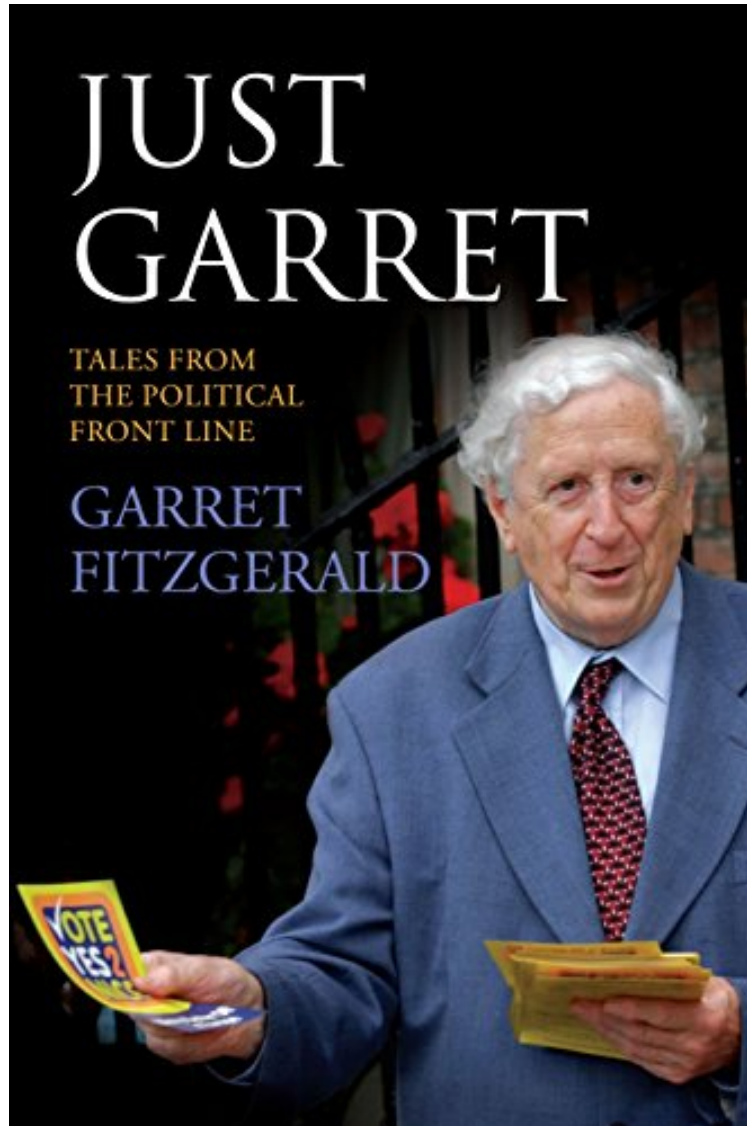


[FREE] Just Garret: Tales From the Political Front Line

Just Garret: Tales From the Political Front Line

Von Garret FitzGerald

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Von Garret FitzGerald : Just Garret: Tales From the Political Front Line before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Just Garret: Tales From the Political Front Line:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly amazing personVon Gerard P.In this new edition of his autobiography, Garret FitzGerald comes across as one of those rare politicians who are driven by principle: in his case lofty principles of truth and justice. Quite separately from his political career, he is a man of many talents: airline executive, self-taught economist, successful journalist, university teacher, barrister, business consultant; as well as being a father and grandfather. Many facets of his personality are

revealed by means of fascinating anecdotes, for instance the following: as a junior executive, it was a task he took on to optimise fleet management within the fledgling Irish airline, Aer Lingus. When a copy of the entire Aeroflot timetable got into his hands, he was able to work out from the schedules what was then secret information: how many aircraft Aeroflot had. (250). Fascinating is the detail he gives us on the issue of peace in Northern Ireland. The British government comes off very badly when those details are analysed: not because of some basic lack of goodwill but by the kind of bumbling incompetence which is caused by ignorance - an ignorance born out of post-imperial arrogance. They repeatedly made the mistake of secretly talking to the IRA, a serious misjudgement which which many in Ireland see as a factor which prolonged the conflict by convincing the IRA that the British could be bombed into submission. Of equal interest are FitzGerald's contacts with the Catholic Church. Initially a devout and conservative Catholic himself, you can follow in his autobiography how he becomes increasingly disillusioned by the bizarre and anachronistic Vatican style of power politics. Any attempt at dialogue or pursuit of compromise was doomed to failure. His account of a private audience with Pope Paul VI is surrealistic - and ultimately sad, revealing as it does a complete lack of awareness on the part of the pope as to which century he was living in. Interesting too are insights into the pre-origins of the Celtic Tiger - and the current Celtic collapse. How for instance the Irish banking system went through a bail-out as recently as 1984! Nothing was learned from this and it only took 20 years for the banks to get themselves into the same situation again, this time on a considerably larger scale which required an international as opposed to an Irish bailout. We can confidently predict the next bank bailout - maybe 20 years from now? The book is well written throughout. FitzGerald does of course portray himself in a favourable light but there is plenty of self-irony and he willingly confesses to many mistakes he made and tries to clear up others which were imputed to him. He makes no secret of certain lasting regrets, for instance concerning mistakes he made with individuals. But he sportingly accepted such events as electoral defeat without rancour. There is a lot of detail - the kind which will interest serious researchers but will not be of great interest to the general reader. Anyone who read the first edition of his autobiography will not find anything new here. In conclusion: his book is a must for anyone seriously interested in the political life of Ireland in the latter part of the 20th century - or in the figure of this fascinating man.

Kurzbeschreibung In Just Garret, Dr. FitzGerald writes frankly about his upbringing, his parents, his involvement in the Independence movement, their disagreements about the Treaty, his early years in school and college and his gradual entry into politics. He reflects honestly on his time as minister for Foreign Affairs, and later on his tenure as Taoiseach. The book includes new material and opinion on key figures such as Charles Haughey, Margaret Thatcher and John Major, as well as his role in the emerging peace in Northern Ireland, Ireland's role in the EU and Garret's advocacy in the referendas on the European Union also feature. His memoir gently lifts the layers of his public life back to reveal a much-cherished family life and the huge influence his wife Joan had on his career, rendering a portrait of an informal, humane and witty person who was an ever compelling voice in Irish public affairs right up until his passing in May, 2011. Pressestimmen Much is known about the public man [Garret FitzGerald], but in this new autobiography he writes frankly and often movingly about his upbringing, his parents' involvement in the independence movement- and their frequent disagreements about the treaty at the dinner table. -- Irish Voice "Irish Voice" "The man who was twice taoiseach offers views on players and events that will for sure stand the test of time." -- Irish Echo "Irish Echo" Kurzbeschreibung In Just Garret, Dr. FitzGerald writes frankly about his upbringing, his parents, his involvement in the Independence movement, their disagreements about the Treaty, his early years in school and college and his gradual entry into politics. He reflects honestly on his time as minister for Foreign Affairs, and later on his tenure as Taoiseach. The book includes new material and opinion on key figures such as Charles Haughey, Margaret Thatcher and John Major, as well as his role in the emerging peace in Northern Ireland, Ireland's role in the EU and Garret's advocacy in the referendas on the European Union also feature. His memoir gently lifts the layers of his public life back to reveal a much-cherished family life and the huge influence his wife Joan had on his career, rendering a portrait of an informal, humane and witty person who was an ever compelling voice in Irish public affairs right up until his passing in May, 2011.