

Ideology

Dictionary of Liberal Thought

Duncan Brack and Ed Randall (eds.) (Politico's Publishing, 2007)

Comprehensive guide to the key people, ideas and organisations associated with Liberalism.

An Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalism

Conrad Russell (Duckworth, 1999)

The evolution of Liberal philosophy from the seventeenth century to the present; elegantly and accessibly written.

LDHG booklets

The History Group publishes a series of brief booklets for those looking for a more concise treatment of Liberal history. The series so far comprises:

Liberal History

Concise history of the Liberal Party, SDP and Liberal Democrats: 300 years in 28 pages. (2010)

Liberal Leaders of the 19th Century

Concise biographies of every Liberal leader from 1828 to 1899. (2010)

Liberal Leaders since 1900

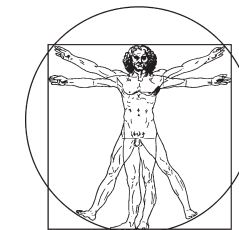
Concise biographies of Liberal, SDP and Liberal Democrat leader since 1900. (2009)

About the Liberal Democrat History Group

The Liberal Democrat History Group promotes the discussion and research of topics relating to the histories of the Liberal Democrats, Liberal Party, and SDP, and of Liberalism. The Group organises discussion meetings and produces the *Journal of Liberal History* and other occasional publications.

An annual subscription costs £20 per year (from Patrick Mitchell, 6 Palfrey Place, London SW8 1PA; subs@liberalhistory.org.uk or via our website). For more information, and to order any of our publications, see our website at: www.liberalhistory.org.uk.
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Liberal History



Liberal Democrat
History Group

An introductory reading list

The Liberal Democrats draw on a rich heritage of liberal and social democratic traditions stretching back to the seventeenth century. This reading list provides a brief guide to some of the best histories of the party and its predecessors.

General overview

Peace, Reform and Liberation

Robert Ingham and Duncan Brack (eds.) (Biteback, 2011)

A history of Liberal politics in Britain, 1679–2011. The most comprehensive and up-to-date history of the Liberal Party, SDP and Liberal Democrats. If you read only one book, it's this one!

Dictionary of Liberal Biography

Duncan Brack et al. (eds.) (Politico's Publishing, 1998)

The key personalities of British liberalism from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Appendices list party leaders, chief whips, presidents, by-election winners, etc., etc. A little out of date, but still an essential reference book.

Great Liberal Speeches

Duncan Brack and Tony Little (eds.) (Politico's Publishing, 2001)

Forty-seven of the greatest Liberal speeches by the greatest Liberal speech-makers – not only provides enduring lessons in political rhetoric but enables the reader to trace the development and continuity of Liberal thinking and campaigning over two centuries.

The Rise and Fall of British Liberalism 1776–1988

Alan Sykes (Addison Wesley Longman, 1997)

From the American Revolution to merger. Was the decline of Liberalism in the twentieth century inevitable?

From the beginning to Gladstone

The Whig World

Leslie Mitchell (Hambledon Continuum, 2005)

Political and cultural portrait of the Whigs in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The Rise and Fall of Liberal Government in Victorian Britain

Jonathan Parry (Yale University Press, 1993)

The successes and crisis of moderate, or Whig, Liberalism from 1830 to 1886.

The Optimists

Ian Bradley (Faber and Faber, 1980)

The ideological perspective of Victorian Liberalism throughout the nineteenth century.

John Stuart Mill: Victorian Firebrand

Richard Reeves (Atlantic Books, 2007)

Outstanding biography of the politician and philosopher voted the greatest British Liberal.

Gladstone 1809–1898

Colin Matthew (OUP, 1996)

Gladstone dominated Victorian politics and is well served by this single-volume biography from the editor of the Gladstone Diaries.

Zenith and collapse: 1895–1956

The Liberal Party: Triumph and Disintegration, 1886–1929

Geoffrey Searle (second edition, Palgrave 2001)

From the Third Reform Act to *We Can Conquer Unemployment*, an excellent summary.

Asquith

Roy Jenkins (Collins, 1988)

Asquith oversaw the foundation of the welfare state and broke the power of the House of Lords. The elegance of this biography matches the subject.

Lloyd George

Martin Pugh (Longmans, 1988)

The most dynamic, radical and controversial of the Liberal leaders. This is the best short biography.

Coming into Focus

Mark Egan (VDM Verlag, 2009)

The transformation of the Liberal Party, 1945–64: comprehensive treatment of a neglected period.

Towards the sound of gunfire: 1956–

Liberal Lion: Jo Grimond – A Political Life

Peter Barberis (I. B. Tauris, 2005)

A thorough and comprehensive political biography of the most important of the Liberal post-war leaders.

Liberal Party Politics

Vernon Bogdanor (OUP, 1983)

A portrait of the revived party just before it embraced the SDP in the 1980s.

SDP: The Birth, Life and Death of the Social Democratic Party

Ivor Crewe and Anthony King (OUP, 1995)

The title says it all: a comprehensive but highly readable history.

The Liberal Democrats

Don Maclver (ed.) (Prentice Hall Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1996)

Dated now, but still the only thorough study so far of the merged party – twelve authors examine different aspects of the Liberal Democrats.

The Ashdown Diaries (Vol. 1, 1988–97; Vol. 2, 1997–99)

Paddy Ashdown (Penguin, 2000 and 2001)

Concentrates heavily on ‘The Project’, Ashdown’s ultimately futile attempt to bring the Liberal Democrats and Labour closer together; fascinating reading.