



## William Pitt the Younger

By William Hague

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### William Pitt the Younger By William Hague

William Pitt the Younger is an illuminating biography of one of the great iconic figures in British history: the man who in 1784 at the age of twenty-four became (and so remains) the youngest Prime Minister in the history of England. In this lively and authoritative study, William Hague—himself the youngest political party leader in recent history—explains the dramatic events and exceptional abilities that allowed extreme youth to be combined with great power.

The brilliant son of a father who was also Prime Minister, Pitt was derided as a “schoolboy” when he took office. Yet within months he had outwitted his opponents, and he went on to dominate the political scene for twenty-two years (nineteen of them as Prime Minister). No British politician since has exercised such supremacy for so long.

Pitt’s personality has always been hard to unravel. Though he was generally thought to be cold and aloof, his friends described him as the wittiest man they ever knew. By seeing him through the eyes of a politician, William Hague—a prominent member of Britain’s Conservative Party—succeeds in explaining Pitt’s actions and motives through a series of great national crises, including the madness of King George III, the impact of the French Revolution, and the trauma of the Napoleonic wars. He describes how a man dedicated to peace became Britain’s longest-serving war leader, how Pitt the liberal reformer became Pitt the author of repression, and how—though undisputed master of the nation’s finances—he died with vast personal debts.

With its rich cast of characters, including Charles James Fox, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Edmund Burke, and George III himself, and set against a backdrop of industrial revolution and global conflict, this is a richly detailed and rounded portrait of an extraordinary political life.

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Late-eighteenth-century politician William Pitt the Younger was the youngest (at 24) and longest-serving British prime minister. Beyond those facts, historical opinion varies--some scholars regard him as a reformer, and others as a reactionary, a debate that inspires Michael Turner's *Pitt the Younger* (2003). Hague's biography differs from Turner's by muting interpretive issues and amplifying the day-to-day events in a life permeated by politics. Pitt's personal life remains enigmatic, and Hague acknowledges Pitt's elusiveness even as he attempts to ascertain whether he was an alcoholic or a homosexual. More certain is Pitt's ability as a leader and orator of the House of Commons, an institution the author himself knows well; he was the Conservative Party's former debating antagonist of Labour leader Tony Blair. Hague's experience adds convincing power to his account of Pitt's career, explaining how he remained ascendant for so long. A thorough biography, Hague's work is also an able contribution to British parliamentary history. *Gilbert Taylor*

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## Review

Praise for William Pitt the Younger

"Mr. Hague covers Pitt's career with elegance and panache. . . [he] has written a very fine biography of this immensely important figure in British history." -- Martin Hutchinson, *The Wall Street Journal*

"William Hague's book is a model of orderly exposition and narration. . . Anyone really interested in British history or in politics ought to read it." --Frank Wilson, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

Praise from England:

"Even if [Pitt] were a 15th book, not a maiden effort, it should rate admiration as a first-class work of history; informative, well written and captivating." —Alistair Horne, *The Times* London

"A serious yet readable shorter life was much needed, and Hague has pulled this challenge off, making Pitt his own. He delivers not only a shrewd political biography, full of sharp analysis, but also a sensitive portrait of one of our most enigmatic heroes." —Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Daily Telegraph*

"One of the most enjoyable biographies for years . . . In William Hague, Pitt has found the modern biographer he merits: the youngest Conservative leader of the last 200 years has written a fine biography of the youngest Prime Minister of them all. If you buy only one political biography this year, then make it this one. It will not be bettered." —John Major, *Mail on Sunday*

"Hague has a competent understanding of the international background, a good eye for the revealing quotation, and knows how to keep his reader entertained."

John Adamson, *The Sunday Telegraph*

"It is a substantial, handsomely illustrated work, primarily based on printed sources, but with a respectable amount of archival seasoning . . . What makes the book such an engrossing and stimulating read is the

author's passion for and understanding of politics, especially parliamentary politics." —Brendam Simms, *Sunday Times*

"Hague's description of how Pitt dealt with the king's episodes of insanity, and the avid expectations of the Whigs should George III become permanently insane, is one of the perceptive chapters in the book. Hague deserves an accolade for redressing [people's] ignorance [of Pitt]. He has written a serious, detailed and thoughtful study of one of Britain's greatest prime ministers." —Shirley Williams, *The Guardian*

"Very well written, and narrated with a finely attuned sense of the politically dramatic." --Andrew Roberts, *The Evening Standard*

#### About the Author

William Hague has served in various capacities in the British government since 1989. He became the leader of the Conservative Party in 1997 and in the same year led the party's campaign for Parliament. He lives in Yorkshire, England.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **James Johnson:**

This book untitled William Pitt the Younger to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit upon it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book shop or you can order it by means of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to you to past this reserve from your list.

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