

British Politics For Dummies

By Julian Knight

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So - you want to be knowledgeable about British politics but don't know where to start. The rich history, complex statistics and tricky political jargon are getting in your way, not to mention the media hype (is politics only about duck houses and moats?). But don't worry! *British Politics For Dummies* is your essential guide to understanding even the trickiest questions surrounding politics in the UK, so you'll be discussing the ins and out of leaders, parties, ideologies, constitutions, laws, cabinets and summits past and present in no time - and with maximum confidence. Coming up to the potential end of Labour's historic three terms in power, there's never been a better time to get to grips with politics.

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Chapter 3: Looking at Democracy & Participation
Chapter 4: Examining Different Political Ideologies
Chapter 5: Forming of the British Political State

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Chapter 6: Electoral & voting systems
Chapter 7: Voting Behaviour & Trends
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Editorial Review

Review
'Written with clarity and brevity, it tells you all you need to know about voting…You know it makes sense…' (The Independent on Sunday, March 2010).

From the Back Cover
Get to grips with all aspects of British politics and discuss big political issues with confidence

Whether you're a complete beginner or a politician-in-the-making, this eye-opening guide has something for everyone. Packed with expert information on the origins, history and structure of the UK parliamentary system, this book offers a fascinating insight into the rollercoaster world of politics. Explaining everything from key political ideologies and the spread of democracy to what you can do to get involved, this is your must-have companion to British politics, both at home and on the international stage.

- Back to basics — explore definitions of authority and democracy as well as how the British political state was formed
- Get voting — learn about the different UK parties, voting behaviour and the role of the media in election campaigns
- Parliament calling — focus on the Houses of Parliament, the Cabinet and the courts and discover what makes a good politician
- Going global — get the lowdown on the UK's foreign policy, compare UK and US political systems and investigate the EU, UN and NATO
- Movers and shakers — identify influential leaders and the events and scandals that have rocked modern politics

"An immensely welcome addition to the For Dummies series. This book succeeds admirably in capturing the whole of the question, 'what is politics?'"
–**Rt Hon John Bercow**, MP and Speaker of the House of Commons

Open the book and find:

- The purpose of politics and why it is important
- Guidance on the strengths and weaknesses of democracy
- Advice on your political rights as a UK citizen
- The lowdown on pressure groups and lobbyists
- How Britain's constitution evolved
- The ins and outs of criminal and civil law
- Information on devolution and quangos
- Obama-mania and its impact on British politics

Learn to:

- Democracy's rich history and why your vote matters
- Electoral systems, the election process and what the different parties stand for
- The ins and outs of parliament and the UK government
- Britain's place on the global political stage

About the Author

Julian Knight is Money and Property Editor at The Independent on Sunday. Previously, he was a reporter at *BBC News*, contributing to the *BBC News* website and *Radio Five Live*. Julian has written on politics and finance for countless magazines, newspapers and websites. He is the author of *The British Citizenship Test For Dummies* and *Wills, Probate & Inheritance Tax For Dummies*, amongst others.

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