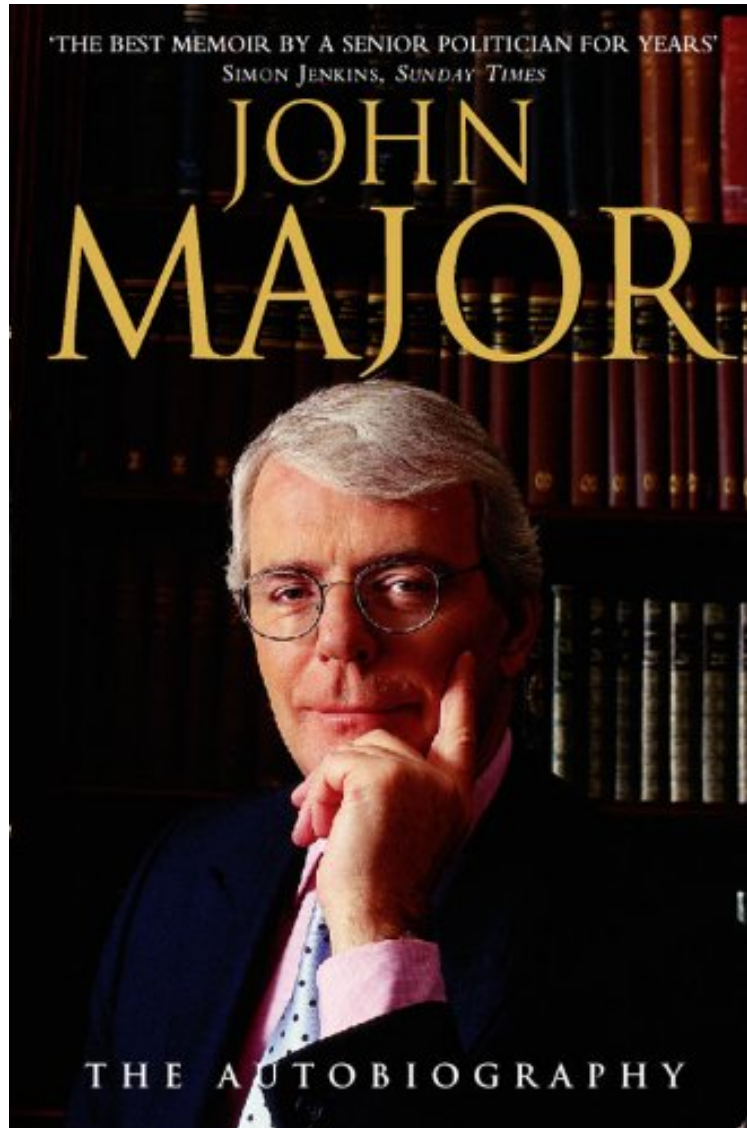


[Download] John Major: The Autobiography

## John Major: The Autobiography

Von John Major

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**Von John Major : John Major: The Autobiography** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised John Major: The Autobiography:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. From major to minorVon FrKurt MessickAs I watched the results from the 1997 General Election from the sidelines of America (remembering that ten years prior I had been in the thick of things, on the floor of a count and being shown on BBC intently staring at the bank teller drafted to count the box in which I had an interest), I was variously amazed, pleased, saddened, and in the end, pleasantly surprised at the good humour of John Major, who said very simply,

'Okay, we lost. I met John Major first when he was a rising parliamentary star recruited to come to the constituency of the backbencher for whom I worked. He came to give a pep talk to the local Conservatives on a local radio programme; this constituency (Basildon) was considered a dead loss, so much so that the PM and various other Cabinet names wouldn't waste their time making a stop--but John Major came, and, we won. Major has put together an interesting account of his time in office. Thankfully he concentrates on his political career (not spending hundreds of pages giving us the sort of childhood information that rarely adds value to a political autobiography), starting with his first victory coming to the House of Commons in 1979 (Margaret Thatcher's first victory as leader) and culminating with the 1997 electoral defeat, which he took with relatively good grace and rather few recriminations. And, whereas many political figures spend a large part of their memoirs in a 'If I were still there' mode, Major only devotes a few pages to the follow-up and future (in a five-page chapter entitled Aftermath) preferring not to speculate on irrelevant imponderables, and avoiding the problem of which he was most critical in his predecessor--that being of not wanting to let go. It was no secret that one of the things the press and public eagerly sought in this book was Major's opinions on the continued attempts by Thatcher to exert an influence in leadership. His rocky relationship with the former prime minister has many examples through the text, some explicit and some subtle (such as the caption from a photo taken at the 1990 Conservative Party Conference, which reads 'Still on good terms with Margaret following the announcement of our entry into the ERM.'). In general, this is a well-written book, and John Major's tenure of office is rather more interesting than popular memory or the press would have one believe, perhaps understandable due to following a person of such flash and sparkle as Thatcher--who could compete with that? Major did in many ways, and, as his autobiography shows, he won in many ways, and when he lost, he was a gentleman.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Britains most important post war PM: a fascinating life Von Alec Trevalyan John Major was often ridiculed for his humble origins by left wing middle class journalists. He starts his autobiography by exploring the past of his family and the richness of his father's life, an account fascinating on its own. John Major as a person appears relatively late in the book but the reader quickly gets an impression of the ambitious young man driven by values, a sense of duty towards his family and the community. One begins to understand Major's own brand of liberal conservatism which is focused on the dignity of the individual. It is a sort of conservatism that was born from experiencing poverty and an ineffective welfare state. From his origins in local politics Major takes the reader into his career as an MP and thus paints a fascinating picture of post war Britain and some of the people who forged it. Major's style is very witty and analytical at the same time which makes the book a pleasure to read. The wealth of detail on macro-economic interdependencies make the book required reading for anyone who wants to understand politics. It emerges that Major was one of the most important Post-war Prime Ministers for two reasons: he launched the initiative for peace in Northern Ireland at a very great political if not personal risk thus breaking with taboos and he created a solid basis for local finance which led to a resurrection of many British towns. Excellent reading!

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Groer britischer Staatsmann Von Alec Trevalyan John Major beschreibt die abenteuerliche Geschichte seiner Familie und seinen eigenen nicht weniger abenteuerlichen Aufstieg vom Hilfsarbeiter zum Premierminister. Allein schon die Lebensgeschichte seines Vaters macht das Buch lesenswert. Major selbst begegnet uns als leidenschaftlicher, von Werten getriebener Politiker, dessen liberaler Konservatismus einen scharfen Kontrast zu Enoch Powell oder anderen Rechtsauen darstellt. Major macht Politik begreifbar. Sein Stil ist ansant, stets mit einem Augenzwinkern geschrieben. John Major wird in England als einer der unbeliebtesten Premiers dieses Jahrhunderts gehandelt. Tatschlich war er es, der die Exzesse der Thatcher-Zeit in geordnete Bahnen lenkte und damit auch die Basis fr New Labour legte. Hinzu kommt, dass es sein bleibendes Verdienst ist, erstmalig einen konstruktiven Dialog in der Nordirlandfrage aufzunehmen, ohne parteiisch zu sein. Auch das Erblhen britischer Stdte ist der Tatsache zu verdanken, dass Major erstmalig die kommunalen Finanzen auf eine solide Basis gestellt hat. Major ist kein polternder Charismatiker, sondern ein Fachmann, der ohne "spin" das tut, was er moralisch fr wichtig hlt. Selten begegnete ein Politiker seinem Leser so menschlich und selbstkritisch.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The best memoir by a senior politician for years. Simon Jenkins, Sunday Times John Major's autobiography is one of the most personal and revealing ever written by a former British Prime Minister. The account of his childhood, rise and fall is candid, scrupulous and unsparing. Major's early life was extraordinary; his rise through Parliament meteoric. Soon a favourite of Margaret Thatcher, he became Foreign Secretary and then Chancellor of the Exchequer. When Thatcher fell, he fought and won a shrewd campaign to succeed her, and went on to win a remarkable general election victory in 1992. He brought down inflation and ushered in a solid economic recovery, yet within months of the 1992 election, his government was in troubled waters. John Major is candid about his fight to keep sterling in the ERM and his reactions to Black Wednesday. He is frank about the civil war within his party over Britain's relationship with the EU. He is honest about what he won and what he lost, about friends and foes within his party as well as outside. de John Major's rise to the post of British prime minister is a puzzle of modern politics that his lengthy autobiography fails to resolve. It is clear, as we follow him from his modest origins in south London to his

work as a local councillor and his remarkable ascent at Westminster under the eye of Margaret Thatcher, that he was driven by a determination to prove himself. But now that we are growing used to the messianic zeal that Tony Blair brings to the role of prime minister, it seems extraordinary that John Major should have achieved the position with such little evident vision or relish. Here is the man we thought we knew, decent, hard-working; at the mercy of events rather than their master. So we find him bowed down by the misfortunes of an ungrateful world, rendered defensive by problems with the economy, by arguments over Europe, by the intractability of politicians in Northern Ireland, by attacks from within his own party. With that same party busy airbrushing him from its history--despite his unlikely victory over Neil Kinnock in 1992--it's as well he has got his account into print, an unstuffy telling of a fascinating story that is free of the pomposity that affects so many of his political peers and which reveals a deep-seated belief in the value of basic decency. "I will not concede possession of the recent past to the mythographers of left or right who have every self-interest in retouching the history we made," he says. But how sad to find him still so defensive and so bitter about the slights of others, still anxious to explain why speeches or gestures were misconstrued. "I was too conservative, too conventional. Too safe, too often. Too defensive. Too reactive," he says. But could he have been anything else? --Kim Fletcher *Pressestimmen* `Compelling...a classic of holding the reader's attention which many fiction writers might envy.' Roy Jenkins, *Evening Standard* `Unsparing...vivid...witty as well as wise.' Geoffrey Howe, *Independent* `One of the few post-war political autobiographies that will endure...compulsively readable and remarkably objective...deeply moving.' Bruce Anderson, *Daily Telegraph*