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Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked

By Chris Matthews

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The *New York Times* bestseller about the historic dealings between Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill—"A superb tribute to the neglected art of compromise" (*Daily News* (New York)).

Tip and the Gipper is an "entertaining and insightful" (*The Wall Street Journal*) history of a time when two great political opponents served together for the benefit of the country. Chris Matthews was an eyewitness to this story as top aide to Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, who waged a principled war of political ideals with President Ronald Reagan from 1980 to 1986. Together, the two men became one of history's most celebrated political pairings—the epitome of how ideological opposites can get things done.

When Reagan was elected to the presidency in a landslide victory over Jimmy Carter, Speaker O'Neill was thrust into the national spotlight as the highest-ranking leader of the Democratic Party—the most visible and respected challenger to President Reagan's agenda of cutting the size of government programs and lowering tax rates. Together, the two leaders fought over the major issues of the day—welfare, taxes, covert military operations, and social security—but found their way to agreements that reformed taxes, saved Social Security, and, their common cause, set a course toward peace in Northern Ireland. Through it all they maintained respect for each other's positions and worked to advance the country rather than obstruct progress.

At the time of congressional gridlock, *Tip and the Gipper* stands as model behavior worthy of study by journalists, academics, and students of the political process for years to come. "This book is an invitation to join Tip and the Gipper in tall tales about how grand it was in the old country" (*The Washington Post*).

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Editorial Review

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As a top aide to House Speaker Tip O'Neill, Matthews was an eyewitness to the accord that O'Neill and President Ronald Reagan managed to forge in the 1980s, despite their polar-opposite political convictions. Reagan, the conservative former California governor, was a Washington outsider, while O'Neill was a consummate insider, with 28 years on the hill by the time Reagan took office in 1980. The California conservative and the Boston liberal were iconic figures with strong convictions, political savvy, and Irish charm that helped them bridge the gap to deliver on issues including welfare, taxes, covert military operations, and Social Security. Following the assassination attempt on Reagan, O'Neill was the first person to be admitted to the president's bedside for a private visit, and it was O'Neill whom Reagan tapped to hand-deliver a letter asking Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev for a meeting that led to the end of the Cold War. Political commentator Matthews details their different backgrounds and the stumbles and ultimate successes that brought both men to Washington, where they were able to put aside their differences to govern the nation. --Vanessa Bush

Review

"A superb tribute to the neglected art of compromise." (Stanley Crouch *New York Daily News*)

"[A] gripping, behind-the-scenes, first-person account. . . . Though he was a front-row participant in the story, he admirably adopts an even-handed approach (not shying away from pointing out O'Neill's missteps) to serve up his big point: political combat is necessary and important for the nation, but it need not be self-destructive and nuclear. . . . Matthews is providing a public service by recounting an era when even the most ardent partisan gladiators could bend toward pragmatism." (David Corn *Mother Jones*)

"A fortuitous pairing of subject and author. . . . Matthews's account is pleasant reading, both useful and entertaining. . . . The book succeeds in making Boehner's, or the tea party's, House look like a confederacy of dunces, addicted to 'government by tantrum.' Praise for Reagan's skill at reaching across party lines also contrasts with President Obama's stand-offish image. Their clashes looked feverish at the time, but this book is an invitation to join Tip and the Gipper in tall tales about how grand it was in the old country." (Howell Raines *Washington Post*)

"Chris Matthews draws on his 30-year-old journals for [a] rich new book on Ronald Reagan, Tip O'Neill" (Mike Allen *Politico.com*)

"Matthews gives us an engaging, inside perspective (with creditable modesty about his own important role) of the mighty struggle between Ronald Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill, and how they bent, when they had to, to the national interest. There are many books written by Reagan's White House staffers, but this is the only account (aside from O'Neill's charming memoir) from inside the Speaker's office, and a valuable addition to American political history." (John Farrell *author of Tip O'Neill and the Democratic Century*)

"Amiable but tough-minded. . . . a solid book." (Kirkus)

About the Author

Chris Matthews is the anchor of MSNBC's *Hardball*. He is the author of *Bobby*; *Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked*; *Jack Kennedy: Elusive Hero*; *American*; *Now, Let Me Tell You What I Really Think*; *Kennedy and Nixon*; and *Hardball*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Isaias McGee:

This Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is usually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't be worry Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even cellphone. This Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

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Chrissy Stallings:

The book untitled Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the woman idea with easy means. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author will take you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can read more your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice examine.

Mark Klein:

Is it a person who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just telling lies on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Tip and the Gipper: When Politics Worked can be the solution, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this fresh era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

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