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Boy on a Bicycle: a Mandarin's Memoir

Hayden Phillips

Description

Our image of the civil servant has been implanted indelibly in our minds by Sir Humphrey in *Yes, Minister*. But this fascinating and important memoir tells us that the real life of the mandarin is very different. With disarming candour, delightful humour and impressive memory, Hayden Phillips describes the career of a man who was connected to so many significant political events in the second half of the 20th century.

This varied, exciting and dramatic life is filled with pen portraits of politicians and others with whom he worked on a daily basis that show us, from the inside, how decisions are taken and their influence on all our lives. It is also the picture of a talented, charming, dedicated and fortunate man who has contributed so much to our national life.

- Hayden Phillips was at the heart of so many important events: working for Roy Jenkins when he was Home Secretary and later in Brussels; IRA bombings; the Iranian Embassy siege; the creation of the National Lottery; the Windsor Castle fire; Princess Diana's funeral; being Chairman of the National Theatre - and playing a role in a James Bond film!
- This memoir is a treasure trove of raw material for historians of the future.
- A must-read for anyone interested in politics and the exercise of power.