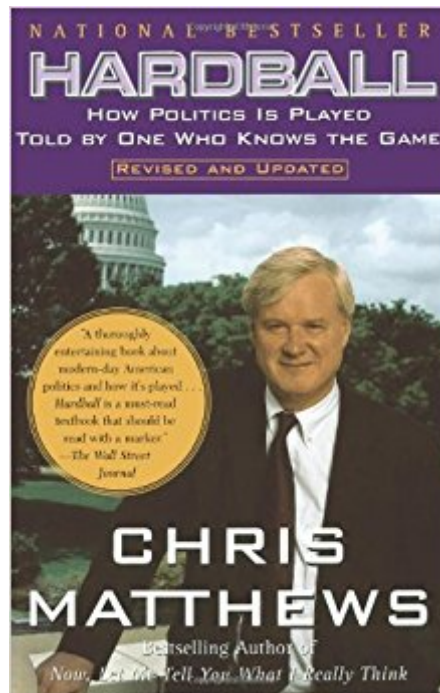




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# Hardball: How Politics Is Played, Told By One Who Knows The Game



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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.

Excellent book. Author provides insight into the world of politics illustrated by numerous anecdotes and examples. Some of the most practical takeaways include the value of "retail politics", the importance of checking your own ego and focusing on the ego of those you wish to influence, and why getting someone to do you a favor helps cement their future support. Last part of the book addresses a number of keys to political success. Overall a very good book with practical application in politics, business, or daily life. Highly recommend this book.

I'm 14, and I already love the game of politics - but I don't always love reading. When my dad got me this book, I left it on the bookshelf as a kind gesture. Recently, I decided to open it up, and I sped through it in 3 days. It was incredible, engaging, and, most importantly, extremely important and helpful for anyone who will enter the game of politics. Matthews may be annoying on TV, but he is an absolute political genius who outlines exactly how to confront every situation you'll come across in politics. I highly recommend this book.

Required by 12th grade AP Government class. My husband read it before our two read it and he said it is an excellent book.

This is an amazing book; Matthews specifically points out that Politics is a game and can not be played by everyone. There are particular rules that have to be taken into consideration during the game, otherwise one would fail miserably. I loved the author's added humor in some parts of the book because it was a way to connect to the common people who hardly know about anything going on in the present-day American politics. The only thing I disliked about the book was that some areas were confusing and Matthews failed to explicitly explain them. Overall, Hardball is great and informative!

It's a good book, even if you're not into politics. It teaches not only about how politics is played, but also useful life lessons. I recommend this to young adults. You won't regret it.

Chris Matthews should really consider revising and updating this book. I read it myself and used (some of) it with my students in a government class. It has consistent lessons about the importance of politics and how they work - considering how lousy a job our current Congress is doing perhaps we should get a copy for each of them - it couldn't hurt!

Great book. Chris Matthews is witty, clever and entertaining. All of his work is informative, and scholarly. It is too bad he gets extreme and makes unfair comments about Republicans.

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