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From Oxford University Press : The Oxford Book of British Political Anecdotes (Oxford paperbacks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Book of British Political Anecdotes (Oxford paperbacks):

1 of 15 people found the following review helpful. On the Power to be Nasty By Bruce P. Barten I shouldn't have to say anything about this book to show how nasty a history of a powerful nation is bound to be. Allow me to quote an obvious quote; Kether! "'For by St Paul', quoth he, 'I will not to dinner before I see thy head off.' It booted him not to ask 'Why'" (p. 2).

Renowned journalist and bestselling author, Paul Johnson here presents over three hundred anecdotes about the world of British politics from Richard III's murder of the princes in the Tower of London to a final frosty scene between Jim Callaghan and Barbara Castle. The stories range from the sublime to the ridiculous, from the witty to the sobering, the gratifying to the positively alarming. The volume contains Lloyd George's assessment of Churchill: "He would make a drum out of the skin of his mother in order to sound his own praises;" an account of Henry VIII's tireless rewriting of his secretaries' work, drafts for which he required two-and-a-half inch margins and inch-wide spaces between lines to leave room for his changes; the details of Queen Mary II's brave death from smallpox; and much more. Journals, letters, and parliamentary records written by contemporaries, as well as later biographies record the brilliance and

flaws of such notorious statesmen and politicians as Sir Thomas More, Cromwell, Sir Robert Walpole, Gladstone, Disraeli, and Attlee. Offering new perspectives on British history, the volume reveals endlessly entertaining stories of funerals, battles in parliament, an interview with a journalist turned forger, dinner and garden parties, the visit of a lecherous former American president, Attlee's reaction to being overtaken by a dangerous driver who proves to be his wife, and more. Johnson convincingly demonstrates in his introduction that anecdotes consistently provide a valuable source of historical truth. Moreover, we remember the stories--strange, eccentric, personal--long after forgetting the dates of battles and monarchs.

About the Author About the Editor: Paul Johnson, a well-known writer and journalist, was the editor of the *New Statesman* from 1965 to 1970 and is the author of several books, including *A History of Christianity*, *A History of the Modern World* from 1917 to the 1980s, and *A History of the Jews*.