

Sir Christopher Bryant MP

Sir Chris Bryant has been the Member of Parliament for Rhondda since 2001. He is the Shadow Minister for Creative Industries and Digital. He was Deputy Leader of the House of Commons and Minister for Europe and Latin America in the last Labour Government.

Prior to entering Parliament he was a priest in the Church of England, serving as a curate in High Wycombe and a youth chaplain in Peterborough diocese and then ran an educational charity, Common Purpose, before becoming Head of European Affairs at the BBC, based in Brussels.



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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
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**Parliament: The
Biography Vol 2**
2014
Bodley Head

Over the last two hundred years Parliament has witnessed and effected dramatic and often turbulent change. Political parties rose – and fell. The old aristocratic order passed away. The vote was won for the working classes and, eventually, for women. The world was torn apart by two extraordinarily bloody wars. And individual politicians were cheered for their altruism or their bravery and jeered for their sexual or financial misdemeanours. This second volume of Chris Bryant's majestic *Parliament: The Biography* has a cast of characters that includes some of British history's most famous names: the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel, Gladstone, Disraeli, Lloyd George, Churchill and Thatcher. Its recurring theme is reform and innovation, but it also lays bare obsessive respect for the past and a dedication to evolution rather than revolution, which has left us with a fudged constitution still perilously dependent on custom, convention and gentlemen's agreements. This is riveting, flawlessly researched and accessible popular history for anyone with an interest in why modern Britain is the nation it is today.

**Parliament: The
Biography Vol 1**
2014
Bodley Head

The history of Parliament is the history of the United Kingdom itself. It has a cast of thousands. Some were ambitious, visionary and altruistic. Others were hot-headed, violent and self-serving. Few were unambiguously noble. Yet their rowdy confrontations, their campaigning zeal and their unstable alliances framed our nation. This first of two volumes takes us on a 500-year journey from Parliament's earliest days in the thirteenth century through the turbulent years of the Wars of the Roses and the upheavals of the Civil Wars, and up to 1801, when Parliament – and the United Kingdom, embracing Scotland and Ireland – emerged in a modern form. Chris Bryant tells this epic tale through the lives of the myriad MPs, lords and bishops who passed through Parliament. It is the vivid, colourful biography of a cast of characters whose passions and obsessions, strengths and weaknesses laid the foundations of modern democracy.

**ENTITLED: A
CRITICAL HISTORY
OF THE BRITISH
ARISTOCRACY**
2017
DOUBLEDAY

The full, shocking story of the British aristocracy, from Anglo-Saxon times until the present day. Exploring the extraordinary and sometimes pernicious social and political dominance enjoyed by the British aristocracy over centuries, *Entitled* seeks to explain how a tiny number of noble families rose to such a position in the first place and reveals the often nefarious means they have employed to maintain their wealth, power and prestige. It examines the greed, ambition, jealousy and rivalry which drove local barons to compete with one another and aristocratic families to guard their inheritance with phenomenal determination. In telling their history, it introduces a cast of extraordinary characters: fierce warriors, rakish dandies, political dilettantes, charming eccentrics, arrogant snobs and criminals who got away with murder. Meticulously researched and engagingly written, *Entitled* tells a riveting story of arrogance, corruption and greed, the defining characteristic of the British ruling class.
