

# MPs' and Peers' SUMMER READING 2005

## SUMMARY

### TOP READS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

- (1) 'The Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown
- (2) 'Pitt' by William Hague
- (3) 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince' by J K Rowling
- (4) 'Mao', by Jung Chang
- (5) Louis de Bernieres, 'Birds without Wings'
- (6) 'My Life', by Bill Clinton
- (7) 'Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World', by Niall Ferguson
- (8) 'Colossus: The price of America's Empire', by Niall Ferguson
- (9) 'Angels and Demons', by Dan Brown
- (10) 'Small Island', by Andrea Levy
- (11) 'John Smith: A Life', by Mark Stuart
- (12) 'The Line of Beauty', by Alan Hollinghurst
- (13) 'The Bookseller of Kabul' by Asne Seierstad

### TOP READS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

- (1) 'Pitt' by William Hague
- (2) 'Mao' by Jung Chang
- (3) 'Churchill' by Roy Jenkins
- (4) 'My Life' by Bill Clinton
- (5) 'Who Runs this Place? The Anatomy of Britain in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' by Anthony Sampson
- (6) 'Armageddon: The Battle for Germany 1944-45' by Max Hastings

**Q. Do you expect to find time to read all of them over the summer?**

	MPs					Peers				
	All	Lab	Con	LD	Other	All	Lab	Con	LD	X-bench
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Yes – definitely</i>	29	30	31	19	23	21	21	24	31	16
<i>Yes – probably</i>	19	25	17	12	23	35	21	32	31	53
<i>Probably not</i>	20	19	21	29	-	19	25	15	13	21
<i>Definitely not</i>	5	5	3	13	16	3	4	2	6	-
<i>Don't know/NS</i>	27	22	28	27	38	22	29	27	19	11

# MPs' SUMMER READING 2005

## LABOUR MPs' TOP READS

- (1) 'Mao' by Jung Chang (x2)
- (2) 'The Da Vinci Code' by Dan Brown (x2)
- (3) 'John Smith: A Life' by Mark Stuart (x2)
- (4) 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', by J.K.Rowling (x2)
- (5) 'The Line of Beauty' by Alan Hollinghurst (x2)

## CONSERVATIVE MPs' TOP READS

- (1) 'Pitt' by William Hague (x6)
- (2) 'The Da Vinci Code', by Dan Brown (x3)
- (3) 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', by J K Rowling (x3)
- (4) 'Birds Without Wings' by Louis de Bernieres (x3)
- (5) 'Mao' by Jung Chang (x2)
- (6) 'The Bookseller of Kabul', by Asne Seirstad (x2)

## LIB DEM MPs' TOP READS

None cited more than once.

## OTHER MPs' TOP READS

- (1) 'The Da Vinci Code', by Dan Brown (x2)

## DETAILED RESPONSES

Labour MPs
'1776-America and Britain at War', David McCullough
'A Shepherd's Watch', David Kennard
'Bettany's Book', Thomas Keneally
'Blair's Wars', by John Kampfner
'Churchill', Roy Jenkins
'Colossus: The Price of the American Empire', Niall Ferguson
'Cuba- A New History', R.Gott
'Distant Voices' – records of WWII veterans
'Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World', Niall Ferguson
'Grace and Power: The Private World of the Kennedy White House', Sally Bedell Smith
'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', J.K. Rowling
'John Smith: A Life', Mark Stuart
'King Leopold's Ghost', Adam Hoshschild
'Leadership', Rudolph Giuliani
'Life of John Wheatley', John Hannan

'Mao: The Unknown Story', Jung Chang
'Means of Ascent' (bio of Lyndon Johnson), Robert A. Caro
'Mexico Today', Dan Labotz
'Napoleon' (biography)
'Pitt', William Hague
'Reading Lolita in Tehran', Azar Nafisi
'Regeneration', Pat Barker
'Rising 44: The Battle for Warsaw' Norman Davies
'Saturday', by Ian McEwan
'Small Island', Andrea Levy
'The Collapse of Globalism', John Ralston Saul
'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time', Mark Haddon
'The Da Vinci Code', Dan Brown
'The First Crusade', Steven Runciman
'The History of the Republican Party', Peter D Klingman
'The Line of Beauty', Alan Hollinghurst
'The Making of the President', Theodore H. White
'The Spying Game', Michael Smith
'This Sceptred Isle', Christopher Lee
'Tony Blair, Prime Minister' John Rentoul
'Trafalgar: The Biography of a Battle', Roy Adkins
2 on Kenya, 3 on AID
6 books
A thriller of some kind
A Victorian novel or three
Biographies- Mao & Che Guevara
Biographies- politicians
Don't know yet- will decide when recess starts!
Fiction
Haven't a clue- I already read too much as part of my job. It's good to have a rest.
Haven't given it a thought, though I have Robin Cook's book 'The Point of Departure' to finish
Haven't yet decided
History books- Ancient Period
I have 6+ books waiting to be read of various types
I haven't looked that far ahead!
I read very little
Issue-based books: key issues that will be important in the next 6 months to me and my constituency
John Peel's biography
No decision yet, but several
No decisions yet
No idea- prob bios of Gordon Brown
No idea yet
None
Not yet decided but NOT the new Harry Potter!
Novels, mostly crime
Poetry of Rowan Williams
Some fiction books
Some political autobiographies (Sir Chris Meyer's)
Some political biographies
Spy book- haven't thought about others yet. Possibly some travel books.
The complete novels of Patrick White
The second volume of the biography of W B Yeats by R F Foster

Various novels
What holiday?!

<b>Conservative MPs</b>
'A History of Post-Colonial Africa', Martin Meredith
'A Very Short Introduction to Cosmology', Peter Coles
'A Very Short Introduction to Gandhi', Bhiku Parekh
'A Very Short Introduction to Psychology', Gillian Butler
'Angels and Demons', Dan Brown
'Birds Without Wings', Louis de Bernieres
'Blondel's Song', David Boyle
'Brother and Sister', Joanna Trollope
'Colossus: The Price of the American Empire', Niall Ferguson
'David and Winston', Robert Lloyd-George
'Death in the Afternoon', Ernest Hemingway
'Diaries', Edwina Currie
'Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World', Niall Ferguson
'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince', J K Rowling
'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', J.K.Rowling (Pope's recommendation)
'In Search of Lost Time', Emile Proust
'Maggie: Her Fatal Legacy', John Sergeant
'Mao', Jung Chang
'My Life', Bill Clinton
'Petain', Charles Williams
'Pitt' by William Hague
'Rosebery: Statesman in Turmoil', Leo McKinstry
'Rubicon', Steven Saylor
'Seven Pillars of Wisdom', T E Lawrence
'Small Island', Andrea Levy
'Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar', Simon Sebag-Montefiore
'The Bookseller of Kabul', Asne Seirstad
'The Closed Circle', Jonathan Coe
'The Da Vinci Code', Dan Brown
'The Harold Nicolson Diaries 1907-1963', Nigel Nicolson
'The Looting of the Baghdad Museum', Angela Polk
'Vodka', Boris Starling
'Why Globalization Works', Martin Wolf
2 biographies, probably political, and 2 novels on holiday
A biography of Jesse James
A raft of detective novels and 'bodice rippers'!
Biographies/ history
Dan Brown
Easy reader-trash novels! Thrillers my favourite.
HARRY POTTER!!!
Have not considered yet
Murder mysteries- P D James, Donna Tartt...
No idea yet
None
Novels and biographies- still to pick the selection
Spanish Grammar!
Submissions on BBC Charter review
The Bible
The books which I have bought and not yet read
The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

The Wisdom of Crowds, by James Surowiecki
Times Guide to the House of Commons 2005
Tom Clancy
Writing my own on terrorism

<b>Lib Dem MPs</b>
'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince', J K Rowling
'In the Company of Cheerful Ladies', Alexander McCall Smith
'Life of Gladstone', Roy Jenkins -and whatever my wife gives me!
'My Life', Bill Clinton
'Rosebery: Statesman in Turmoil', Leo McKinstry
'The Da Vinci Code', Dan Brown
'The Handmaid's Tale', Margaret Atwood
A Jane Austen novel
A Number of policy books (I'm afraid!)
Haven't got them yet
No idea
No particular plans
Not yet decided
Texts on history, culture and geography of India, pre-visit.
Travel books
Various astronomy titles on planetary evolution
Various poetry
Would love to read novels but unlikely to find the time

<b>Other MPs</b>
'Angels and Demons', Dan Brown
'Berlin', Anthony Beevor?
'Cyfansodsiadan' (Poetry, in Welsh)
'Just Law', Helena Kennedy QC
'Lloyd George' Emyr Price (In Welsh)
'NHS and Devolution' published by LSE
'Stalingrad', Anthony Beevor?
'The Da Vinci Code', Dan Brown
'The Da Vinci Code', Dan Brown
'The Rivals', James Naughtie
4 or 5 Welsh language books
The Bible

#### **MP SURVEY METHODOLOGY:**

**The survey was conducted among 153 MPs on the CommunicateResearch Parliamentary Panel between 4<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005. Among respondents were 80 Labour MPs, 45 Conservatives, 22 Lib Dems and 6 others.**

# PEERS' SUMMER READING 2005

## SUMMARY

### TOP READS BY PARTY IN THE LORDS

**Labour-** 'My Life' by Bill Clinton & 'Churchill' by Roy Jenkins (x2)

**Conservatives-** 'Pitt' by William Hague (x2)

**Lib Dems-** 'Mao' by Jung Chang (x2)

**Other/ crossbench-** None repeated

## DETAILED RESPONSES

<b>Labour Peers</b>
'A Short History of Nearly Everything', Bill Bryson
'Armageddon, the Battle for Germany 1944-45', Max Hastings
'Backpacks, Boots and Baguettes: A Walk in the Pyrenees', Simon Calder
'Berlin' and 'Stalingrad', Antony Beevor
'Churchill', Roy Jenkins
'Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World', Niall Ferguson
'Fourth among Equals', Bill Rodgers
'Fringes of Power', John Colville
'From Tyne to Thames', Lord Graham of Edmonton
'Just Law', Helena Kennedy QC
'Lord of the Rings', J R R Tolkien
'My Life', Bill Clinton
'Neo-Conservatism', Irwin Stelzer
'No Full Stops In India', 'The Heart of India', 'India in Slow Motion', Mark Tully
'Of Human Bondage', Somerset Maugham
'Parliament in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century', Nicolas Baldwin
'Peat, Smoke and Spirit', Andrew Telford
'Pitt', William Hague
'Pompeii' by Robert Harris
'Reading Lolita in Tehran', Azar Nafisi
'Spanish Steps', Tim Moore
'The Conquest of Mexico', Hugh Thomas
'The Cursed Circle', D Coe
'The Day Builders', James Miller
'The Rattlesnake' Jordan Goodman
'The Strange Death of Tory England', Geoffrey Wheatcroft
'To Kill a Mocking Bird', Harper Lee
'Who Runs this Place?', Anthony Sampson

A History of Iraq
A political biography as yet undecided
American crime thrillers
Any new Gerald Seymour or John le Carre
Anything by Barbara Togirdo
Anything I can find on Roman history- either textbook or novel
Biographies
Biographies and well-written fiction
Biographies/ autobiographies of (political) people including John Smith, John Thaw, Douglas Hurd, de Gaulle, Winston Churchill.
Detective stories- Ruth Rendall et al
Douglas Hurd
Gerald Kaufman
If possible, some Dostoevsky
New Donna Leon
New fiction, including Hilary Mantel and Jonathan Safran Foer?
New publications from Ruth Rendall, PD James, McCall Smith
No idea yet
Not decided yet
One or two on contemporary history
One or two that take my eye in the bookshop next month or so (non-fiction)
Paddy Ashdown Diaries (2 <sup>nd</sup> vol)
Political biographies
Popular science, history, biography etc and some thrillers
Revisiting Trollope
S. Pepys' Diaries
Several biographies
Some good novels
Some new novels- most take my fancy when I am browsing in bookshops
Some recently published biographies
Some Trollopes
The Booker Prize short-list
The Silver Pigs by Lindsay Davis
Tony Benn?
Too soon to decide
Trollope autobiography
Various thrillers

<b>Conservative Peers</b>
'A Georgian Country Parlour', Rev. John Martin of Naseby
'A Short History of Nearly Everything', Bill Bryson
'Angels and Demons' Dan Brown
'Atonement' Ian McEwan
'Barchester Towers', Anthony Trollope
'Basil Hume: The Monk Cardinal' Anthony Howard
'Churchill', Roy Jenkins
'Collapse', Jared Diamond
'Digital Fortress', Dan Brown
'Frank Fletcher: A Formidable Headmaster', John Witteridge
'Histories', Thucydides
'In Churchill's Shadow: Confronting the Past in Modern Britain', David Cannadine
'Mao', Jung Chang



'Petain', Charles Williams
'Pitt', William Hague
'Skinny Dip', Carl Hiassen
'The Far Pavilions', M M Kaye
'The Grapes of Wrath', John Steinbeck
'The Great Deception', P Booke
'The Six Wives of Henry VIII', Antonia Fraser
'The Welfare State We're In', James Bartholomew
'Tony Blair', Anthony Seldon
A novel by Melvyn Bragg
Book on Trafalgar
Books recommended by others, eg the Josephine Bonaparte trilogy
Classic novels and history
Don't know yet
Last of the #1 Detective Agency books, Alexandra McCall
Mostly fictional novels
Not decided yet
Political autobiography/ biography
The latest Max Hastings book about leaders

<b>Lib Dem Peers</b>
'1759: the Year of Victories' By Frank McLynn
'Bloody Foreigners', Robert Winder
'Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII', John Cornwell
'Mao', Jung Chang
'Pitt the Elder: The Great Commoner', Jeremy Black
'Rosebery: Statesman in Turmoil', Leo McKinstry
'Small island', Andrea Levy
'The End of the Line', Charles Clover
'Vanity Fair', William Thackeray
17 <sup>th</sup> century Histories
A crime block-buster
A History of Venice
A Life of Grimond
A political biography (Mao)
Biography of Roy Jenkins
General Election Reports- Times etc
Haven't thought about it yet
Many fiction
Nick Hornby's new novel
Oxford Book of English Verse
Patricia Cornwell's latest murder mystery
Shall read several but I have not chosen which
The ones that have been sitting on my bookshelf for over two years waiting to be read
Tibbons Seed
Travel book

<b>Crossbench/other Peers</b>
'Alexander the Great', Paul Cartledge
'Armageddon: The Battle for Germany 1944-45', Max Hastings
'Bill Clinton', Nigel Hamilton
'Chief Whip', Tim Renton
'Going Sane', Adam Phillips
'Gulag: A History of the Soviet Camps', A Applebaum
'Human Cargo', C. Moorehead
'John Kennedy: The Unfinished Life', Robert Dallek
'My Life', Bill Clinton
'Pitt', William Hague
'Radical Narratives of the Black Atlantic', Alan Rice
'Reflections of a Ravaged Century', Robert Conquest
'Roosevelt', Conrad Black
'Saturday', by Ian McEwan
'Stalin', Sebay Montepore
'The Emergence of Modern Africa', David Yudelman
'The Lights that Failed', Zara Steiner
'War and Peace', Leo Tolstoy
'Who Runs This Place?', A Sampson
Biographies
DFID Annual Report
Don't know
Guide to the General Election
I will read a lot... but will not know what until nearer the summer
Lots of contemporary fiction from my book club
More Anthony Trollope
No present intention
Novels
PD James novels
Trollope novels
Whatever attracts me when I am in a bookshop and need reading material

#### **HOUSE OF LORDS SURVEY METHODOLOGY:**

**The survey was conducted among 100 Members of the House of Lords on the CommunicateResearch Parliamentary Panel between 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005. Among respondents were 41 Labour Peers, 24 Conservatives, 16 Lib Dems and 19 Crossbenchers and others.**

**For more information contact Andrew Hawkins on 020 7152 4010 or 07971 209995.**

©CommunicateResearch 2005