


****STRICTLY UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8.45pm on WEDNESDAY 6th FEBRUARY****

THE PADDY POWER AND TOTAL POLITICS
POLITICAL
BOOK
AWARDS
2013



The graphic features a silhouette of a bookshelf with several books of varying heights. To the right of the books is a silhouette of a clock tower, resembling Big Ben, with a clock face visible. The entire graphic is rendered in a dark grey or black color.

The Day Parliament Burned Down by Caroline Shenton, published by OUP, won the **Political Book of the Year** tonight, at the inaugural **Paddy Power and Total Politics Political Book Awards**. The glittering ceremony, hosted by author and broadcaster Gyles Brandreth, and held at the BFI IMAX, was attended by a select audience of authors, publishers and politicians. A cheque for £10,000 was donated and presented to the winning author by Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC. The book was up against fierce competition in a category which included *Live from Downing Street* by Nick Robinson (Bantam Press), *The Burden of Power* by Alastair Campbell (Hutchinson), *Education, Education, Education* by Andrew Adonis (Biteback), *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu & James A. Robinson (Profile), *Britain's Quest for a Role* by David Hannay (I. B. Tauris), *Ever the Diplomat* by Sherard Cowper-Coles (HarperPress), *Everybody Matters* by Mary Robinson (Hodder), *A History of the World* by Andrew Marr (Macmillan) and *The Politics of Coalition* by Robert Hazell and Ben Yong (Hart). However, in spite of all the impressive entrants on the shortlist, the judges for this category – Lord Ashcroft, Professor Mary Beard, Chris Mullin, Keith Simpson MP, Carolyn Quinn and Adam Boulton – reached a unanimous decision when they met to choose the winner. Judge Professor Mary Beard described the book as ‘microhistory at its absolute best’.

Lord Ashcroft also donated money for two other prizes: Patrick Kennedy CEO of chief award sponsor **Paddy Power**, presented a cheque for £3,000 to Ian Cobain, author of *Cruel Britannia: A Secret History of Torture* (Portobello Books), which won the **Debut Political Book of the Year**.

Owen Jones, an author and columnist on *The Independent*, won the award for **Young Writer of the Year**, and received his cheque from former GMTV presenter Fiona Phillips.

There was strong competition for the **Political Biography of the Year**. The shortlist included *The Burden of Power* by Alastair Campbell (Hutchinson), *Last Man Standing* by Jack Straw (Macmillan), *Nancy: The Story of Lady Astor* by Adrian Fort (Jonathan Cape), *Inside the Centre: The Life of J. Robert Oppenheimer* by Ray Monk (Jonathan Cape), *A Kick against the Pricks: The Autobiography* by David Norris (Transworld Ireland) and *Events, Dear Boy, Events* by Ruth Winstone (Profile). The award was won by *Muckraker: the Scandalous Life and Times of W. T. Stead* by W. Sydney Robinson (The Robson Press), who received his award from Ann Widdecombe, one of the category judges. This is his first book.

Ian McEwan's novel, *Sweet Tooth* (Jonathan Cape) won **Political Fiction Book of the Year** which was presented by Alastair Campbell, one of the judges for that award.

The **Political Humour/Satire category** was won by *The Best of Matt 2012* (Orion). Telegraph cartoonist Matthew Pritchett received his award from Margaret Thatcher impersonator Steve Nallon, who entertained guests at the ceremony with his fantastic performance of the former Prime Minister.

Writer and campaigner Jemima Khan presented the award for **International Affairs Book of the Year**, which was won by *Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (Profile).

Polemic of the Year went to *You Can't Read This Book* by Nick Cohen (Fourth Estate) and was presented by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, a commentator and journalist on *The Independent*.

Lady Antonia Fraser presented Christopher Duggan, author of *Fascist Voices* (Bodley Head) with the award for **Political History Book of the Year**.

Television presenter Peter Snow presented the award for **Political Process Book of the Year**. The award was won by *Ever the Diplomat* by Sherard Cowper-Coles (Harper Press).

The award for **Lifetime Achievement in Political Literature** went to former MP and Cabinet Minister Tony Benn for his outstanding contribution to politics and political writing. It was presented by Chris Mullin, and a short film documenting his life, courtesy of Praslin Pictures, was shown beforehand.

Iain Dale, the brains behind the awards, said 'These awards celebrate the fantastic breadth of political writing in the UK today. We hope that they will encourage more people to both write and read political literature, and that they will become an annual event in the publishing awards calendar.'

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SUZANNE SANGSTER ON
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NOTES TO EDITORS:

WINNERS AND SHORTLISTS IN FULL

POLITICAL BOOK OF THE YEAR

***The Day Parliament Burned Down* by Caroline Shenton (OUP) (winner)**

A History of the World by Andrew Marr (Macmillan)

Education, Education, Education by Andrew Adonis (Biteback)

Ever the Diplomat by Sherard Cowper-Coles (HarperPress)

Everybody Matters by Mary Robinson (Hodder & Stoughton)

Live From Downing Street by Nick Robinson (Bantam Press)

The Burden of Power by Alastair Campbell (Hutchinson)

The Politics of Coalition by Robert Hazell and Ben Yong (Hart Publishing)

Why Nations Fail by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (Profile Books)

DEBUT POLITICAL BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Cruel Britannia* by Ian Cobain (Portobello Books)**

Bloody Nasty People by Daniel Trilling (Verso Books)

Everybody Matters by Mary Robinson (Hodder & Stoughton)

Half A Wife by Gaby Hinsliff (Chatto & Windus)

Live From Downing Street by Nick Robinson (Bantam Press)

Revolution 2.0 by Wael Ghonim (Fourth Estate)

The Young Atheist's Handbook by Alom Shaha (Biteback)

POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY OF THE YEAR

***Muckraker: The Scandalous Life and Times of W. T. Stead* by W. Sydney Robinson (The Robson Press)**

Events, Dear Boy, Events by Ruth Winstone (Profile Books)

Inside the Centre: The Life of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Ray Monk (Jonathan Cape)

Last Man Standing by Jack Straw (Macmillan)

Nancy: The Story of Lady Astor by Adrian Fort (Jonathan Cape)

The Burden of Power by Alastair Campbell (Hutchinson)

POLEMIC OF THE YEAR

***You Can't Read This Book* by Nick Cohen (Fourth Estate)**

A Doomed Marriage: Britain and Europe by Daniel Hannan (Notting Hill Editions)

Arguing for Independence by Stephen Maxwell (Luath Press)

Britain for Sale by Alex Brummer (Cornerstone)

Defending Politics by Matthew Flinders (OUP)

Drugs – Without the Hot Air by David Nutt (UIT Cambridge)

Education, Education, Education by Andrew Adonis (Biteback)

The End of Politics by Douglas Carswell (Biteback)

The Geek Manifesto by Mark Henderson (Bantam Press)

The New Few by Ferdinand Mount (Simon & Schuster)

POLITICAL HISTORY BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Fascist Voices* by Christopher Duggan (Bodley Head)**

The Day Parliament Burned Down by Caroline Shenton (OUP)

Real Britannia by Colin Brown (Oneworld Publications)

The Liberal Unionist Party: A History by Ian Cawood (I.B. Tauris)

The Road Not Taken by Frank McLynn (Bodley Head)

The Unlikely Warriors by Richard Baxell (Aurum Press)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Why Nations Fail* by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (Profile Books)**

Gang of One by Gary Mulgrew (Hodder & Stoughton)

Is China Buying the World? by Peter Nolan (Polity Press)

Mullahs Without Mercy by Geoffrey Robertson (Biteback)

No Worse Enemy by Ben Anderson (Oneworld Publications)

Nuclear Iran by David Patrikarakos (I.B. Tauris)

On the Front Line by Marie Colvin (HarperPress)

The Strongman: Vladimir Putin and the Struggle for Russia by Angus Roxburgh (I.B. Tauris)

Tiger Head, Snake Tails by Jonathan Fenby (Simon & Schuster)

POLITICAL PROCESS BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Ever the Diplomat* by Sherard Cowper-Coles (HarperPress)**

Britain Unchained by Kwasi Kwarteng, Priti Patel, Dominic Raab, Chris Skidmore, Elizabeth Truss (Palgrave Macmillan)

Lessons from the Top by Gavin Esler (Profile Books)

Philip Gould: An Unfinished Life by Dennis Kavanagh (Palgrave Macmillan)

Stumbling Over Truth by Kevin Marsh (Biteback)

The Politics of Coalition by Robert Hazell and Ben Yong (Hart Publishing)

POLITICAL HUMOUR/SATIRE BOOK OF THE YEAR

***The Best of Matt 2012* by Matthew Pritchett (Orion)**

Ban This Filth! by Ben Thompson (Faber & Faber)

Eminent Elizabethans by Piers Brendon (Jonathan Cape)

House of Fun by Simon Hoggart (Guardian Books)

Is That Mic Off? by Phil Mason and Matthew Parris (The Robson Press)

The Spanish Ambassador's Suitcase by Matthew Parris and Andrew Bryson (Viking)

POLITICAL FICTION BOOK OF THE YEAR

***Sweet Tooth* by Ian McEwan (Jonathan Cape)**

Pawn's Gambit by Harry Armstrong (Arena Books)

Skagboys by Irvine Welsh (Jonathan Cape)

The Geneva Trap by Stella Rimington (Bloomsbury)

A Sentimental Traitor by Michael Dobbs (Simon & Schuster)

PADDYPOWER.

Paddy Power were one of the first bookmakers to offer betting based on the political landscape and have enjoyed speculating on both the domestic and international scene ever since. Paddy Power is a leading business in the betting and gaming sector with over 300 shops in the UK and Ireland, rapidly expanding mobile and online channels, as well as gaming and B2B ventures across Europe and Australia. Paddy Power takes an unconventional approach to betting and gaming within the industry, offering customers an unparalleled experience based on providing maximum entertainment and value. Headquartered in Dublin, Paddy Power is publicly quoted on both the Irish and London Stock Exchanges.

totalpolitics

Total Politics is a magazine which is unremittingly positive about politics, the political process and political lifestyles. It seeks to entertain, engage and inform, and show politics in a different light.

Awards donated by
Lord Ashcroft

Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is a Tory peer, international businessman, philanthropist and author. He served as Treasurer of the Conservative Party from 1998-2001 and as Deputy Chairman of the party from 2005-10. Since last year, he has served as the Prime Minister's Special Representative for Veterans' Transition. Lord Ashcroft has numerous business interests in the world of politics, including controlling interests in Biteback Publishing, Conservative Home website and a major interest in Dods Plc. He is the author of eight books, three of them on politics, and nine pamphlets, eight of them on politics. Lord Ashcroft is a substantial investor in numerous private and public companies, and has founded and supported several charities.