politics. In mid-2019, he was an unknown junior minister; seven months later, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer; and by October 2022, he had secured the highest office in the land. Aged forty-two, he was Britain's youngest Prime Minister in more than 200 years.

Michael Ashcroft's biography – first published in 2020 and now fully revised and updated – charts Sunak's ascent to the University of Oxford, the City of London, Silicon Valley and Westminster before assuming the most powerful job in the country in chaotic circumstances.

It is the story of a clever and hard-working son of immigrant parents who marries an heiress and makes a fortune of his own; a polished southerner who wins over the voters of North Yorkshire; a fiscal conservative who becomes the biggest-spending Chancellor in history; and a fastidious political operator tasked with reuniting the Conservative Party and repairing an economy in flux.

Casting new light on Sunak's tense working relationship with his predecessor, Boris Johnson, *All to Play For* shows what makes him tick ahead of a general election whose outcome will have profound consequences for Britain.



DAVID SKELTON was head of research at Policy Exchange between 2011 and 2013 and later founded Renewal, with the aim of broadening the appeal of the Conservative Party and pushing the policy concerns of the 'left behind'. David has written for a number of publications, including *The Guardian*, the *New Statesman*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Times*, *ConservativeHome* and *The Spectator*.

- £9.99
- 288pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908262
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: World

THE NEW SNOBBERY

Taking on modern elitism and empowering the working class

DAVID SKELTON

An insidious snobbery has taken root in parts of progressive Britain. Working-class voters have flexed their political muscles and helped to change the direction of the country, but in doing so they have been met with disdain and even abuse from elites in politics, culture and business.

At election time, we hear a lot about 'levelling up the Red Wall'. But what can actually be done to meet the very real concerns of the 'left behind' in the UK's post-industrial towns? In these once vibrant hubs of progress, working-class voters now face the prospect of being minimised, marginalised and abandoned.

In this new updated edition of his rousing polemic, David Skelton explores the roots and reality of this new snobbery, calling for an end to the divisive culture war and the creation of a new politics of the common good, empowering workers, remaking the economy and placing communities centre stage. Above all, he argues that we now have a once-in-a-century opportunity to bring about permanent change.

"Devastating"
Daily Mail

"Essential reading"
The Observer

Tom Harper



Broken Yard

The Fall of the
Metropolitan Police

TOM HARPER is a multi-award-winning investigative journalist. His honours include Scoop of the Year and Young Journalist of the Year at the British Press Awards. Tom has also been nominated as Specialist Journalist of the Year, News Reporter of the Year and Crime and Legal Affairs Journalist of the Year at the British Journalism Awards. He has held senior roles at a number of national newspapers, including *The Independent* and the *Sunday Times*.

- £14.99
- 496pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908071
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: UK Comm

BROKEN YARD

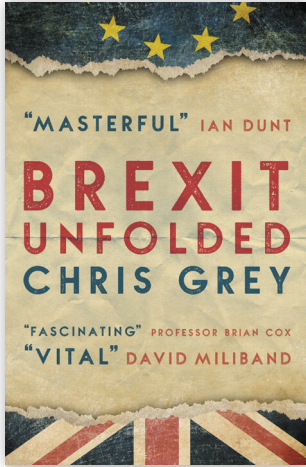
The Fall of the Metropolitan Police

TOM HARPER

Barely a week goes by without the Metropolitan Police being plunged into a new crisis. Demoralised, Scotland Yard is a shadow of its former self.

Spanning the three decades from the infamous Stephen Lawrence case to the shocking murder of Sarah Everard, *Broken Yard* charts the Met's fall from a position of unparalleled power to the troubled and discredited organisation we see today. The result is a devastating picture of a police force riven with corruption, misogyny and incompetence.

Throughout this fully updated edition, which includes an assessment of Mark Rowley's first year as commissioner and the Met's failure to adequately vet the likes of Wayne Couzens and David Carrick, Tom Harper makes use of intelligence files, witness statements and first-hand accounts to explain how London's world-famous police force got itself into this sorry mess – and how it might get itself out of it.



CHRIS GREY is the author of a popular and influential blog on Brexit (now entitled 'Brexit & Beyond'), which has led to him being described as 'the best writer on Brexit' by the Europe editor of *The Economist*, 'the best guy to follow on Brexit for intelligent analysis' by the London Bureau Chief of ARD German TV and 'a must-read for anyone following Brexit' by the law and policy contributing editor of the *Financial Times*.

- £10.99
- 336pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908279
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: World

BREXIT UNFOLDED

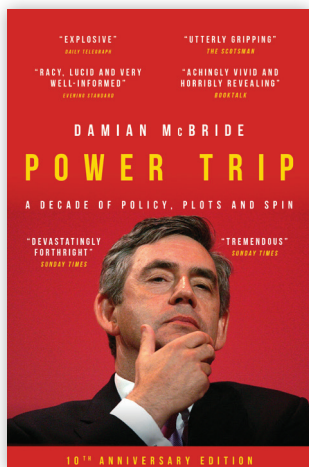
How no one got what they wanted
(and why they were never going to)

CHRIS GREY

Britain's 2016 vote to leave the EU divided the nation, unleashing years of political turmoil. Today, many remain unreconciled to Brexit whilst, in a tragic irony, some of those most committed to it are angry and dissatisfied with what was delivered.

In this clear-headed assessment, Chris Grey argues that this painful legacy was all but inevitable, skilfully unpacking how and why the promise of Brexit dissolved during the confusing and often dramatic events that followed the referendum.

Now fully updated with an afterword covering each element of the Brexit debate since the end of the transition period in 2021, this new edition remains the essential guide to one of the most bitterly contested issues of our time.



DAMIAN MCBRIDE was born in north London in 1974, the youngest of four brothers. He was educated at Finchley Catholic High School and read history at Peterhouse, Cambridge. He joined HM Customs and Excise as a fast stream civil servant in 1996, and moved to the Treasury in 1999. In 2003, he became the Treasury's Head of Communications, reporting directly to Gordon Brown. After the 2005 election, he became the Chancellor's political adviser, a role he maintained when Brown became Prime Minister

- £14.99
- 496pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908385
- September 2023
- RIGHTS: World

POWER TRIP

A Decade of Policy, Plots and Spin

DAMIAN MCBRIDE

From 1999 to 2009, Damian McBride worked at the heart of the Treasury and No. 10. He was a pivotal member of Gordon Brown's inner circle before a notorious scandal propelled him out of Downing Street and onto the front pages. Known by friend and foe as 'Mad Dog' or 'McPoison', Brown's right-hand man demonstrated a ruthless desire to protect and promote New Labour's no. 2, whatever the cost.

Laying bare his journey from naive civil servant to disgraced spin-doctor, McBride writes candidly about his experiences at the elbows of Brown, Balls and Miliband, detailing the feuds, plots and media manipulation that lay at New Labour's core.

This explosive memoir of one of Westminster's most controversial figures is an eye-watering exposé of British politics and a compelling story of the struggles and scandals that populate the political world.

TORRID TIMES

PETER BROOKES

PETER BROOKES is the political cartoonist for *The Times*. Among other honours, he has won the British Press Awards Cartoonist of the Year eight times, the Political Cartoon Society's Cartoonist of the Year six times and the Cartoon Art Trust Award six times. He won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cartoon Art Trust in 2017 and was appointed CBE in the same year. He has produced several highly successful collections of his work.

- £30
- 112pp
- Hardback
- ISBN: 9781785908248
- October 2023
- RIGHTS: World

Torrid Times is the brilliant and unflinching new collection of sketches of contemporary political life by *The Times*'s master of satire, Peter Brookes.

Within these pages, the multiple winner of the British Press Awards Cartoonist of the Year showcases the standout pieces from his political cartoons in *The Times*, up to the minute and breathtaking in their bite and wit.

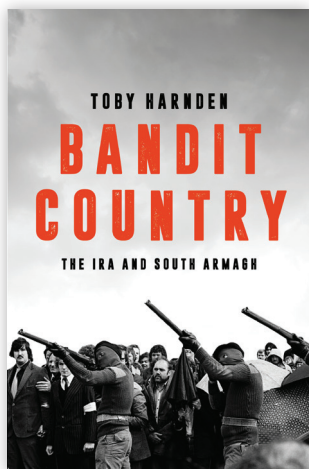
Cataloguing two of the most turbulent years on record, *Torrid Times* provides an unsparing critique of political leaders and events at home and abroad. From Partygate and Prince Harry to Liz Truss's disastrous time in office and Putin's devastating war in Ukraine, this collection of exquisitely crafted cartoons provides vivid proof, were it needed, that we are indeed living through torrid times.

TORRID TIMES

Peter Brookes



A new collection from the award-winning *Times* cartoonist



TOBY HARNDEN is a dual British and American citizen. A former foreign correspondent for the *Sunday Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* who has reported from thirty-three countries, he specialises in terrorism and war. His bestseller *Dead Men Risen: The Welsh Guards and the Defining Story of Britain's War in Afghanistan* (Quercus, 2011) was winner of the 2012 Orwell Prize. His most recent book is *First Casualty* (Little Brown, 2021). His acclaimed *Bandit Country* was originally published in 2000.

- £12.99
- 592pp
- Paperback
- ISBN: 9781785908620
- January 2024
- RIGHTS: World

BANDIT COUNTRY

The IRA and South Armagh

TOBY HARNDEN

New edition of one of the most celebrated books on the Troubles.

Famously described as 'bandit country' by Merlyn Rees when he was Northern Ireland Secretary, for nearly three decades South Armagh was the most dangerous posting in the world for a British soldier.

In this acclaimed work of reportage, originally published in 2000, Toby Harnden stripped away the myth and propaganda associated with the region to produce one of the most compelling and important books on the Troubles. Drawing on secret documents and interviews on South Armagh's recent history, Harnden told the inside story of how the IRA came close to bringing the British state to its knees.

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