



Hardball: How Politics Is Played, Told by One Who Knows the Game

By Chris Matthews

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How politics is played by one who knows the game...host of MSNBC's *Hardball*, Chris Matthews.

Chris Matthews has spent a quarter century on the playing field of American politics—from right-hand 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.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Hardball, first published in 1988, is like a modern version of Machiavelli's *The Prince*, only much more richly illustrated, with anecdotes drawn from talk-show host Chris Matthews's stint as a congressional staffer (where he worked for, among others, renowned Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill). Discussing such basic principles as "It's not who you know; it's who you get to know" and "Don't get mad, don't get even--get ahead," Matthews not only dishes out choice Washington insider info, he has over the years inspired many readers to apply his principles for political success to their own professional lives.

From Publishers Weekly

A former Senate aide, presidential speech writer and assistant to Tip O'Neill, Matthews here offers an entertaining view of Washington politics. He covers much the same ground as Hedrick Smith's *The Power Game* but writes more informally and with amused tolerance of "the true believers in the power of political self-interest." The anecdotes illuminate rules for success in playing hardball, which Matthews defines as "clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics": keep your enemies in front of you. A Reagan example of savvy is among the most vivid: the president's remark during the debates with Mondale that he would not exploit for political purposes "his opponent's youth and inexperience." Matthews, who writes a column for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, turns unexpectedly stern in his discussion of a third rule: the press is the enemy. "Like policemen, they are always on duty. Don't trust any of them."

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Review

"A thoroughly entertaining book about modern-day American politics and how it's played. . . . *Hardball* is a must-read textbook that should be read with a marker." (*The Wall Street Journal*)

"Every so often a writer reads a book so incisive and so good that when he finally puts it down he says, 'Damn, I wish I had written this.' I just finished Christopher Matthews' *Hardball*. And damn, I wish I had written this." (Stephen Stark *The Washington Post*)

"Matthews is half Huck Finn and half Machiavelli in this exuberant guide to the great game of politics." (George F. Will)

"Savvy and amusing. . . . Fresh and original." (Christopher Lehmann-Haupt *The New York Times*)

"Christopher Matthews writes about politics with relish—the way sports writers cover boxing." (Ben Bradlee *author of A Good Life and Conversations with Kennedy*)

"People will be quoting *Hardball* as long as the game of politics is played." (Hendrik Hertzberg *The New Yorker*)

"The best in the business!" (Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr.)

"Brilliant! God may take care of fools, drunks and the United States, but Chris Matthews has the goods on how Washington politicians take care of the rest of us." (Sam Donaldson)

"Chris Matthews hits a political homer with *Hardball*. For political sagacity and humor, this ranks with the work of George Washington Plunkitt." (William Safire)

"In Washington, everyone says they 'practice' politics, and 'develop' policy. But to succeed they know they must 'play hardball.' This book smartly captures that central truth!" (Tim Russert)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anne Stewart:

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Margaret Calderon:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the publication untitled *Hardball: How Politics Is Played, Told by One Who Knows the Game* can be great book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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