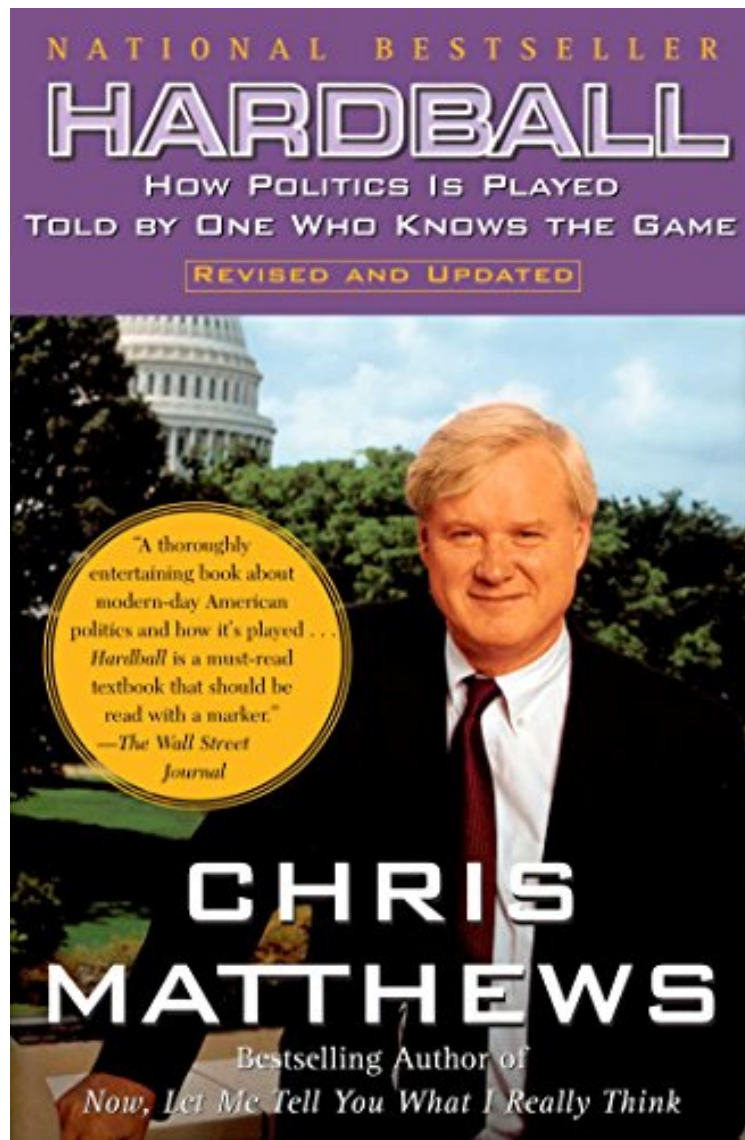


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# Hardball: How Politics Is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game

Chris Matthews

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**Chris Matthews : Hardball: How Politics Is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hardball: How Politics Is Played Told By One Who Knows The Game:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. There is no ideal or unique model among politicians!By Miller.Though the book has 1 1988 copyright date, the information is essentially timeless. It could have been written as a weekend conference hosting Prince Machiavelli, King Solomon, Sun Tzu and Dale Carnegie as its collective

writing staff. The only facet that establishes a time frame is its real-life cast of characters, from Wendell Wilke and LBJ to Edmund Muskie and Ronald Reagan. Chris Matthews picks no favorites as he shows the merits and faults of many players quite candidly. His endless series of anecdotes are divided into chapters with unique central points which are wisely matched with exponents who mastered those techniques. Matthews takes many of the stories from firsthand experience as an operative with the respective master as he was employed in a variety of ways with many of the highlighted pols over a lengthy career in Washington. As the author points out, virtually all of the techniques, systems and characteristics are universal and could be used in sports, business, for-profit and non-profit environments as well as high-level politics. It is a book that is fun to read and does not bogged down with details or tedious issues of the day, choosing to focus more on the actions and reactions of the proponents and antagonists as they fought for their cause de jour. It's a primer for PoliSci 101, not too heavy but not kindergarten either. Neither a Pulitzer candidate or a coffee table tome, it will keep your interest especially as you relate the chapter's characters with the chapter's title. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's Not Who You Know By AI would be really interested to see Matthews update this book in light of the elections of 2008, 2012, and 2016. It seems to me that much of what he theorizes about the sales jobs required in politics works quite neatly up to and including George W. Bush, notwithstanding the Gingrich era erosion of comity in the U.S. legislature. But immediately after that, things that should have worked, under Matthews' views as I understand them, did not. And things that never should have worked did. You can't lay it all on populism: Matthews deals eloquently with populism. It might be the ready availability of "facts" to support any side on any issue. I don't know. Anyway, the book is well-written, and surprisingly objective, given that Matthews does have a political bent. For me, the only part where it fell shorter than it probably meant to was in its advice, which seems to presuppose that the doors to power that are within reach of young white upper-working class men are within the reach of everyone. It's not who you know, it's who you get to know is true as far as it goes. But, as a woman, I won't be getting to know anyone in the men's shower room any time soon. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a bad read for AP Gov By Dylan PURNER I would say over all the book was great, but with a few caveats. For starters, like how every time Chris Mathews talks about someone in his book, he likes to talk about the person and his popularity, when popularity and strategy is, while important to some extent, really does not matter as much as say experience in being in the business of politics. I know, I know, Donald Trump won, and he has mostly no experience, but he does have one thing most donrsquo;t have, and thatrsquo;s guts. He can plow his way through the establishment unlike no other, and speak whatrsquo;s on his mind, and thatrsquo;s what makes him a player. Unfortunately, many politicians are paid, and canrsquo;t do that. Other than that, the book is great, and shows mostly everything about how a politician functions in life and how a politician can ldquo;playrdquo; the game in this world.

How politics is played by one who knows the game...Chris Matthews has spent a quarter century on the playing field of American politicsmdash;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.

.com *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." Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. Tim Russert 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!