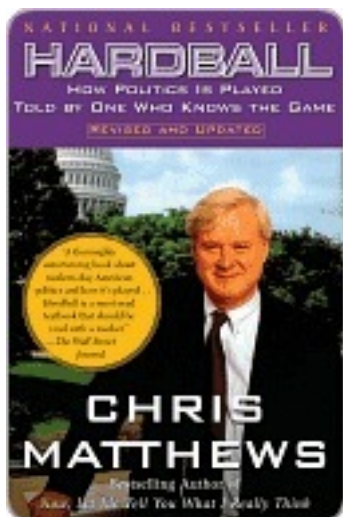

Chris Matthews

Hardball : How Politics Is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game



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Author: Chris Matthews

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Description

How politics is played by one who knows the game...

Chris Matthews has spent a quarter century on the playing field of American politics - from righthand man of Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill to host of NBC's highest rated cable talk show *Hardball*. In this revised and updated edition of his political classic, he offers fascinating new stories of raw ambition, brutal rivalry, and exquisite seduction and reveals the inside rules that govern the game of power.

Insightful reviews

Kate Brennan: It was what I expected. The game is about who you know. Oh yeah, and money.

Andy: Great book... political classic

Apatheticus: *Hardball* is, without a doubt, an informative and entertaining book. It offers insight into, as he puts it, how politics is really played. However, what it turned into was a guidebook. Like Matthews remarks in the first paragraph of his introduction, "I had no idea this book would become a classic, that many hard-nosed politicians would employ it as their bible, that CEOs would be caught carrying it in their briefcases, that young people set on bright careers would cherish their copies as if they were treasure maps..." Given the role this book was thrust into as more of a guide than a simple "insider's look" casts the book in a more sinister light. *Hardball* reads a little bit like a book on picking up girls at a bar: sure, the advice might work, but that doesn't make it the ideal (or even morally correct) option. In his chapter on dealing with the press, Matthews notes not just one, but several different politicians who used spin and other clever cover-ups to hide racist, sexist, and discriminatory remarks they had made. Jesse Jackson notably lost the 1984 presidential election after making anti-Semitic statements, and White House Chief of Staff Don Regan came under fire in 1986 for opposing a South African trade embargo with the phrase "Are the women of America prepared to give up all their jewelry?" It is in this context that Matthews offers his advice for controlling the way the press views you. Shouldn't the people who make these remarks be made to deal with the consequences, and not taught ways to lessen the criticism they receive? Do we really want to vote for these people?

Furthermore, Matthews shows that all of his "rules" work with page after page of anecdotal evidence. There is no data given to prove any of his rules, just a smattering of instances in which it has worked out in the past. There isn't really any proof that the examples Matthews chose indicate a universal truth, or if he just hand-picked past scenarios that backed up the point he was trying to make. Anecdotes aren't data.

But that's not to say that Matthews' book is without merit. It serves as a good introduction to contemporary politics, and a good primer for modern American history. Much of his advice carries over from the political realm to the personal, such as his "Don't Get Mad; Don't Get Even; Get Ahead" philosophy. It's informative, and his conversational tone keeps an often-boring subject interesting. Regardless of what criticism it may incur, I'm glad I read *Hardball*.

Tamal: I needed to learn this in high school or even on the time I presumed it used to be lovely good, yet on reflection the techniques of politicians he talks approximately during this booklet are highly accurate. What is extra fascinating is that there are a number of classes you could find out about easy methods to make the most of political suggestions on your ordinary social existence and methods you will be effective in attaining your goals. He additionally makes use of numerous examples of events he observed first-hand and writes in regards to the procedure at the back of the events that the politicians used to their advantage. It really is relatively a fascinating read. This can be a reliable learn in particular for people that suppose that politics is a dumb video game of pretend smiles and pretend promises. This ebook primarily concurs with that perspective, but additionally exhibits the chess-like online game that is in the back of the entire faux smiles.

Molly: It is an extremely popular publication concerning the operating of politics and might be now not the easiest written/researched book, however it is particularly enticing for a political learn (not consistently a simple feat). The publication bargains willing and arguable analyses at the working of our smooth political system. It's a reliable learn for presidency AP students. We simply used a section of it in school bearing on media simply because Matthews deals a few particularly scathing analyses that sparks pupil curiosity and discussion. Matthews does write via his personal own lens, which calls for that scholars be quite conscious of bias, yet I additionally imagine it enlivens the informational nature of the book.

Kevin Kirkhoff: I might visible Chris Matthews' exhibit *Hardball* and used to be rather watching for examining his book. The identify by myself acquired me interested. The internal workings of Washington. Possibly now I will comprehend why issues are the best way they are. I learn virtually 1/2 the publication and got here away with merely easy premises that have been repeated and exemplified advert nauseum. 1. Get to understand each person you can. They can assist you within the future. 2. Be great for your enemies. They can assist you within the future. This might were an exceptional booklet if Matthews made some extent and sponsored it up with a pertinent tale or two. Unfortunately, it was once a narrative or ten. I discovered myself analyzing the 1st paragraph or of a topic, then skipping to the subsequent subject. Ok, Chris, I am getting your point. Now we have overwhelmed the horse. Let's stream on. Maybe it was once his writing sort that could not carry my interest. Who knows. After it slow I obtained uninterested in it all.

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