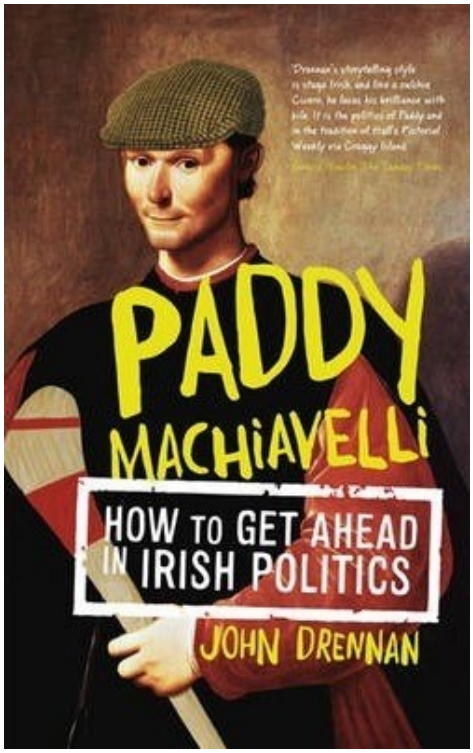

Paddy Machiavelli : How to Get Ahead in Irish Politics

John Drennan

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Its been 500 years since Niccolo Machiavelli wrote The Prince, but his words have hardly passed into irrelevance. Here to make that point, in his inimitable style, is celebrated Sunday Independent political columnist John Drennan. It might appear strange that a 16th-century Italian political philosopher should provide us with a roadmap to political power in Ireland, but as Drennan makes clear, the gap between the parish pump and the Renaissance palazzo is a narrow one indeed. A veteran of countless Leinster House power plays, Drennan draws on Machiavelli to cultivate invaluable advice for the aspiring politician, such as how to cultivate the cloak of being an `ordinary decent skin, how to choose your scapegoats carefully and how to be a straight-talker whilst embracing vagueness. This hilarious account of the compromises the Irish politician has to make in order to seize power is not just a `celebration of the politics of cynical amorality its a timely reminder of the role we play in choosing our leaders. The definitive guide to success in Irish politics, Paddy Machiavelli will have you laughing and crying all the way to the ballot box. `There is a fierce intelligence and fierce independence at work here. No one avoids his gimlet eye, and he brings to the whole bizarre ecosystem of the Dail a unique perspective, that of the insider who remains resolutely outside. Brendan OConnor, The Sunday Independent. `Drennans storytelling style is stage Irish, and like a culchie Cicero, he laces his brilliance with bile. It is the politics of Paddy and in the tradition of Halls Pictorial Weekly via Craggy Island Gerard Howlin, The Sunday Times

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