



Who Governs Britain?

Anthony King

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The British system has been radically transformed in recent decades, far more than most of us realise. As acclaimed political scientist and bestselling author Anthony King shows, this transformation lies at the heart of British politics today. Imagining - or pretending - that the British political system and Britain's place in the world have not greatly changed, our political leaders consistently promise more than they can perform. Political and economic power is now widely dispersed both inside and outside the UK, but Westminster politicians still talk the language of Attlee and Churchill. How exactly has the British system changed? Where does power now lie? In *Who Governs Britain?*, King offers the first assessment in many years of Britain's governing arrangements as a whole, providing much needed context for the 2015 general election.

Who Governs Britain? Details

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From Reader Review Who Governs Britain? for online ebook

Glen says

Very interesting book ... Very readable ... Investigates various groups/groupings at the centre of power within Britain ...

Tom Bennett says

Very well written and thought provoking.

Benjamin Richards says

This book is not as anti-establishment as I had hoped for which might give a hint as to why I sought it out. On page 18 Aneuring Bevan is quoted as having said, "No amount of cajolery, and no attempts at ethical or social seduction, can eradicate from my heart a deep burning hatred for the Tory Party... So far as I am concerned they are lower than vermin." - Now these sentiments mirror my own, but I find myself at odds with not Tory's but Globalists, from Thatcher, through Blair and into the modern Conservative epoch we, the people, are at war with the pseudo-conservatives/Globalists, in my opinion. This is why I read this book, to gain insight into a power structure which is not thoroughly examined in the newspapers nor terrestrial television.

There is a very, very good chapter in the book on the role mainstream newspapers, particularly those run by the deviant Rupert Murdoch have played in shaping the political climate. It is not that the news empires fear the change of government, rather the government that fears the powers of the media. Quite chilling when you see it in its entirety.

Also, I found the chapter on judges and the judicial system revealing; just how much power has transferred from the ministers and MP's to the judicial especially given that our own Independence referendum was almost affected disproportionately by the judicial in spite of a democratic outcome.

In conclusion, I embarked on the reading of this book with half an idea that the governance of Britain is hamstrung by bureaucracy, by the ride of the managerial class. You only have to look, as I do with disgust and disdain at the antics in Parliament and Prime Ministers question time to understand how obnoxious and unrepresentative many of these buffoons are. The book is concise, easy to read and informative.

Wing says

Democratically elected ministers, whose original candidatures are selected by a minute group of political party activists, at the helm of their prime minister, assisted by their civil servants, constrained by the rule of law, bound by international treaties & agreements, and taking into account public opinions and myriad interests, pass laws and devise policies. The author is immensely humorous, so the text is never dry. He

highlights the various weaknesses in the current Westminster system and advocates for a more Nordic approach as the rescue. Truly fascinating - five stars.

Diana Gangan says

Oh... so that's why we can't have nice things?

Very comprehensive, sharp and pretty much contains valid explanations on all the core aspects of the British political system.

Intery says

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N says

While Anthony King attempts to provide a central narrative argument that power is now diffuse and nebulous in a way that is different from 'the past' - the examples used are self defeating and more often than not, simply untrue. The suggestion King makes that lay membership act as a central locus of power will come as a surprise to anyone who has attended what are now largely ceremonial party conferences. Elsewhere this slim volume manages to hit Michael-Foot-labour-party-history-cliché-bingo, suggesting that the bits of history King has decided to comment on have only resulted in uninspiring impressionistic commentary.

I'm not entirely sure who this book is aimed at, but if you want a collection of semi-formulated ideas stretched over 336 interminable pages you have come to the right place. Good luck, reader!

Clare Scanlan says

Really interesting book, well explained. Need an up dated version post Brexit vote!

!Tæmbu?u says

Reviewed by The Guardian (8 Apr 2015)

Vikas Datta says

Incisive introduction, and brings out perfectly the rolling back of the nation state's powers before supranational political and economic entities..

Dan Jones says

Really useful book - helped settle a few qualms. It is quite the introduction, so will follow the reading list he provides at the end.

William Marler says

I found 'Who Governs Britain?' to be a refreshingly impartial and comprehensive take on all the different strands that affect UK politics.

As someone with an interest in politics but a self-confessed lack of knowledge, I now feel much better equipped to understand political situations and have a more reasonable approach to individuals, parties, and governments' mistakes and misgivings.

Another excellent Pelican Introduction.

Iang95ify . says

Explains the significance of each group such as Foreigners, MPs, media and unions on how they influence the government in the UK. In the end, it shows that the UK is not as sovereign in determining its policies as it would have liked to believe. However, as this was published before Brexit, an update to this book should be in place.
